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Approved by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on February 26, 2026.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS 2025

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (hereinafter "the Commission," "the Inter-American Commission," or "IACHR") submits its Annual Report in compliance with Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure. In accordance with the provisions of said regulation, this report consists of an introduction and six chapters. The introduction outlines the progress made in achieving the objectives set forth in the American Declaration, the American Convention, and other Inter-American instruments on human rights, as well as the status of their ratification; the origin, legal basis, structure, and purposes of the Commission; and the mandates conferred on the Commission by Inter-American instruments on human rights, by the General Assembly of the Organization, and by other competent bodies.

2. The first chapter of the report covers the activities of the IACHR, including a list of the sessions held, activities conducted by the Commission with other OAS bodies and regional or global organizations, and those related to technical cooperation and follow-up on recommendations and impact.

3. The second chapter reflects the work carried out by the IACHR through its system of petitions, cases, and precautionary measures, friendly settlements, as well as its work before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (hereinafter "the Inter-American Court," "the Court," or "IHR Court").

4. The third chapter covers the activities of the 11 thematic and country rapporteurships, work visits, requests for information, approved reports, and advocacy and training activities.

5. The fourth chapter contains two main parts: Chapter IV.A provides an overview of the regional human rights situation and the country-by-country outlook in the areas of democratic institutions, human rights, access to justice, citizen security, and equality and discrimination. This is complemented by the annual reports of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and the Special Rapporteur for Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights. Chapter IV.B contains special reports on States in which the IACHR has identified that the criteria established in paragraph 6 of Article 59 above are met: Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua.

6. The fifth chapter of the Report describes the measures adopted to comply with the recommendations made in the country reports: Bolivia and El Salvador.

7. Chapter Six specifies the structure and personnel of the Commission; financial resources and budget execution; planning, resource mobilization, and project management; and technological advances implemented in 2024.

8. The work of the IACHR, reflected in this report, is conducted with the conviction that peacebuilding, as a central objective of the Charter of the Organization of American States (hereinafter "OAS"), the American Declaration of Human Rights (hereinafter "the American Declaration"), and the American Convention on Human Rights (hereinafter "American Convention"), is based on democracy and full respect for human rights, and constitutes a collective responsibility of the States. Through strong democratic institutions, States must guarantee citizen participation, social justice, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, reducing the exclusion and inequality that have historically generated violence in the region. Likewise, respect for and protection of human rights strengthens the rule of law, prevents abuses of power, and ensures the dignity of all persons. When States act jointly and are committed to these principles, peace ceases to be merely the absence of war and becomes a sustained process of inclusion, equity, and regional cooperation aimed at the well-being and development of our societies.

9. At this historic moment, when our democracies face multiple challenges and both institutions and international order have been questioned, human rights stand out as a guiding light and beacon, a solid

foundation upon which our citizens are supported and protected. In the face of uncertainty and political tensions, respect for human rights reaffirms the dignity of individuals, contributes to social cohesion, and legitimizes the actions of States. Thus, human rights constitute not only an essential normative framework, but also an indispensable ethical principle for sustaining democracy, promoting peace, and ensuring more just and inclusive societies in the region.

10. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights reaffirms its commitment to working together with international organizations, States, and civil society to guarantee the promotion and protection of the human rights of all persons living in our region, thereby honoring the mandate conferred upon it and the trust placed in its work. It is precisely at critical moments, when challenges to democracy and the rule of law intensify, that the IACHR must strengthen its work, reinforce its actions, and redouble its efforts to effectively and responsibly fulfill its fundamental mission.

11. The year 2025 was marked by multiple challenges for the region, including the erosion of democratic institutions, the emergence of voices questioning the validity and legitimacy of human rights, increased restrictions and attacks against people in human mobility, and the deepening of limitations imposed by some States on spaces for social participation. Added to this is the resurgence of violence against dissent in contexts where authoritarian regimes are predominant, revealing a complex scenario that requires a firm, coordinated, and sustained response in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and human rights.

12. Added to these challenges is the climate emergency that is severely affecting the region and having devastating effects on its inhabitants, including displacement, disproportionately impacting people belonging to the most vulnerable groups. Furthermore, there has been increased questioning of women's rights, which were won after decades of struggle and sustained work, as well as of the progress made in eliminating violence and discrimination against LGBTI people. Similarly, the weakening of standards for the protection of Afro-descendants and indigenous peoples, built up over a long historical process, cannot and must not mean a setback in the guarantee of their rights or in the regional commitment to equality and human dignity.

13. Faced with this complex situation, the IACHR, despite funding challenges, conducted its work by strengthening its monitoring mechanisms, its case and petition system, its precautionary measures, and its friendly settlements, as well as through cooperation and advisory actions with States for the implementation of its recommendations and the design of public policies with a focus on human rights. Transparent, accessible, inclusive, and results-based management has enabled the Commission to present this Annual Report, which reflects the work undertaken during 2025.

14. In compliance with its mandates and the provisions of Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) presents this Annual Report, which comprehensively compiles the main actions conducted through its various mechanisms in implementation of its Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and the most relevant results achieved as the main body of the Organization of American States (OAS) for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

A. Strategic plan 2023-2027

15. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) implemented during 2025 its Strategic plan 2023-2027, approved at the 185th Regular Session of the IACHR, held in Washington, D.C., from October 24 to November 4, 2022. During this period, the IACHR made progress in the outlined implementation of the Plan by updating the strategic indicators, continuing to operate the protection and monitoring mechanisms, and adopting operational measures to sustain institutional management in a context of high demand and financial constraints. Efforts were also consolidated to strengthen preventive analysis capabilities and the use of technological tools that support the Commission's work in a regional scenario characterized by growing challenges to human rights and democratic institutionality.

16. The strategy of the 2023-2027 Plan continued to be developed in 2025 through nine strategic objectives covering 34 programs, aimed at achieving substantive changes in the greater enjoyment of human rights by all people in the hemisphere. These goals and programs are organized into three pillars, which have the following expected medium-term results. The first pillar corresponds to the mechanisms of Petitions and Cases, Precautionary Measures, and Follow-up on Recommendations, whose expected outcome is greater protection and defense of victims of human rights violations, with special attention on historically excluded groups. The second pillar relates to the mechanisms of Monitoring, Promotion, and Technical Cooperation, whose actions are aimed at achieving greater observance and guarantee of human rights in the hemisphere by States. And the third pillar is aimed at improving the institutional culture of the IACHR through the inclusion of gender, intersectionality, and diversity approaches and results-based management.

17. Likewise, during 2025, the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR (SE/IACHR) monitored the 29 indicators set out in the Strategic Plan's monitoring and evaluation plan. These indicators made it possible to measure progress on a semi-annual basis through data recording instruments, baselines, and targets set for 2027. This process has ensured a transparent view of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and has facilitated the ongoing evaluation of the results achieved, on which detailed progress analyses were conducted and recorded in the 2024 Strategic Plan Progress Report and the first semi-annual report of 2025.

18. With regard to the first pillar of the Strategic Plan, sustained progress was made in 2025 in implementing the Case Prioritization Policy, with the continued classification of files and management of cases that were procedurally ready for decision. The implementation of Resolution 4/23 maintained the impulse to streamline the resolution of cases with structural impact and improve timely access to justice. During the year, processing continued to be expedited, and the number of admissibility and merits reports prepared and approved increased, as did the number of Commission decisions and the expansion of friendly settlement agreements. Of the 3,357 petitions received, 533 petitions (19.23%) were opened for processing. The pending portfolio went from 1,698 cases that were pending opening in 2021 to only 198 petitions. In terms of admissibility, 170 reports were approved, 96 for admissibility and 74 for inadmissibility. In addition, 25 new friendly settlement agreements were signed and 10 acts of acknowledgment of responsibility were held to dignify the victims and promote compliance with reparation measures. In turn, 19 friendly settlement agreements were approved and 32 opportunities for dialogue between the parties were facilitated. During 2025, 11 agreements reached full implementation, while 62 agreements showed progress in their fulfillment. Progress was made on 113 reparations measures (69 of which were fully implemented), 38 of which were structural in nature and 75 of which were individual in nature. Some examples of this structural progress were seen in cases in Argentina, with the consolidation of the National Registry of Inter-American System Decisions (provided for in the agreement in the case of José Luis D'Andrea Móhr); with the implementation of a national judicial training program on mental health (committed to in the agreement signed in the Senem de Buzzi case); and through the adoption of non-discrimination protocols in security forces (established in the agreement in the Octavio Romero case). In Brazil, the rural electrification projects committed to in the José Dutra da Costa case were also completed, improving the living conditions of communities affected by agrarian violence. And in Chile, structural measures were advanced for the restitution of indigenous lands through the hiring of legal teams, as well as the inclusion of indigenous representatives in environmental audits of hydroelectric projects (measures provided for in the Huenteao Beroiza case).

19. The defense of victims of human rights violations was strengthened through the approval of a historic number—132—merits reports concerning 21 States. Several of these cases involve historically excluded groups, and in 40 of the 132 cases, the Commission developed Inter-American standards with the potential for structural impact. These reports reflect the first exercise in implementing a prioritization policy aimed at achieving a prompter resolution of the most urgent and serious cases, or those which may have a structural impact by preventing the occurrence of new violations.

20. In order to address the need for justice and reparation, 33 cases were referred to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, affecting at least 9,300 people. Likewise, with confidence in the willingness of States to implement the merits reports without having to submit them to the Court, 25 work meetings were held to obtain information on the progress made in cases in the transition stage and to support the parties in

the dialogue. In turn, during this procedural stage, 491 decisions were adopted on the referral of cases or the granting of extensions to comply with the merits reports. As a result of these measures, the Commission decided not to refer eight cases to the Court and to proceed with their publication, given the substantial progress made in complying with the recommendations of said merits reports.

21. The Executive Secretariat of the IACHR also had a high percentage (71.1%) of precautionary measures evaluations received (1,969 requests) within a timely manner (less than 90 days after registration), which allowed for a more effective response to situations of risk affecting human rights defenders, journalists, indigenous communities, persons deprived of liberty, children and adolescents, and other groups in situations of special vulnerability. To follow up on precautionary measures in force, four on-site visits were conducted in Colombia, Guatemala, Brazil, and Honduras, and two public hearings were held on measures relating to ethnic communities in Colombia and persons detained and missing in the post-election context in Venezuela, further optimizing portfolio management through technical and bilateral meetings. These actions were complemented by the consolidation of the use of technological tools for the management of precautionary measures and by the progress made in special follow-up mechanisms, in close dialogue with OAS member states through regional meetings, presentations to political bodies, portfolio meetings, and other bilateral spaces that strengthened the effectiveness of the implementation of its recommendations.

22. In 2025, the Commission strengthened its monitoring of decisions through working visits aimed at gathering first-hand information, engaging in dialogue with state institutions, and advancing the implementation of its recommendations. These visits made it possible to issue preliminary observations and strengthen dialogue with national authorities, consolidating the technical cooperation needed to address risk situations identified by the monitoring mechanisms. The continuity of the special mechanisms for following up on recommendations is also worth noting. In Colombia, technical coordination with authorities and civil society was maintained to promote compliance roadmaps and organize portfolios with a focus on impact. In Chile, progress was made in preparing the follow-up report in the context of MESECH. In Bolivia, the second MESEG work plan was approved and the second follow-up report on the GIEI recommendations was finalized. For this report, the IACHR was able to verify significant progress in the implementation of structural recommendations and victim reparations in Bolivia regarding the events of 2019. Some examples of these measures are: the consolidation of the architecture of the comprehensive reparations policy for victims; the collection of official information for the creation of the National Victims Registry; activities to commemorate and dignify the victims of the events of 2019, which included commemorative events surrounding the Senkata and Sacaba massacres, as well as symbolic measures such as the declaration of November as the "month of remembrance" in different jurisdictions of the country; the creation of a Commission of Supreme Prosecutors to specifically monitor judicial proceedings related to the events of 2019 and the issuance of instructions aimed at strengthening the investigation plans of prosecutors in cases involving serious human rights violations by the Public Ministry and measures by the Judiciary to reinforce the control of legality over the actions of the Public Ministry and the Police, particularly through oversight reports aimed at ensuring speed and respect for procedural rights.

23. Likewise, the IACHR maintained active participation and close dialogue with the States and political bodies of the OAS and in international forums, providing specialized information on regional trends and structural challenges in the area of human rights. The Commission made 13 presentations to the Permanent Council, five to the CAJP, and one to the General Assembly, in addition to holding bilateral and portfolio meetings during the 55th General Assembly in Antigua and Barbuda, reflecting an approach based on dialogue with States and the search for solutions to structural problems.

24. With regard to the second pillar, in 2025 the IACHR strengthened its capacity to monitor the human rights situation in the region in a timely manner, through the systematic issuance of statements and follow-up actions in response to situations of risk and threats to democratic institutions. During the year, the application of the preventive approach was consolidated through continuous analysis of trends and early identification of factors that may affect democratic stability and the guarantee of human rights. Likewise, the development of the Argos artificial intelligence ecosystem was strengthened, which integrates multiple databases and allows for the generation of preventive reports and risk curves for the States of the region, contributing to the early detection of critical trends. This process improved institutional capacity to anticipate

critical scenarios and guide timelier and evidence-based responses. The Commission responded promptly to emerging or critical situations in Brazil, Cuba, El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru, and Venezuela through its response and attention mechanisms, such as working visits, statements, hearings, and testimony-taking. The technical work of monitoring and analyzing the human rights situation in 32 countries in the hemisphere is compiled in reports for Chapter IV-A of the Annual Report for 2025: the special reports in Chapter IV-B of the Annual Report for 2025, regarding Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.

25. In addition, also as part of this monitoring, in 2025, the Commission prepared and presented four country reports with recommendations: the report "Venezuela: serious human rights violations in the electoral context"; the "Observations from the work visit to Panama" on persons in human mobility; the report on "Human Rights Situation in Guatemala"; and the report on the Situation of Freedom of the Press in Haiti. The IACHR also published three thematic reports "The situation of the rights of persons with disabilities in the Americas", "Violence against indigenous and Afro-descendant people on the Nicaraguan Caribbean coast"; and the Third Report on the "Situation of human rights defenders in the Americas". The Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, for its part, presented the reports "Exile of Journalists and Freedom of Expression" and "Impact of Digital Surveillance on Freedom of Expression in the Americas"; while REDESCA published a report on "The Impact of Forest Fires on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights and Diversity" based on its visit to Bolivia, and released a report on the impact of flooding in Rio Grande do Sul, with recommendations for prevention, response, and redress. At the time of writing, the report on the human rights situation in Colombia and the report on disappearances in Mexico were being reviewed by the Commission and awaiting publication. Finally, the Commission promoted the Inter-American Human Rights System through 83 promotion activities that reached 12,487 people and 73 training activities with 5,737 participants from public authorities, civil society, and academia.

26. During 2025, several States in the region made progress in complying with recommendations issued by the IACHR in its country reports and through its monitoring mechanisms. These included judicial and administrative decisions aimed at strengthening the protection of human rights defenders and journalists, as well as reforms and actions that improved guarantees of judicial independence and access to justice in countries such as Argentina, where administrative actions were taken to strengthen environmental policies and the protection of human rights defenders; Colombia, which made progress in judicial and administrative measures related to transitional justice and the protection of communities at risk; and Mexico, which strengthened its search protocols and institutional mechanisms in response to the crisis of disappearances. In Brazil, progress was made in the areas of truth, memory, and justice with the identification of the remains of two victims who disappeared during the dictatorship—in follow-up to recommendations in the 2021 Country Report—and with the conviction of two former agents for acts of torture, specifically complying with Recommendation 87 of said report. In Colombia, the Constitutional Court confirmed the constitutionality of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), enabling the creation of a national prevention mechanism, in line with recommendations on torture prevention. In addition, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace issued its first judgments with its own sanctions for kidnappings and extrajudicial executions, in response to recommendations in the 2013 Country Report, including Recommendations 199.1 and 460.1. In Uruguay, the State improved the protection of the right to nationality by deciding to update the procedure for issuing passports to legal citizens, complying with recommendations on equality and non-discrimination.

27. As for the third pillar, during 2025, actions continued to be developed to improve inclusion and accessibility to the IACHR and to bring it closer to users, by expanding content in different languages and strengthening the use of accessible technological tools in public hearings, meetings, and digital platforms. Consultations of reports and communications in English, French, and Portuguese on the website grew by 86% in the first half of the year, from 120,828 to 224,209. More than 80,000 electronic and physical communications were handled, representing over double the number in the same period in 2024. The proportion of requests for precautionary measures submitted without intermediaries increased by two points, from 38.5% to 40.4%, reflecting greater accessibility. These measures indicate that the IACHR has made progress in reducing language and accessibility barriers, especially for people from the Caribbean and people with disabilities.

28. Likewise, the IACHR consolidated improvements in its institutional systems, highlighting the expansion of GAIA's functionalities, with the automatic notification of 55,972 documents and the improvement of existing tools such as e-vote, Axios, Zyra, GL, and the implementation of new technological aids such as databases and AI models with applications such as Argos to incorporate data science into risk and trend analysis in context and human rights monitoring. These efforts were complemented by internal adjustments aimed at optimizing institutional management, strengthening collaborative practices, and sustaining the Commission's technical operations in the context of financial limitations.

29. During 2025, the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR continued to promote actions aimed at strengthening the work environment and institutional cohesion, within the framework of the Co-Labora Program and internal talent management processes. Throughout the year, integration activities, operational alignment sessions, and training and feedback opportunities were held, which contributed to consolidating collaborative practices, improving internal communication, and strengthening work planning in a context of high demand and financial constraints. These efforts made it possible to move forward in creating a more stable, participatory, and results-oriented organizational environment, strengthening the team's capacity to sustain the Commission's technical operations and fulfill its institutional mandates.

30. Finally, the Commission presented the 2024 Annual Report and the progress report on the Strategic Plan for the first half of 2025 to the political bodies of the OAS; and also to donors, with the delivery of 37 interim or final reports on program implementation and results, 35 financial reports, and 14 staff reports to donors, demonstrating a clear commitment to transparency and accountability to member states and their donors. One project was externally audited with a clean opinion, which supports transparency in the use of resources.

31. Everything implemented in 2025 and presented in this Annual Report was made possible thanks to the support of Member States, Observer States, and various donor institutions, whose contributions were decisive for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2023–2027 and for strengthening the mandates of the IACHR. The Commission is especially grateful for the contributions of Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, and the United States, as well as the support of the European Commission, France, Ireland, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation. It also acknowledges the valuable support of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and partner organizations, including the Arcus Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), and the Foundation for the Americas. These contributions were essential to sustaining the Commission's technical operations, promoting a preventive approach, strengthening the protection system, and expanding the institutional capacities of the IACHR in the context of high demand and financial restrictions.

32. In summary, 2025 was a key year for the advancement of the 2023–2027 Strategic Plan, marked by progress in results across all three pillars. The prioritization policy continued to show concrete results in streamlining processes and structured management of requests, cases, and precautionary measures. At the same time, the Commission consolidated a more robust preventive approach by developing analytical tools, integrating dynamic information sources, and applying risk assessment methodologies, which strengthened its capability to identify critical patterns, anticipate risks to democratic institutions, and guide early actions. The year was also marked by a significant increase in the institutional response to threats against defenders, journalists, and other particularly vulnerable groups, as well as closer coordination between preventive monitoring and the protection decisions adopted by the Commission. Efforts to promote an inclusive, accessible, and results-oriented institutional culture were also intensified, along with the optimization of internal systems in a context of financial constraints. The advances achieved during 2025 demonstrate sustained progress toward the goals of the 2023–2027 Strategic Plan and consolidate the impact and responsiveness of the IACHR in protecting and promoting human rights and democratic institutions in the region.

33. The IACHR expresses its deep gratitude to those who inspire and sustain the Commission's work: petitioners, victims, and human rights defenders in increasingly complex and adverse contexts. Their perseverance, resilience, and trust in the Inter-American system continue to be the driving force behind the

Commission's commitment to advancing in the protection and promotion of human rights in the Americas. In a year marked by significant challenges to democratic institutions and civic space, their work reaffirms the importance of the Inter-American system and guides the Commission's efforts to strengthen its protection mechanisms and respond in a timely manner to the needs of those who need it most.

B. Progress Achieved

34. Pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, in Chapter IV.A of this report, the Commission offers a descriptive overview of the human rights situation in the region, highlighting the main trends, progress, and challenges in the area of human rights based on the crosscutting themes and topics prioritized in its Strategic Plan. In this section, the Commission pinpoints the most significant progress observed in the member states in 2025. The actions documented stand out for being designed to promote and protect individuals' human rights in accordance with the international obligations undertaken by the States and contained in the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, and other inter-American instruments on the subject.

35. Each year, the IACHR highlights a series of measures, policies, practices, and programs adopted by the States of the Americas as examples of progress and/or best practices that reflect compliance with inter-American human rights standards. It should be noted that the information brought to light here stems from an overview of the human rights situation in the countries referenced, which may be consulted in detail in Chapter IV.A of this report, where the sources used can be found.

36. The measures identified in this chapter have been broken down into three groups: The first encompasses crosscutting and intersectoral issues that have a multidimensional impact on human rights protection guarantees and includes actions taken by the States to strengthen democratic institutions, transparency and access to information, access to justice and judicial independence, human rights institutions, and citizen security. The second group concerns measures implemented by the States to protect priority populations in situations of vulnerability or that have historically faced discrimination. Lastly, the third group pertains to actions taken to enhance public policies having to do with memory, truth, and justice, as well as the search for missing persons.

37. With regard to progress made in strengthening **democratic institutions**, it is important to note the regulations for the Comprehensive Protection Plan aimed at guaranteeing the exercise of politics in **Colombia**. At the outset of the pre-election cycle, the Office of the Ombudsperson developed strategies for risk prevention, monitoring, and activation of protection pathways for at-risk candidates. In the case of **Ecuador**, the National Assembly passed reforms to the Elections and Political Organizations Act aimed at preventing and punishing violence against women in politics.

38. In the fight against corruption, **Mexico** has instituted both the *Sistema Integral de Denuncias Ciudadanas* [Comprehensive Citizen Complaint System] (SIDEC) for administrative offenses committed by public servants and the *Sistema de Ciudadanos Alertadores Internos y Externos de la Corrupción* [System of Internal and External Citizen Corruption Alerts]. In **Guatemala**, the National Commission against Corruption has been working to prevent illegal practices, improve public integrity, and foster transparency. In **Honduras**, the State launched "*Sistema-130*," which makes it possible to report public administration-related irregularities. A Presidential Commission on Transparency and Anti-Corruption was established in the **Dominican Republic** to integrate and coordinate government strategies pertaining to prevention, access to public information, audits, and recovery of illicitly obtained assets.

39. As to democracy as a system of government, **Grenada** enacted the Oath of Allegiance Acts, which amended the oath set out in the Constitution by striking references to the monarch. This means that, upon assuming office, public officials are able to swear an oath of allegiance consistent with the State of Grenada's democratic institutional framework.

40. Regarding **access to justice** and **judicial independence**, the **Dominican Republic** created a Ministry of Justice. The Ministry will serve as a planning, leadership, coordination, and execution body, as appropriate, for formulating and enforcing State anti-crime policies; working both functionally and administratively with the justice system; judicially and extrajudicially representing the State and the government; and coordinating the national human rights system and the correctional/prison system.

41. In **Bolivia**, the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ), the Judiciary Council, and the Agro-Environmental Court held the First Interinstitutional Dialogue on Judicial Reform. This initiative corresponds to recommendations made by the IACHR in its most recent country report. Additionally, the Plurinational Constitutional Court (TCP) put an end to the extension of judicial authorities' terms, given that they serve beyond the six-year term without the possibility of being reelected, a situation that was subject to geographic monitoring by the IACHR. **Brazil** moved forward with the launch of the "Jus.br" portal, which centralizes judicial services on a digital platform, thereby simplifying access and boosting transparency. Also noteworthy was the Cooperative Itinerant Justice program in the Amazônia Legal, which brought judicial services to remote regions and ancestral territories. **Canada** passed Bill C-40—the Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission Act—which establishes an independent commission to streamline judicial processes and review, investigate, and decide on criminal cases that should be returned to the judicial system due to possible miscarriages of justice. In **El Salvador**, the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) created a Specialized Unit in the Criminal Court for Cases of Hate Crimes against Vulnerable Groups to ensure gender-based analyses. The CSJ also developed a "Protocol for Assistance to Women and Children Victims of Violence" to reduce secondary victimization, standardize assistance, and improve institutional coordination, with a focus on equality and trauma-informed care.

42. In the Caribbean, **Antigua and Barbuda's** Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act, which allows for pretrial detention hearings to be conducted on any virtual platform or using any electronic communication mode available to the court, is significant. The IACHR also appreciates **Dominica's** decision to reintroduce "night court," which would ensure greater flexibility and better access to the courts. For its part, **St. Kitts and Nevis** approved an amendment to the Judge Alone Trials Act to modernize and strengthen the judicial system by clarifying procedures concerning when single-judge trials become mandatory. Along the same lines, **St. Lucia** amended its Criminal Code and Supreme Court Act to provide for single-judge trials in an effort to make the judicial system more efficient and address its case backlog by allowing for expedited hearings.

43. With respect to measures to strengthen **human rights institutions**, the Judiciary's National Racial Equity Pact and the establishment of protocols for trials with a racial and gender perspective in **Brazil** are noteworthy. **Honduras** increased the budget of the Secretariat for Human Rights (SEDH) by 70% between 2022 and 2025. **Suriname** launched the National Child Ombuds Institute (KOS), an independent institution to protect children's rights, which will conduct investigations and make recommendations in this area. And **Uruguay** introduced the Sixth National Action Plan for Open Government 2025-2029, which was developed through a participatory process and is aimed at, among other things, boosting transparency, access to public information, accountability, and citizen participation.

44. With respect to national human rights institutions, **Chile** set up a Presidential Advisory Commission to Strengthen the National Human Rights Institute (INDH), which concluded with 44 recommendations that include granting constitutional status to the INDH, ensuring its financial autonomy, clearly separating governance and management functions, and improving its accountability and citizen participation mechanisms. For its part, the Office of the Ombudsperson in **Paraguay** regained its "A" accreditation with the GANHRI in 2025, which formally reinforces its status as a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. Noteworthy in **The Bahamas** is the creation of a Parliamentary Human Rights Committee to advise the government on human rights and ensure legislative compliance with international obligations. Likewise, **Argentina's** Congress moved forward in its internal process to elect a National Ombudsperson after 16 years of vacancy and put together a shortlist for the appointment of a new head of the Office of the Ombudsperson for the Rights of Children and Adolescents.

45. Regarding **citizen security**, **Antigua and Barbuda** acceded to the CARICOM Arrest Warrant Treaty, which provides for State cooperation in the arrest and surrender of requested persons for criminal prosecution in the jurisdictions of the States Party to the treaty.

46. Significant decreases in homicide rates were recorded[1] in the States of **The Bahamas**, **Belize**, **Dominican Republic**, **Honduras**, **Jamaica**, **Mexico**, **St. Kitts and Nevis**, **Saint Lucia**, **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**, **and Trinidad and Tobago**. With respect to St. Kitts and Nevis, passage of the Gangs (Prohibition and Prevention) (Amendment) Act to tackle organized crime is also noteworthy. This law broadens definitions, introduces new offenses, and clarifies procedures for combating gang-related crime. **Barbados** passed the Criminal Proceedings (Witness Anonymity) Act to conceal the identity of witnesses in criminal trials through the remote delivery of evidence, the use of screens or voice modulation, and the redaction of personal details from witness statements. **Colombia** implemented the Strategy against Multiple Crimes, which coordinates institutional capabilities for special, intelligence, and judicial operations against criminal organizations. In addition, the Total Peace policy moved forward in creating a body for "contribution to the truth" and "guarantees of non-repetition" comprised of 16 peace promoters from the former United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia.

47. Additionally, in terms of institutional strengthening for public security, the creation of the National Police Human Rights Directorate in the **Dominican Republic** is noteworthy. **Chile** created and put into operation the Ministry of Public Security, which is responsible for the policy direction of the Carabineros and the Investigative Police, as well as for coordination of the national security system.

48. With regard to **the second set of actions aimed at protecting prioritized populations in situations of vulnerability or that have historically faced discrimination**, the Commission takes note of measures adopted to ensure the universal, indivisible, and interdependent nature of human rights, taking the principles of equality and non-discrimination into consideration. Particularly noteworthy are the measures that seek to mitigate any actions that might aggravate human rights violations or structures of discrimination and violence against a range of persons, groups, and collectives in the hemisphere.

49. As far as **human rights defenders** are concerned, **Brazil's** Ministry of Indigenous Peoples held dialogues with the Program to Protect Human Rights Defenders, Communicators, and Environmentalists of the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship's (PPDDH/MDHC) in an effort to strengthen protection measures for indigenous leaders under threat. In **Chile**, the Protocol for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders entered into force. This Protocol is designed to coordinate the State response to threats or violations against human rights defenders. **Ecuador** reported that it had developed a protocol for protecting human rights defenders who take part in criminal prosecutions as victims or witnesses that includes differentiated gender, ethnic-cultural, and collective approaches. In the case of **Guatemala**, the IACHR welcomed the development of the Public Policy for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Guatemala 2025-2035, which is aimed at complying with the judgment of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the case of *Human Rights Defender et al. v. Guatemala*.

50. Regarding the situation of **the rights of indigenous peoples**, the IACHR highlights the judgment handed down in **Guatemala** that sentenced the state agents responsible for the rape of six indigenous (Achí) women—which occurred in 1983 during the internal armed conflict—to 40 years in prison. The judgment acknowledged the systematic use of sexual violence as a weapon of war against indigenous women. For its part, the **Mexican** government announced the Indigenous Education Program, which looks to address the education gap, which is most prevalent among indigenous populations. **Brazil** established a 30% quota for indigenous and Afro-descendant candidates in competitive processes for positions in the federal government. **Canada** established an Indigenous Advisory Council to work with the Major Projects Office and to address the overrepresentation of indigenous persons in the federal prison system. It also developed the first federal Indigenous Justice Strategy, which includes measures to expand culturally relevant justice services and support the creation of indigenous-run community corrections programs and healing shelters to promote restorative

[1] See specific figures in the corresponding paragraphs of Chapter IV.A.

justice and reduce recidivism. In **Colombia**, the IACHR welcomed a presidential decree that strengthens the right to self-determination by creating a legal framework for the creation of Indigenous Territorial Entities (ETIs) with specific jurisdictions, funding capacity, self-governance, and planning. Colombia also reported progress in implementing the Ethnic Chapter, the Comprehensive Rural Reform, crosscutting differentiated approaches, and reparations processes.

51. With respect to **women's rights** and to the measures adopted by States to eradicate all forms of violence, the IACHR recognizes that **Brazil** has included the crime of sexual harassment in the Military Criminal Code and amended the Criminal Code to exclude the age of the assailant as a mitigating factor in cases of sexual violence. **Mexico** reformed its criminal laws to incorporate a gender perspective in the determination of self-defense and criminalized vicarious violence. **Costa Rica** also passed legislation in this regard and ratified International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 190 on the elimination of violence and harassment in the workplace. **Ecuador** passed the General Regulations for the Organic Law on Accompaniment, Transformative, and Comprehensive Reparation for the families of victims of femicide/gender-based violent deaths, which list the forms of reparation, including a fund for the victims' families. In the **Dominican Republic**, the new Criminal Code criminalized femicide, harassment, non-consensual dissemination of intimate material, and economic and property violence in the family domain. **Panama** passed both Law 474, which increases penalties for rape and other crimes related to sexual violence, and Law 478, which includes digital crimes such as the dissemination of non-consensual intimate images. The Caribbean has seen progress in **Saint Lucia**, which launched the National Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender-Based Violence to institutionalize coordination and partnerships among sectors to address this problem. Additionally, **The Bahamas** has a new Independent National Unit within the police force that is comprised of officers who provide victims with counseling, immediate assistance, information, and emotional support when reporting acts of violence.

52. In terms of measures to promote equality, protection, and non-discrimination, **Bolivia** passed both legislation prohibiting, without exception, marriages and unions of persons below the age of 18, and a law for the protection of the sexual integrity of children and adolescents in digital environments. **Canada** signed the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), thereby reaffirming its commitment to the advancement of women's rights. **Guatemala** reformed the Law on the Penitentiary System and the Criminal Code to prevent and punish the trafficking of girls and adolescents in the prison system. **Guyana** increased the budget for the Women and Gender Equality Commission by 10.5% with respect to 2024 and 42.3% with respect to 2020. **Honduras** incorporated a gender budget classifier into the 2025 General Budget. The reinstated National Gender Council of **Uruguay** introduced the National Public Policy for Gender Equality 2025-2030, with 90 committed measures for mainstreaming the gender perspective in public management and planning. In the Caribbean, **Antigua and Barbuda's** Directorate of Gender Affairs (DOGA) is spearheading the development of a National Policy on Gender and Social Inclusion and has finalized a Plan of Action against Gender Violence. **Barbados** passed the Family Leave Act, which introduced statutory paternity leave to promote full and equal parental involvement in child rearing and extended maternity leave to 14 weeks.

53. With regard to measures to protect and guarantee sexual and reproductive rights, **Ecuador's** Constitutional Court issued a judgment acknowledging the obstetric violence suffered by an adolescent girl in a situation of human mobility and reaffirmed the State's duty to guarantee dignified, safe, and respectful medical care. In **Haiti**, the creation of a specialized judicial unit for prosecuting mass crimes and sexual violence and the decriminalization of abortion in the new Criminal Code in cases of rape, incest, or danger to the physical or mental health of the woman are noteworthy. Likewise, in **Chile,** Ministry of Health Decree No. 22 of 2024, which recognizes the right to voluntary termination of pregnancy on three grounds, entered into force.

54. As far as women's political participation is concerned, the first woman president of the Republic of **Suriname**, the highest position in the country, was elected. A woman was also elected Prime Minister of **Trinidad and Tobago**. The **Bolivian** Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency adopted the "Protocol on Assistance in Cases of Harassment and/or Political Violence against Women," which seeks to guarantee timely assistance and effective protection of women's political rights. It is worth noting that women elected to the Plurinational Legislative Assembly account for 52.4% of seats. Finally, in **Colombia,** a campaign

to achieve parity in the high courts is being considered, with a recommendation that lists for the election of magistrates to the Council of State and the Supreme Court of Justice, as well as the Constitutional Court, be comprised exclusively of women.

55. With respect to measures to protect the rights of persons in the context of **human mobility**—including migrants, refugees, stateless individuals, internally displaced persons, and victims of trafficking—the IACHR notes the end of the detention of migrants in 10 **Canadian** provinces. In **Guatemala**, the Commission notes the introduction of the "Return Home Plan" for the sustainable reintegration of Guatemalan returnees. **Mexico** implemented the *México te abraza* [Mexico Embraces You] policy; under it, shelters have been set up in the states of Mexicali, Baja California, and in Reynosa and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, offering services like food, medical care, and support for reintegration into the labor market. **Uruguay** extended its *Arraigo* [Roots] Residency Program, the objective of which is to offer the option of regular status and access to rights to 20,000 asylum seekers. The program is based on the Inter-American Principles developed by the IACHR and fulfills commitments made at the Global Forum on Refugees (2023) and reinforces the principles of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection (2022). **Chile** implemented the "Women in Mobility" project, which looks to provide comprehensive services to women in situations of mobility who experience gender-based violence while staying in temporary shelters. In the Caribbean, the IACHR notes the progress made in the implementation of the agreement on the full free movement of persons signed between **Barbados**, **Belize**, **Dominica**, **and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**, within the framework of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The agreement guarantees the right of nationals of the four States to enter, move freely, and reside in each other's territories, while ensuring equal access to economic, social, and cultural rights in the host State, including the right to work.

56. As to statelessness, the **Dominican Republic** reported on the exemption from payment of fees for requests for the transcription of records for issuance of identity and voter cards.

57. With regard to combating and addressing the scourge of **human trafficking**, the Commission highlights efforts in the area of cooperation. For example, **Antigua and Barbuda** formalized its participation in the CARICOM Arrest Warrant Treaty, which is designed to facilitate cooperation in the surrender of persons wanted in another member state for different types of crimes, including trafficking in persons. **Bolivia** and **Peru** signed a Binational Roadmap to enhance bilateral cooperation, including the creation of an immediate response team, an early warning mechanism at borders, and task forces comprised of police, prosecutors, and immigration authorities. The Commission also takes note of bilateral commitments between **Peru**, **Ecuador**, **and Bolivia** aimed at building the capacity of justice operators and strengthening criminal prosecution strategies and victim protection. **Canada** developed an optional international reporting template in collaboration with the United Kingdom and Australia to support the streamlining of information across jurisdictions.

58. As far as institutional strengthening to combat trafficking is concerned, the Commission recognizes a number of initiatives in **Guyana**, e.g., advocacy activities, a storybook, four different QR codes to report trafficking-related concerns, and a Guide for Victims based on the 2023 C-TIP Act. In **Argentina**, the Ministry of Justice moved forward with the "National Program to Provide Comprehensive Reparations to Victims of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons," which provides for economic restitution and compensation for victims of trafficking and exploitation. Similarly, the Commission recognizes the first judgment in **Honduras** to include reparations for victims of human trafficking. In **Guatemala**, the reform of the Law on the Penitentiary System and the Criminal Code provides for a registration and oversight system for children and adolescents who enter detention centers as visitors, as a way to prevent trafficking. In the **Dominican Republic**, the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling 2025-2028 was adopted in an effort to prevent, protect, and prosecute the crime of trafficking. In addition, the Law on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons was amended to, among other things, ensure that the crime is not subject to statutes of limitation.

59. In terms of rescue, the Commission takes note of the efforts of **Trinidad and Tobago's** Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU), which led to the recovery of 30 individuals. The IACHR also recognizes the

collaborative actions involved in "Operation Rescue," carried out in **Chile**, which led to the identification of trafficking routes, the dismantling of organized crime organizations, and the recovery of 2,122 human trafficking victims.

60. Regarding the **rights of children and adolescents** and the commitment to international legal cooperation and guarantee of their effective protection, the Commission notes that **Argentina** deposited the instrument of ratification and **Guyana** passed the Law on International Measures for the Protection of Children, which incorporates the 1996 Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children into domestic law. The Commission also notes the judgment, in **Guatemala**, issued by the Seventh Criminal Judgement Court, concerning the fire at the Hogar Seguro Virgen de la Asunción in March 2017, in which 41 girls died and another 15 were seriously injured. In that ruling, six former officials were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 6 to 25 years for the crimes of abuse of children and adolescents, breach of duties, abuse of authority, and manslaughter. The Court also called for a special closed-door hearing to establish reparations, safeguarding the victims.

61. As to the protection of children and adolescents, the Commission notes that **Brazil** launched the publication "*Crianças, Adolescentes e Telas: Guia sobre Uso de Dispositivos Digitais*" to promote the mindful use of digital devices by children and adolescents. In **Canada**, a hotline for reporting child sexual abuse and exploitation was launched, as was the Arachnid Project which offers digital tools for scanning the Internet for child sexual abuse materials (CSAM). Likewise, in **Honduras**, the First National Report on Social Media Risks for Children and Adolescents uncovered the dangers faced by this population group, including cybercrime, recruitment for trafficking, online harassment, and "digital addictions." **Suriname** moved forward with the creation of the National Commission on Combating Child Labor (NCUK), which was established to develop interdepartmental policies against child labor, with a special focus on eliminating the most serious forms of child labor in the country. In addition, **Bolivia**, **Grenada**, and **Uruguay** passed legislation to raise the minimum marriage age to 18, to better protect children and adolescents, in keeping with international and inter-American human rights standards. Lastly, the **Paraguayan** Ombudsperson's Office began receiving complaints filed directly by children and adolescents.

62. With regard to the rights of **persons deprived of liberty**, a series of measures taken to improve conditions in detention centers stands out. In **The Bahamas**, for example, construction began on a new high- and medium-security correctional center designed to enhance security and expand opportunities for rehabilitation. **Brazil's** Federal Supreme Court banned humiliating body searches of visitors to prisons. The **Colombian** Ministry of Justice and Law's circular temporarily makes open cells available for pregnant and breastfeeding women. **Ecuador** opened a polyclinic at the Guayas No. 1 prison in Guayaquil, which houses nearly 20% of the country's detainees. The Commission welcomed the commutation, in the **United States**, of federal death sentences for 37 of the 40 people on death row at the end of December 2024. Among those were four individuals who were beneficiaries of precautionary measures granted by the IACHR. The Commission also hails the implementation of the General Protocol on Conjugal Visits in Detention Centers under the auspices of **Guatemala's** General Directorate for the Penitentiary System. The Commission notes the institution of a mental health program at His Majesty's Prison in **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** that seeks to address mental health needs through structured interventions within the prison system. A new Centralized Community Safety Centre was opened in Castries, **Saint Lucia**, with cells designed for temporary custody in an effort to reduce overcrowding at police stations and improve the treatment of persons in temporary custody. The Commission also takes note of the State's proposal to decommission the Port of Spain Prison in **Trinidad and Tobago** after 268 years of operation.

63. In terms of actions to promote social reintegration and alternative measures, judicial decisions by **Chile's** Supreme Court that provided for house arrest in place of a prison sentence for an incarcerated woman with multiple chronic diseases, as well as approval by the Gendarmerie of guidelines to safeguard the rights of pregnant prisoners and nursing babies are noteworthy. For its part, the Commission welcomes the steps taken by **Barbados** to expand access to higher education in the prison system, including for prison staff, in cooperation with the University of the West Indies. In **Jamaica**, 10 inmates completed

university programs in collaboration with the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean and Stand Up for Jamaica. Similarly, the Commission appreciates the opening of the first prison maternity ward in **Mexico** at the Women's Social Reintegration Center in Nuevo Leon, as well as the introduction of the "Art for Freedom" brand to market the work of the Center's inmates, which benefits both them and their families by generating income. In **Panama**, an interinstitutional team reviewed the files of incarcerated persons to ascertain who had served two-thirds of their sentence or suffered from chronic illnesses, leading the release of approximately 6,000 individuals. The **Dominican Republic** launched a pilot plan for the first "national prison cadaster" to collect, record, and update information on the prison population, prison infrastructure, and the system's resources. Similarly, **Uruguay** conducted the second National Census of Persons Deprived of Liberty and instituted a National Literacy Plan for incarcerated individuals. The Commission appreciates the collaboration between His Majesty's Prison and the **Saint Kitts and Nevis** Defense Forces, which offers training to inmates in automotive mechanics, welding, and agriculture, and includes supervised construction projects. Finally, note was taken of the opening of the Central Resocialization Center in **Suriname**, which coordinates reintegration programs that include apprenticeships, financial education, anger management, and psychological support.

64. With respect to combating **torture**, **Bolivia's** Office of the Ombudsperson offered human rights and torture-prevention training activities to approximately 3,900 police officers. For its part, **Mexico** published the National Program to Prevent and Punish Torture, pushed by civil society, to comply with a ruling handed down by Mexico City's Tenth Collegiate Court on Administrative Matters.

65. Regarding measures to protect the **human rights of people of African descent and combat racial discrimination**, **Bolivia's** Office of the Ombudsperson created the Ombudsperson's Observatory on Racism and Discrimination and worked with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and the National Committee to devise measures to prevent racism and hate speech in the 2025 electoral process. **Brazil** approved the Anti-Racism Strategy Action Plan for Health 2025, which includes mandatory reporting of sickle cell anemia and creates technical support bodies. The Management Committee for the National Policy for Territorial and Environmental Management Quilombola (PNGTAQ) 2025-2027 was also established. For its part, the Supreme Court of Justice rejected the notion of "reverse racism," holding that the crime of racial slander does not apply to offenses directed at non-Afro-descendants "by reason of color," thereby reinforcing the specific legal protection of that construct. The Commission further welcomes actions taken to reduce the overrepresentation of Afro-descendants and indigenous peoples in **Canada's** criminal justice system through the Black Justice Strategy's Implementation Plan and the Federal Indigenous Justice Strategy. **Colombia** reported the creation of the Special Harmonization Program for reintegration using an ethnic and gender approach. The **United States** Department of Justice sued the county of Houston, Georgia over an electoral system that would undermine the vote of people of African descent. Similarly, the Minneapolis City Council approved a police oversight and reform agreement following investigations into discriminatory practices in the wake of the George Floyd case. **Guatemala** reported progress in incorporating guidelines for ethnic disaggregation and service provision, as well as the addition of "Afro-descendant/Creole/Afro-mestizo" classifications in the National Report of the Montevideo Consensus 2024 and other public policy instruments. **Paraguay's** National Council of Afro-descendants (CONAFRO) initiated steps to coordinate public policies; the National Secretariat of Culture prepared the Institutional Strategic Plan 2025-2029; the Ministry of Public Defense promoted a National Network for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the Directorate for the Defense of Indigenous Peoples was created hand-in-hand with experts in indigenous culture.

66. The Caribbean welcomed the Second International Decade for People of African Descent (2025-2034) while the regional agenda for reparations for slavery and colonialism was renewed in cultural and youth forums. In **Belize**, the "Belize Kriol Dictionary" app was launched free of charge for schools and the public to spread the native language. UNESCO granted **Jamaica** a certificate recognizing the Revival Pilgrimage to Watt Town as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, given that revivalism is a popular religious expression that integrates elements of African and other cultures. **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** reported progress in cultural rights and memory initiatives linked to Garifuna heritage. The schools in Fancy incorporated daily lessons in the Garifuna language. In addition, the State announced the purchase of Baliceaux Island, a historically pivotal site for the Garifuna people, with plans for preserving and honoring Garifuna memory. In **Suriname**, the official standardization of the writing systems for Sranan, Sarnami, Okanisi

(Ndyuka), and Saamaka marked a milestone in the recognition and standardization of Suriname's four national languages.

67. As to the **rights of lesbian**, **gay**, **bisexual**, **trans**, **gender diverse**, **and intersex (LGBTI) people**, progress in **Chile** took the form of the first National Institute of Statistics (INE) survey designed to generate data on sexual and gender diversity, as well as the SENCE-municipalities Diverse Network Pilot, aimed at helping trans people obtain positions in municipal care programs through coordination among different public institutions. **Colombia** approved CONPES 4147: National Policy for Guaranteeing the Rights of the LGBTIQ+ Population and made progress with respect to a trans voting protocol and the issuance of documents containing a "non-binary" category. The Commission recognizes the appointment of a trans woman as **Uruguay's** Secretary of Human Rights.

68. At the judicial level, the Constitutional Court of the **Dominican Republic** declared Articles 210 of the National Police Code of Justice and 260 of the Armed Forces Code of Justice unconstitutional; these articles punished members of the police and military with up to two years in prison for engaging in sexual relations with persons of the same sex. The Court stated that such provisions violated equality, human dignity, privacy, and free development of personality. The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court ruled that sections 132 and 133 of **Saint Lucia's** Criminal Code criminalizing sodomy and gross indecency were incompatible with a number of constitutional rights protected by the Bill of Rights in St. Lucia's Constitution. For its part, **Suriname's** Constitutional Court ordered the government to register the marriages of two same-sex couples in the records of the Central Bureau for Civil Affairs (CBB).

69. The IACHR also takes other judicial precedents into consideration, including the **Brazilian** Superior Court of Justice ruling that authorized the use of gender-neutral markers on identity documents and the extension of the Maria da Penha Law to same-sex couples and transgender women and transvestites by the Federal Supreme Court. Meanwhile, the Criminal Appeals Chamber of the Province of Buenos Aires in **Argentina** upheld the life sentence for aggravated murder due to hatred of the victim's gender identity in the case of Tehuel de la Torre. **Chile's** Constitutional Court rescinded a law that prevented the funding of hormone therapies for trans persons under 18 years of age and authorized changes of name and registered sex for trans persons under 14 years of age. A ruling by **Colombia's** Constitutional Court made it possible for trans persons to change their names without the need for notarial documents and extended breastfeeding-related rights regardless of gender. The Supreme Court of **Costa Rica** recognized co-parenting leave for diverse families. **Ecuador's** Constitutional Court ordered the Ministry of Education to develop support protocols for trans children. In the **United States**, a court order in California blocked the enforcement of three executive orders limiting health services for LGBTI people. Meanwhile, a Wisconsin Supreme Court decision called for a ban on conversion therapy. Similarly, in **Mexico**, the Chiapas and Tamaulipas state legislatures passed reforms to ban conversion therapy. Likewise, Mexico's Supreme Court of Justice invalidated a provision of the state of Guerrero's Criminal Code that exempted families that forced their sons and daughters to attend conversion therapy from criminal liability.

70. Regarding **the rights of persons with disabilities,** in **The Bahamas**, the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) received a budget increase to expand programs such as life skills training, independent living initiatives, and free accessible transportation. In **Barbados**, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act was passed, addressing education, employment, healthcare, and transportation, while strengthening legal protections for persons with disabilities. In **Brazil**, the introduction of accessible communications services for people with hearing impairments in hearings and other judicial proceedings is worth noting. In **Colombia**, the Law for the Prevention and Care of Mental Disorders and Illnesses was passed. **Costa Rica** published the School Mental Health Plan and enacted Law 10725, which guarantees immediate psychological care for persons at risk of suicide. In **El Salvador**, inclusive voting measures were implemented, e.g., the use of Braille and typhlological envelopes, in an effort to guarantee accessibility and adaptive voting centers. **Panama** made advances in its National Strategic Plan on Disability (PEN) 2025-2029. **Paraguay**

passed Law 7371/2025, which provides for a comprehensive framework for the protection, inclusion, and exercise of legal capacity of persons with disabilities. **Suriname** adopted the National Policy Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2025-2030, which focuses on government building accessibility, traffic adjustments, and facilities for receiving and guiding persons with disabilities.

71. With respect to **the rights of older persons**, and in particular, matters related to pensions, **Chile** made progress with the entry into force of a new pension reform designed to improve the system's solvency and equity, including gradual increases to the Universal Guaranteed Pension (PGU) and the creation of both a Social Security system funded by employers and an Autonomous Pension Protection Fund to administer the new social security system. In **Colombia**, the National Public Policy on Care was approved, with specific actions for this group. Also noteworthy is the passage of the Law for Strengthening Welfare and Social Organizations for Older Adults in **Costa Rica**, which aims to address, intersectionally, the conditions of vulnerability faced by this population, and which identifies older adults in a situation of abandonment as targets for state intervention. The launch of **Mexico**'s *Salud Casa por Casa* strategy, designed to provide home healthcare to older adults, reportedly included a census of 8.9 million older adults in an effort to develop tailored health plans. In **Uruguay**, the Banco de Previsión Social's Observatory on Old Age, Aging, and Social Security was launched. The Observatory aims to strengthen existing social security policies and generate inputs that make it possible to innovate in this area. Finally, the IACHR welcomed the fact that **Saint Kitts and Nevis** became a State Party to the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons upon depositing its legal instrument of ratification on May 28.

72. As to the **third group of measures**, the Commission highlights a series of actions taken to advance policies and practices pertaining to **memory**, **truth**, **and justice** in the region. **Brazil** rectified the death certificates of victims of the military dictatorship to officially reflect the violent cause of their deaths. Brazil further delivered these documents to the victims' relatives; held ceremonies to apologize as a form of symbolic reparation; and transferred ownership of the Casa da Morte in Petrópolis, with a view to transforming it into a memorial. Additionally, a collection of documents related to the military dictatorship was discovered at the former Forensic Institute of Rio de Janeiro. **Chile** created a Memory Sites Unit, a National Memory Archive, and a Memory Sites Social Program. In addition, 15 new sites were declared historical monuments, and 22 identifying plaques were put up throughout the country. Approval was also given to expropriate land at the former Colonia Dignidad to establish a memory site and for handover of the former "Discoteque" building so it can be converted into a memory site. In **Colombia,** the Special Jurisdiction for Peace issued its first two restorative judgments, one in sub-case 001, concerning hostage-taking and grave deprivation of liberty by the FARC-EP; and the other, in the Costa Caribe sub-case of Case 003, having to do with murders and disappearances illegitimately labeled as combat casualties. The rulings established penalties of up to eight years, focused on memory projects, dignification, community rebuilding, searches for missing persons, and demining. Additionally, the IACHR appreciates the extension—for three additional years—of the law for the registration of victims and relatives of the massacres in El Mozote and surrounding areas in **El Salvador**. It also took note of the judgment handed down by the Court of First Instance of Dulce Nombre de María, in Chalatenango, which sentenced three retired members of the Salvadoran military to prison for the murder of four Dutch journalists in 1982. In **Uruguay**, an agreement was signed with respect to digitization of the historical archives from police headquarters, police intelligence, and military justice; publication of historical documents from the Condor Plan; and cooperation with Chile concerning the exchange of documented information on human rights violations.

73. Regarding the grave scourge of disappearances, **Chile** developed a georeferenced map of victims' trajectories using specialized technologies, and assessment portfolios were delivered to relatives of missing persons. The first official list of 1,469 victims of enforced disappearance was also published and a law was passed to create a Registry of Persons Missing due to Enforced Disappearance, which will make it possible to issue death certificates and ease civil red tape for family members. The formulation of **Guatemala's** National Search Plan included the signing of international cooperation agreements with Colombia and Chile and a letter of understanding with the International Committee of the Red Cross to advance in cases. The reform of **Mexico's** General Law on Disappearances was enacted. In addition, the First National Meeting on Human Identification Processes was held and was attended by representatives of prosecutors' offices, local

commissions, and international organizations. A series of measures was also promoted to strengthen prevention, search, and reparation policies. The IACHR welcomes the issuance in **Paraguay** of Ministry of the Interior Decree 4061, which creates both the System for the Search for Missing Persons and the National Commission for the Search and Location of Persons, thereby enabling immediate actions.

74. In conclusion, the Commission notes the remarkable efforts made by the States, through the development of policies and practices and the implementation of legislative and judicial measures, to advance in the promotion and effective protection of the human rights of their inhabitants. The Commission acknowledges these efforts and urges the States to continue to develop and pursue a human rights approach in public policies, in keeping with the recommendations of the bodies of the Inter-American Human Rights System, and to make this approach crosscutting in all State institutions and in society as a whole. The Commission places itself at the disposal of the States for any technical assistance they may require to achieve these objectives.

C. Origin, legal basis, structures, purposes and mandates

75. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ("IACHR" or "Inter-American Commission") is an autonomous organ of the Organization of American States (OAS), headquartered in Washington, D.C. Its mandate is established in the OAS Charter, the American Convention on Human Rights ("American Convention") and its Statute. The IACHR is one of two organs of the Inter-American system responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights; the other is the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, based in San José, Costa Rica.

76. The IACHR is composed of seven members who act independently, without representing any country. Its members are elected by the OAS General Assembly for a four-year term and may be reelected once. The Inter-American Commission meets in regular and special sessions several times a year. The Executive Secretariat, in accordance with Article 13 of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR, carries out the tasks delegated to it by the IACHR and provides the latter with legal and administrative support in the performance of its functions.

77. In April 1948, the OAS adopted in Bogotá, Colombia, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man ("American Declaration"), the first general international human rights instrument. The IACHR was created in 1959 and held its first session in 1960.

78. In 1961, the IACHR began making visits to various countries to observe the human rights situation in situ. Since then, it has conducted numerous visits to the Organization's Member States. Annual, country and thematic reports are available on the IACHR website.

79. In 1965, the IACHR was expressly authorized to examine complaints or petitions related to specific cases of human rights violations. The final reports published by the IACHR, in relation to these individual cases, can be found in the Annual Reports of the Inter-American Commission and are also available on the IACHR website, in the section on petitions and cases.

80. The American Convention on Human Rights was adopted in 1969 and entered into force in 1978. As of December 2024, 24 Member States are party to this treaty: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

81. The American Convention defines the human rights that States agree to respect and guarantee by virtue of ratification. It also created the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and defined the functions and procedures of the IACHR and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In addition to considering complaints alleging responsibility for violations of the American Convention with respect to States parties to that instrument, the IACHR is competent, under the OAS Charter and its Statute, to examine alleged violations of the American Declaration by OAS Member States that are not yet parties to the American Convention.

82. In compliance with its mandate, the Inter-American Commission:

a) Receives, analyzes and investigates individual petitions alleging human rights violations, in accordance with Articles 44 to 51 of the American Convention, Articles 19 and 20 of its Statute and Articles 23 to 52 of its Rules of Procedure.

b) Observes the general human rights situation in Member States and issues special reports on the situation in a particular Member State when it considers it appropriate in accordance with Rule 60 of its Rules of Procedure.

c) Conducts *on-site* visits to countries to conduct in-depth analyses of the general situation and/or to investigate a specific situation in accordance with Article 18 of its Statute and Article 53 of its Rules of Procedure. In general, these visits result in the preparation of a report on the human rights situation of the country in question, which is published and submitted to the Permanent Council and the OAS General Assembly.

d) Stimulates public awareness of human rights in the Americas. To this end, the Inter-American Commission conducts and publishes studies on specific topics in accordance with Article 15 of its Rules of Procedure, such as the measures to be adopted to ensure greater access to justice; the effects of internal armed conflicts on certain groups of people; the human rights situation of children, women, LGBTI persons, people on the move, including migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and victims of human trafficking, persons deprived of liberty, human rights defenders, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, racial discrimination, freedom of expression, and economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.

e) Organizes and holds visits, conferences, seminars and meetings with representatives of governments, academic institutions, non-governmental entities and others, to disseminate information and promote broad knowledge of the work of the inter-American human rights system in accordance with the provisions of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of its Statute.

f) Recommends to the OAS member states the adoption of measures that contribute to the protection of human rights in the countries of the Hemisphere in accordance with the provisions of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of its Statute.

g) It requests Member States to adopt precautionary measures in accordance with the provisions of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, to prevent irreparable harm to human rights in serious and urgent cases. Likewise, in accordance with the provisions of Article 76 of its Rules of Procedure, it may request that the Inter-American Court order the adoption of provisional measures in cases of extreme gravity and urgency to prevent irreparable harm to persons.

h) Submits cases to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and appears before the Court during its processing and consideration in accordance with the provisions of Article 61 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Articles 45 and 74 of its Rules of Procedure.

i) It requests advisory opinions from the Inter-American Court, in accordance with the provisions of Article 64 of the American Convention and Article 19 of its Statute.

83. Any person, group of persons or non-governmental entity legally recognized in one or more of the OAS Member States may lodge petitions with the Inter-American Commission regarding violations of a

right recognized in the American Convention, the American Declaration or other relevant instrument, in accordance with their respective provisions and its Statute and Rules of Procedure. Likewise, in the situation described and regulated by Article 45 of the American Convention, the IACHR may consider communications in the nature of an inter-State complaint. Complaints may be submitted in any of the four official languages of the OAS (Spanish, French, English or Portuguese) by the alleged victim of the violation of rights or by a third party; and in the case of interstate complaints, by a State.

D. Universalization of the Inter-American Human Rights System

1. Ratification Status of Inter-American Instruments

84. The current status of signatures and ratifications of inter-American treaties on human rights can be consulted on the web page of the Department of International Law of the OAS Secretariat for Legal Affairs at the following website: OAS :: SLA :: Department of International Law (DIL) :: Inter-American Treaties.

RATIFICATION STATUS OF THE AMERICAN CONVENTION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE COURT'S CONTENTIOUS JURISDICTION

SIGNATORY COUNTRIES	SIGNATURE	RATIFICATION/ACCESSION	DEPOSIT	ACCEPTANCE OF THE COURT'S JURISDICTION
Antigua and Barbuda				
Argentina	02-02-84	14-08-84	RA 05-09-84	05-09-84
Bahamas				
Barbados	20-06-78	05-11-81	RA 27-11-82	04-06-00
Belize				
Bolivia		20-06-79	AD 19-07-79	27-07-93
Brazil		09-07-92	AD 25-09-92	10-12-98
Canada				
Chile	22-11-69	10-08-90	RA 21-08-90	21-08-90
Colombia	22-11-69	28-05-73	RA 31-07-73	21-06-85
Costa Rica	22-11-69	02-03-70	RA 08-04-70	02-07-80
Dominica		03-06-93	RA 11-06-93	
Ecuador	22-11-69	08-12-77	RA 28-12-77	27-07-84
El Salvador	22-11-69	20-06-78	RA 23-06-78	06-06-95
United States	01-06-77			
Grenada	14-07-78	14-07-78	RA 18-07-78	
Guatemala	22-11-69	27-04-78	RA 25-05-78	09-03-87
Guyana				
Haiti		14-09-77	AD 27-09-77	20-03-98
Honduras	22-11-69	05-09-77	RA 08-09-77	09-09-81
Jamaica	16-09-77	19-07-78	RA 07-08-78	
Mexico		02-03-81	AD 24-03-81	16-12-98

Nicaragua	22-11-69	25-09-79	RA 25-09-79	12-02-91
Panama	22-11-69	08-05-78	RA 22-06-78	09-05-90
Paraguay	22-11-69	18-08-89	RA 24-08-89	26-03-93
Peru	27-07-77	12-07-78	RA 28-07-78	21-01-81
Dominican Republic	07-09-77	11-01-78	RA 19-04-78	25-03-99
San Kitts and Nevis				
Saint Lucia				
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines				
Suriname		12-11-87	AD 12-11-87	12-11-87
Trinidad and Tobago		03-04-91	AD 28-05-91*	28-05-91
Uruguay	22-11-69	26-03-85	RA 19-04-85	19-04-85
Venezuela	22-11-69	07-01-19	RA 07/31/19**	07-01-19

Source: Department of International Law of the OAS General Secretariat
* Complaint filed in May 1998
** Complaint filed in September 2012
RA = RATIFICATION
AD = ACCESSION

85. With respect to the other eight treaties that make up the Inter-American System, the following table indicates the OAS member states that have ratified or acceded to them:

STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS TO THE AMERICAN CONVENTION AND OTHER INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

States	PACAMDESC[2]	PCADHAPM[3]	CIPST[4]	CIDFP[5]	CIPSEVM[6]	CIEFDPD[7]	CICTFDI[8]	CICRDRFCI[9]	CIPDHPM[10]
Antigua & Barbuda					A 12-08-98			R 01-06-18	
Argentina	R 30-03-03	R 18-06-08	R 18-11-88	R 31-10-95	R 09-04-96	R 28-09-00	F 07-06-13	F 07-06-13	R 23-10-17
Bahamas					A 03-05-95				
Barbados					R 08-02-95				
Belize					A 25-11-96				R 19-12-24
Bolivia	R 12-07-06		R 26-08-96	R 19-09-96	R 26-10-94	R 27-02-03	F 10-03-15	F 10-03-15	R 17-05-17

[2] Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted in San Salvador, El Salvador, November 17, 1988, 18th regular session of the General Assembly.
[3] Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty, adopted in Asuncion, Paraguay, on 8 June 1990, 20th regular session of the General Assembly.
[4] Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, adopted at Cartagena de Indias, Barranquilla, Colombia, on December 9, 1985, 15th Regular Session of the General Assembly.
[5] Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, adopted in Belém do Pará, Brazil, on June 9, 1994, 24th Regular Session of the General Assembly.
[6] Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, adopted in Belém do Pará, Brazil, on June 9, 1994, 24th Regular Session of the General Assembly.
[7] Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, adopted in Guatemala City, Guatemala, June 7, 1999, 29th regular session of the General Assembly.
[8] Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, adopted in Guatemala City, Guatemala, June 5, 2013, 43rd regular session of the General Assembly.
[9] Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Intolerance, adopted in Guatemala City, June 5, 2013, 43rd regular session of the General Assembly.
[10] Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, adopted in Washington, D.C., on June 15, 2015, 45th regular session of the General Assembly.

States	PACAMDESC[2]	PCADHAPM[3]	CIPST[4]	CIDFP[5]	CIPSEVM[6]	CIEFDPD[7]	CICTFDI[8]	CICRDRFCI[9]	CIPDHPM[10]
Brazil	A 08-08-96	R 31-07-96	R 09-06-89	R 26-07-13	R 16-11-95	R 17-07-01	F 07-06-13	R 28-05-21	F 15-06-15
Canada									
Chile	R 27-08-22	R 04-08-08	R 15-09-88	R 13-01-10	R 24-10-96	R 04-12-01	F 22-10-15	F 22-10-15	R 15-08-17
Colombia	A 22-10-97		R 02-12-98	R 01-04-10	A 03-10-96	R 04-12-03	F 08-09-13	F 08-09-14	R 27-09-22
Costa Rica	R 29-09-99	R 30-03-98	R 25-11-99	R 20-03-96	R 05-07-95	R 08-12-99		R 12-12-16	R 12-12-16
Cuba									
Dominica					R 30-06-95				
Ecuador	R 10-02-93	R 05-02-98	R 30-09-99	R 07-07-96	R 30-06-95	R 01-03-04	R 05-08-24	R 14-01-20	
El Salvador	R 04-05-95		R 17-10-94		R 13-11-95	R 15-01-02			A 18-04-18
United States									
Grenada					R 29-11-00				
Guatemala	R 30-05-00		R 10-12-86	R 27-07-99	R 04-01-95	R 08-08-02			
Guyana					R 08-01-96				
Haiti					A 07-04-97	R 29-05-09	F 25-06-14	F 25-06-14	
Honduras	A 14-09-11	A 14-09-11	23-07-24	R 28-04-05	R 04-07-95	A 14-09-11			
Jamaica					R 11-11-05				
Mexico	R 08-03-96	R 28-06-07	R 11-02-87	R 28-02-92	R 19-06-98	R 06-12-00	R 21-01-20	R 21-01-20	A 03/28/23
Nicaragua	R 15-12-09	R 24-03-99	A 23-09-09		R 06-10-95	R 15-07-02			
Panama	R 28-10-92	R 27-06-91	R 27-06-91	R 31-07-95	R 26-04-95	R 24-01-01	F 05-06-14	F 05-06-14	
Paraguay	R 28-05-97	R 31-10-00	R 12-02-90	R 26-08-96	R 29-09-95	R 28-06-02			
Peru	R 17-05-95		R 27-02-90	R 08-02-92	R 02-04-96	R 10-07-01	F 25-10-16	F 25-10-16	A 01-03-21
Dominican Republic		A 19-12-11	R 12-12-86		R 10-01-96	R 28-12-06			
San Kitts y Nevis					R 17-03-95				
Saint Lucia					R 08-03-95	R 28-06-24			
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines					R 23-05-96				
Suriname	A 28-02-90		R 12-11-87		R 19-02-02				A 05/08/23
Trinidad and Tobago					R 04-01-96				
Uruguay	R 21-11-95	R 08-02-94	R 23-09-92	R 06-02-96	R 04-01-96	R 24-05-01	R 11-05-18	R 12-10-17	R 18-11-16
Venezuela	R 24-07-20	R 06-04-94	R 25-06-91	R 06-07-98	R 16-01-95	R 06-06-06			

Source: Department of International Law of the OAS General Secretariat

2. Progress made with the Ratification and Signature of Instruments of the Inter-American System in 2025

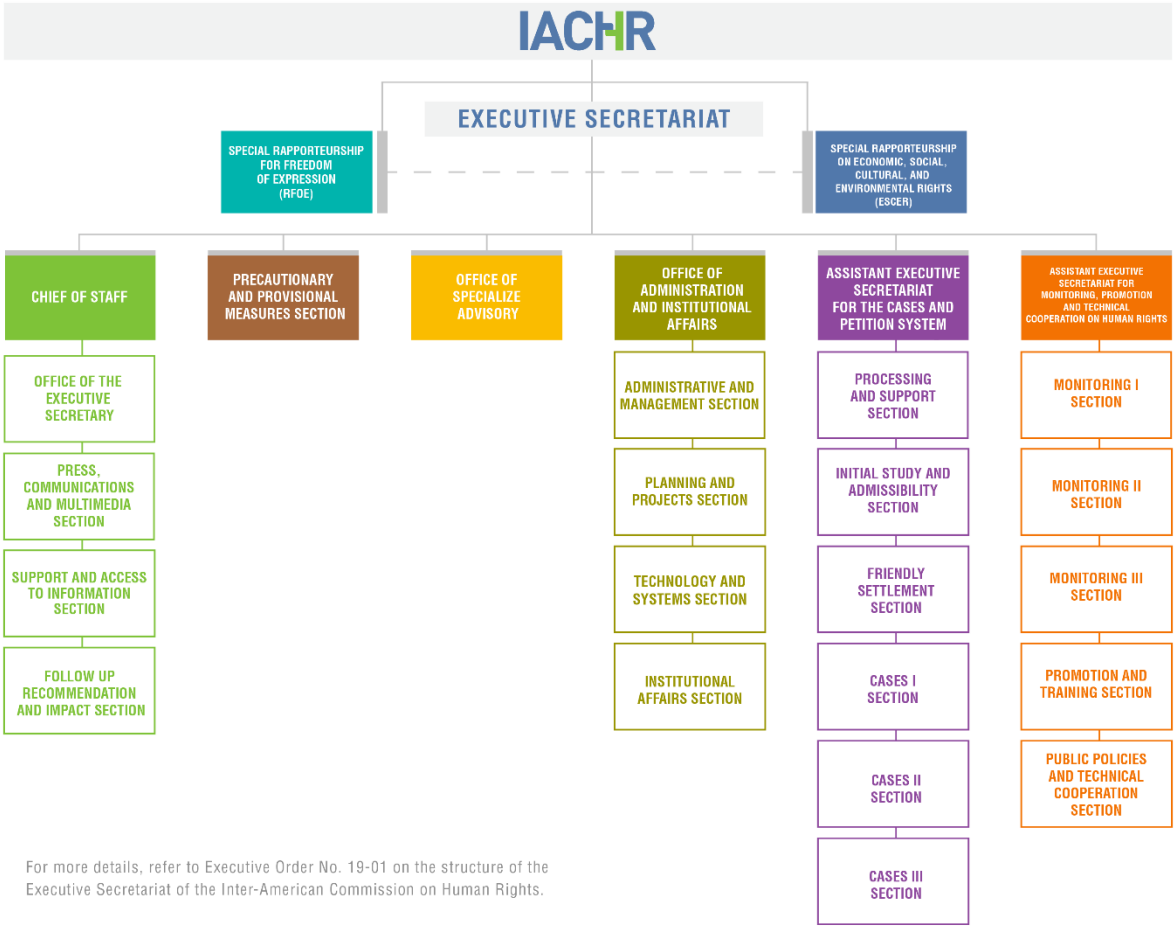
86. The IACHR has stressed the importance of universal ratification of the instruments of the inter-American system as a critical element in ensuring full respect for and guaranteeing human rights in the Americas.

87. The Inter-American Commission applauds the states of Saint Lucia, Honduras, Ecuador and Belize for their adhesion to the international instruments for the protection of human rights identified below, in chronological order.

88. On March 7, 2025, the Permanent Mission of Canada signed the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém Do Pará," at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., United States.

89. On May 28, 2025, the Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts and Nevis deposited the instrument of accession to the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, and the instrument of accession to the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. D.C., United States.

E. Structure of the Executive Secretariat



For more details, refer to Executive Order No. 19-01 on the structure of the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

IACHR Activities

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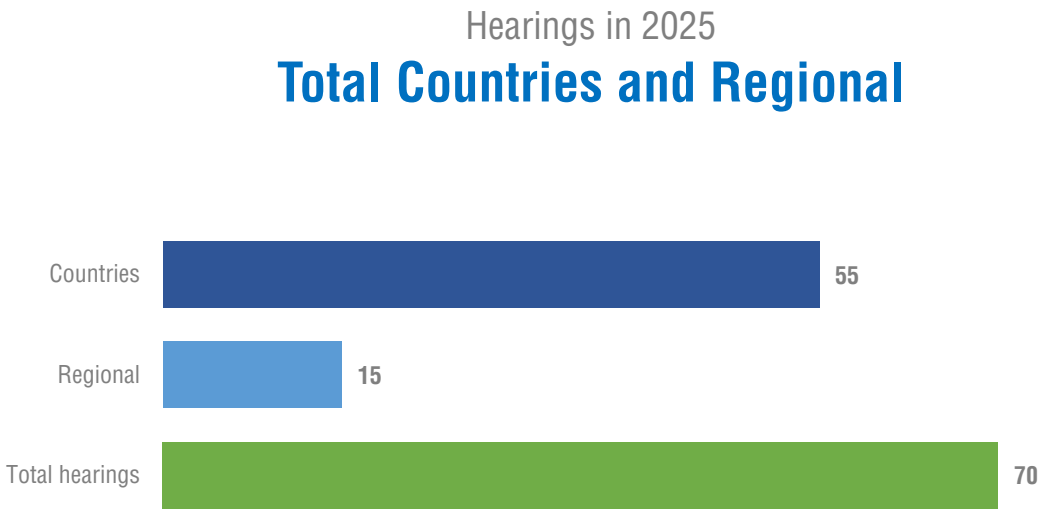
CHAPTER I

ACTIVITIES OF THE IACHR IN 2025

A. Sessions of the IACHR held in 2025

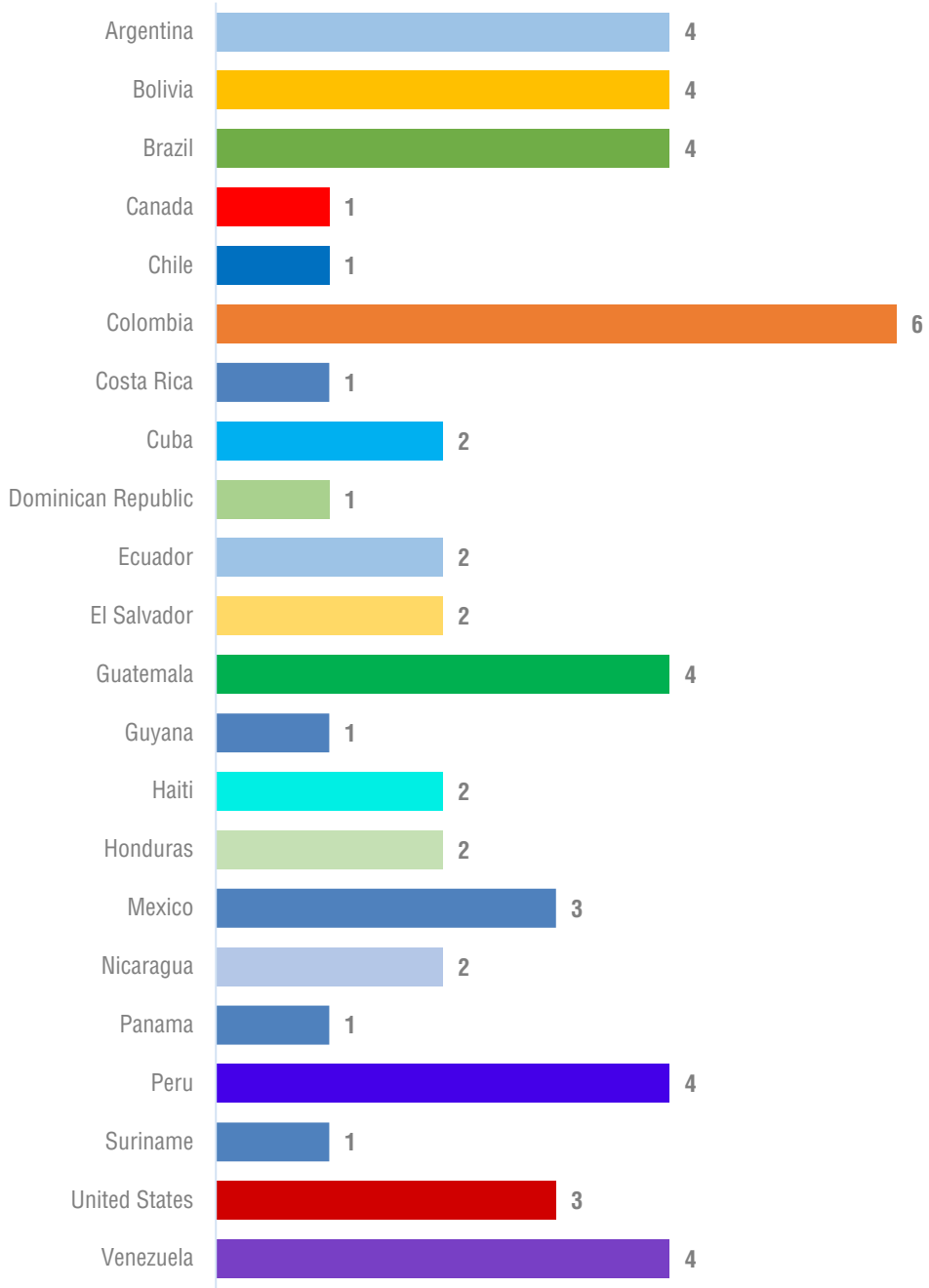
1. During 2025 the IACHR held three periods of Sessions: 192, 193 and 194. This last one was held at the University of Miami, Florida.

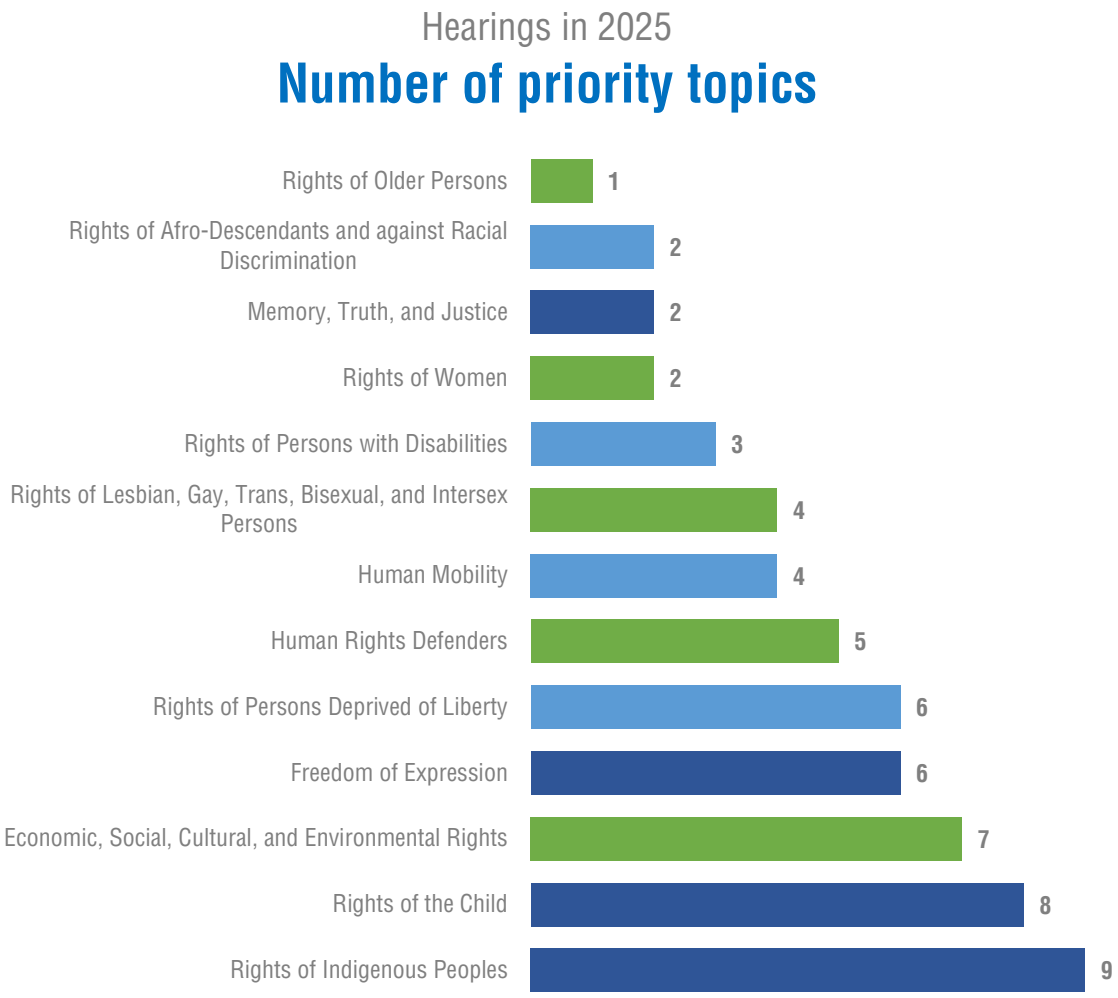
2. During these sessions the Commission followed up and publicized a significant number of human rights situations in 70 public hearings. These hearings referred to monitoring regional and sub-regional human rights situations, cases and precautionary measures follow up.



Hearings in 2025

Total by countries





B. Approved Resolutions

3. During 2025 the IACHR adopted two Resolutions:

4. Resolution 1-25, approved on July 15, considered the request for abstention submitted by Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido to hear situations related to Peru, declared it admissible and extended it.

5. Resolution 2/25 , approved on July 24, refers to the Rights of family members and persons with affective ties of persons deprived of liberty.

C. Communication activities in 2025

6. Throughout 2025, the IACHR obtained a total of **3,748,203** visits to the pages of the website, which correspond to **1,418,047** people. Press releases were the most visited section with **715,469** visits, followed by decisions with **507,052** visits and by mandates with **476,915** visits. In languages other than Spanish, press releases in English **151,253**; in Portuguese registered **117,432** visits; and in French, **13,460**.

7. South America was the region that visited the website the most with **504,819** people visiting, followed by North America with **368,496** people, Central America with **92,966** people and the Caribbean with **11,172** people. From the rest of the world, **477,850** people were registered.

8. The IACHR conducted 15 digital campaigns to disseminate standards, achieving **2,277,771** impressions and **43,002** interactions. These campaigns addressed reports, resolutions, relevant human rights topics, and observances regarding priority groups:

- **Reports**: Venezuela: serious human rights violations following the elections, 2024 Annual report; Third report on the situation of human rights defenders in the Americas; Violence against indigenous peoples and people of African descent on Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast; and Situation of human rights in Guatemala.

- **Resolutions**: Resolution 2/24 on human mobility induced by climate change; and Resolution No. 2/25 on the rights of relatives and persons with affective ties to persons deprived of liberty.

- **Relevant themes and observances**: International women's day; international day of older persons that included 4 awareness videos; international day for the elimination of violence against women; the update of the Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nicaragua (MESENI) database; the impacts of the closing of civic space in Nicaragua; the IACHR's recommendation follow-up mechanism; and an awareness campaign on sexual and reproductive rights according to Inter-American standards.

9. As a result of its media strategy, the Commission recorded **8,894** exclusive mentions in media across the region related to the topics it works on and its mandate mechanisms. Likewise, **74** interviews were granted on the Venezuelan context, the Annual report 2024, and the reports on Guatemala and Colombia; the human rights situation in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Brazil, and the region; the working visits to Guatemala and Brazil; as well as on human mobility, older persons, human rights defenders, women's rights and gender – based violence.

10. During the year, the Commission generated and issued **291** press releases, which received a total of **311,384** visits. They addressed priority issues in the region, contained pronouncements on alert situations and human rights violations, as well as the recognition of good practices and institutional issues relevant to the fulfillment of the Commission's mandate.

No.	Press Releases
1	1/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Nahuel Agustín Gallo in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., January 3, 2025
2	2/25 - IACHR welcomes commutation of 37 federal death penalty sentences in the United States. Washington, D.C., January 3, 2025
3	3/25 - IACHR requests from Inter-American Court an extension of provisional measures in favor of Catalino Leo Cárcamo in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., January 3, 2025
4	4/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of journalist and human rights defender Segundo Bolívar Madroñero Hernández in Colombia. Washington, D.C., January 3, 2025
5	5/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Jesús Alexander Armas Monasterios in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., January 3, 2025
6	6/25 - IACHR calls for immediate release of all political prisoners in the Americas. Washington, D.C., January 6, 2025
7	7/25 - IACHR publishes report on human rights violations following the elections in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., January 7, 2025
8	8/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures to Italian National Alberto Trentini in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., January 7, 2025
9	9/25 - The IACHR condemns the ongoing practices of state terrorism in Venezuela and recalls that María Corina Machado is a beneficiary of precautionary measures. Washington, D.C., January 9, 2025
10	10/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures to Carlos José Correa Barros, human rights defender in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., January 10, 2025
11	11/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures to Angélica Chavarría in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., January 14, 2025
12	12/25 - IACHR urges Ecuador to take effective action to end ongoing prison violence. Washington, D.C., January 14, 2025
13	13/25 - IACHR publishes second compendium on progress and measures of compliance with recommendations and decisions. Washington, D.C., January 14, 2025
14	14/25 - REDESCA expresses solidarity for the catastrophic losses suffered by the population from the wildfires in Los Angeles and other areas of California. Washington, D.C., January 17, 2025
15	15/25 - IACHR condemns the disappearance and subsequent murder of a child and three adolescents of African descent in Ecuador. Washington, D.C., January 22, 2025
16	16/25 - IACHR files case with IA Court concerning violation of the right to appeal a conviction. Washington, D.C., January 22, 2025
17	17/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Gustavo de los Reyes Ruiz and his wife and son in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., January 22, 2025
18	18/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of journalist and social activist Carlos Julio Rojas in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., January 22, 2025
19	19/25 - IACHR files case with IA Court concerning threats and harassment targeting CENIDH members in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., January 23, 2025

No.	Press Releases
20	20/25 - IACHR announces public ex officio hearings and a meeting with the Caribbean civil society for the 192 Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., January 23, 2025
21	R21/25 - REDESCA and SRFOE urge the guarantee of the right to access information regarding free trade zones and other special regimes in the Americas. Washington, D.C., January 23, 2025
22	22/25 - IACHR urges the State of Haiti to take measures to prevent massacres, forced displacement and impunity. Washington, D.C., January 24, 2025
23	23/25 - IACHR asks the State of Colombia to end the violence caused by armed groups. Washington, D.C., January 24, 2025
24	24/25 - IACHR files application before Inter-American Court of Human Rights in case concerning Muy Muy indigenous people in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., January 27, 2025
25	25/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Víctor Manuel Borjas and Manuel Alejandro Muñoz in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., January 27, 2025
26	26/25 - IACHR files application before Inter-American Court of Human Rights in case concerning legislator's political rights in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., January 28, 2025
27	27/25 - IACHR Submits Case to Inter-American Court Concerning Rights Violations in Paternity Proceeding in Peru. Washington, D.C., January 29, 2025
28	R28/25 - SRFOE condemns the murder of two journalists in Mexico and calls on the State to strengthen prevention and protection measures for the press.. Washington, D.C., January 29, 2025
29	R29/25 - SRFOE condemns the murder of journalist Gastón Medina in Peru and urges an investigation into the crime, considering his journalistic work as a possible motive. Washington, D.C., January 30, 2025
30	R30/25 - Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Announces Official Visit to Brazil. Washington, D.C., January 30, 2025
31	31/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Luis Wilber Aguilar and his family in Cuba. Washington, D.C., January 31, 2025
32	R32/25 - SRFOE condemns the murder of the journalist Óscar Gómez Agudelo in Colombia and urges the authorities to investigate the facts effectively and find those responsible. Washington, D.C., February 4, 2025
33	33/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Jesús Gabriel Useche in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., February 4, 2025
34	34/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Edwin Edgardo Lainez Ordoñez in Honduras. Washington, D.C., February 5, 2025
35	35/25 - IACHR files application before Inter-American Court in case concerning violations of the rights to a fair trial and to personal liberty in Argentina. Washington, D.C., February 6, 2025
36	36/25 - IACHR issues follow-up and extension resolution about precautionary measures in favor of Jorge Glas in Ecuador. Washington, D.C., February 11, 2025

No.	Press Releases
37	37/25 - IACHR expresses concern over recent migration and asylum policies and measures in the United States. Washington, D.C., February 12, 2025
38	38/25 - IACHR launches Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts for the case of Berta Cáceres in Honduras. Washington, D.C./Tegucigalpa, February 14, 2025
39	39/25 - IACHR announces public hearings schedule for 192nd Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., February 14, 2025
40	40/25 - IACHR requests from Inter-American Court an extension of provisional measures in favor of six individuals who are deprived of liberty in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., February 20, 2025
41	41/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of human rights defender Daniel García Morillo in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., February 20, 2025
42	42/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Julio Antonio Quintana Carvajal in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., February 20, 2025
43	43/25 - IACHR elects new Board for 2025. Washington, D.C., February 26, 2025
44	44/25 - REDESCA expresses concern about spill in Peru's Piura region and the importance of mitigation measures. Washington, D.C., February 27, 2025
45	45/25 - Experts urge Venezuela to comply with international law to prevent irreparable harm to victims of enforced disappearance. Geneva/Washington, D.C., February 28, 2025
46	R46/25 - The Special Rapporteur concludes its official visit to Brazil and proceeds to evaluate the information received from the different actors. Washington, D.C., February 28, 2025
47	47/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Carlos Marcelino Chancellor Ferrer in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., March 4, 2025
48	R48/25 - RELE concludes technical cooperation visit to Ecuador on Mechanism for Prevention and Protection of Journalistic Work. Washington, D.C., March 5, 2025
49	49/25 - IACHR: States must guarantee equality and full protection of women's rights. Washington, D.C., March 7, 2025
50	50/25 - IACHR concludes 192nd Period of Sessions after holding 32 human rights hearings. Washington, D.C., March 7, 2025
51	51/25 - The rights of refugee, asylum-seeking, and stateless women and girls must be protected on International Women's Day, and every day. Washington, D.C./Geneva, March 8, 2025
52	52/25 - IACHR condemns deteriorating security situation in Haiti. Washington, D.C., March 12, 2025
53	53/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of José Alejandro Hurtado Díaz in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., March 14, 2025
54	54/25 - REDESCA Warns About the Impact of Illegal Gold Mining and Urges the Guarantee of a Healthy Environment. Washington, D.C., March 18, 2025

No.	Press Releases
55	55/25 - IACHR expresses concern over violence during the Retirees' Protest March and reminds Argentina of inter-American standards. Washington, D.C., March 19, 2025
56	R56/25 - SRFOE condemns the murders of journalists in the region and calls on States to take measures to prevent violence, protect the press and investigate and punish crimes. Washington, D.C., March 21, 2025
57	57/25 - IACHR: OAS States must adopt measures to ensure the rights of persons and People of African descent. Washington, D.C., March 21, 2025
58	58/25 - IACHR and UN call for stronger State action on memory, truth, and justice. Washington, D.C., March 24, 2025
59	59/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Lucas Jonas Hunter in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., March 25, 2025
60	60/25 - IACHR and UN Special Rapporteurs express concern about the return to prison of journalist José Rubén Zamora in Guatemala. Washington, D.C. / Geneva, March 26, 2025
61	61/25 - IACHR calls on Mexican State to increase efforts to investigate events and identify human remains found in Teuchitlán, Jalisco. Washington, D.C., March 27, 2025
62	62/25 - REDESCA urges to guarantee a human rights approach in reparation policies and responsible exit in development projects. Washington, D.C., March 27, 2025
63	63/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures to Mario Alberto Hernández Leyva in Cuba. Washington, D.C., March 28, 2025
64	64/25 - States must ensure trans and gender-diverse persons' right to health. Washington, D.C., March 31, 2025
65	65/25 - IACHR concerned over United States' measures that impact the effective exercise of human rights. Washington, D.C., March 31, 2025
66	66/25 - IACHR Presents Observations from its Working Visit to Panama on Persons on Human Mobility. Washington, D.C., April 1, 2025
67	67/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures to Mayor Fernando Loaiza Chacón in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., April 1, 2025
68	68/25 - IACHR acknowledges progress on implementation of Joint Working Group on precautionary measures for UNIVAJA, Bruno Pereira, and Dom Phillips in Brazil. Washington, D.C., April 2, 2025
69	69/25 - IACHR Receives Requests for Public Hearings for the 193rd Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., April 3, 2025
70	70/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures to Ukrainian citizen Yevhenii Petrovich Trush, missing in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., April 9, 2025
71	71/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Douglas Gamaliel Pérez Centeno in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., April 9, 2025
72	72/25 - IACHR urges Venezuela to immediately release political prisoners and to end the practice of holding them incommunicado. Washington, D.C., April 11, 2025

No.	Press Releases
73	73/25 - Seven years after the beginning of the crisis in Nicaragua, IACHR condemns consolidation of the authoritarian regime. Washington, D.C., April 14, 2025
74	74/25 - IACHR expresses concern regarding the electoral reform process in the Commonwealth of Dominica. Washington, D.C., April 16, 2025
75	75/25 - IACHR concerned over escalating violence and humanitarian crisis in Haiti. Washington, D.C., April 17, 2025
76	76/25 - IACHR submits case to Inter-American Court over rights violations perpetrated by National Civil Police Officers in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., April 22, 2025
77	77/25 - REDESCA urges the protection of human rights in the extraction of minerals for the energy transition. Washington, D.C., April 22, 2025
78	78/25 - IACHR publishes merits report in case concerning Mariela del Carmen Echeverría de Sanguino in Colombia. Washington, D.C., April 23, 2025
79	79/25 - IACHR publishes merits report on the case of Ramón Nicolás Guarino in Argentina. Washington, D.C., April 24, 2025
80	80/25 - IACHR condemns criminalization of Indigenous leaders who defended democracy in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., April 26, 2025
81	81/25 - States must adopt urgent measures to respect and guarantee the life and personal integrity of lesbians. Washington, D.C., April 28, 2025
82	82/25 - IACHR expands precautionary measures for Sairam Gabriela Rivas Moreno in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., April 28, 2025
83	83/25 - IACHR concludes working visit to Colombia on friendly settlements and precautionary measures. Washington, D.C., April 29, 2025
84	84/25 - REDESCA publishes report on floods in Rio Grande do Sul and issues recommendations. Washington, D.C., April 30, 2025
85	85/25 - IACHR publishes merits report on the case of Anastasio Hernández Rojas (United States). Washington, D.C., May 1, 2025
86	86/25 - Joint Statement on the Recognition of the Right to Care and the Freedom of Association of Women Workers. Washington DC and Geneva, May 1, 2025
87	87/25 - IACHR submits case against Argentina to Inter-American Court over failure to investigate the death of Marcelo Fabián Nievas. Washington, D.C., May 2, 2025
88	R88/25 - SRFOE warns about the serious deterioration of the media ecosystem in Venezuela and urges the State to respect and guarantee freedom of expression and of the press. Washington, D.C., May 5, 2025
89	R89/25 - Joint statement on artificial intelligence and freedom of expression. Brussels, Belgium, May 7, 2025
90	90/25 - IACHR follows up on precautionary measures granted in favor of rights defenders and their families in Bajo Aguán, Honduras. Washington, D.C., May 7, 2025

No.	Press Releases
91	91/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Aurora Carolina Silva and her two daughters in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., May 7, 2025
92	92/25 - IACHR Annual Report highlights regional human rights trends and measures to strengthen the inter-American justice system. Washington, D.C., May 8, 2025
93	93/25 - IACHR urges Colombia to reinforce measures to eradicate violence against LGBTI individuals. Washington, D.C., May 9, 2025
94	R94/25 - The Special Rapporteur publishes its 2024 Annual Report. Washington, D.C., May 9, 2025
95	95/25 - IACHR urges Trinidad and Tobago to respect LGBTI persons' rights and guarantee non-discrimination. Washington, D.C., May 9, 2025
96	R96/25 - The Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression publishes a special report on the situation of press freedom in Haiti. Washington, D.C., May 9, 2025
97	97/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Luis Roberto Somaza Castellano in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., May 9, 2025
98	98/25 - Peru: IACHR expresses serious concern over articles of the law modifying the international cooperation agency. Washington, D.C., May 12, 2025
99	99/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures for Jonathan Guillermo Torres Duque, missing in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., May 12, 2025
100	100/25 - IACHR releases report on the rights of people with disabilities. Washington, D.C., May 13, 2025
101	101/25 - Brazil: Criminal accountability for sexual violence against girls must be guaranteed. Washington, D.C., May 13, 2025
102	102/25 - IACHR urges States to guarantee the rights of returned, deported, or expelled people. Washington, D.C., May 15, 2025
103	103/25 - IACHR submits case on extrajudicial executions in Brazil to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Washington, D.C., May 16, 2025
104	104/25 - Human rights experts call on States to partner with LGBT communities, not police them. Washington, DC / Geneva, May 16, 2025
105	R105/25 - Special Rapporteurship publishes thematic report on the exile of journalists in the Americas. Washington, D.C., May 19, 2025
106	106/25 - Venezuela must restore the unlawfully and arbitrarily revoked passports of opposition activists, rights defenders, and journalists, IACHR says. Washington, D.C., May 20, 2025
107	107/25 - REDESCA presents its VIII Annual Report with a structural overview of the challenges facing ESCER in the Americas. Washington, D.C., May 20, 2025
108	108/25 - IACHR requests IA Court to expand provisional measures for three individuals deprived of freedom in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., May 20, 2025

No.	Press Releases
109	R109/25 - The SRFOE condemns the murder of journalist Raúl Célis López in Peru and calls on the authorities to continue investigating crimes against the press. Washington, D.C., May 22, 2025
110	R110/25 - SRFOE expresses concern over reports of attacks on the press in Honduras and reaffirms its commitment to monitoring freedom of expression in the country. Washington, D.C., May 30, 2025
111	111/25 - Tania Reneaum Panszi starts second term as Executive Secretary of the IACHR. Washington, D.C., June 4, 2025
112	112/25 - IACHR calls for participation in identifying cases to develop the inter-American human rights framework. Washington, D.C., June 4, 2025
113	113/25 - IACHR issues merits report in case concerning Julio César Rito de los Santos and others, with regard to Argentina. Washington, D.C., June 4, 2025
114	114/25 - Methane and the Climate Emergency: An Urgent Call to Protect the Right to a Healthy Environment in the Americas. Washington, D.C., June 5, 2025
115	115/25 - El Salvador: IACHR expresses grave concern over measures that restrict the defense of human rights and civic space. Washington, D.C., June 6, 2025
116	116/25 - REDESCA Highlights the Link Between Ocean Protection and Human Rights on World Oceans Day. Washington, D.C., June 8, 2025
117	117/25 - IACHR welcomes St. Kitts and Nevis' ratified two key Conventions on human rights on older persons and persons with disabilities. Washington, D.C., June 10, 2025
118	118/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of A.R.C.B. in Paraguay. Washington, D.C., June 10, 2025
119	119/25 - IACHR files application before Inter-American Court in case concerning violations of the human rights of patients at Federico Mora Hospital in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., June 11, 2025
120	120/25 - IACHR completes working visit to Guatemala to address precautionary measures and compliance with recommendations. Washington, D.C., June 13, 2025
121	121/25 - IACHR announces ex officio hearing as part of its 193rd Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., June 13, 2025
122	122/25 - IACHR calls for the eradication of mistreatment of the elderly and guaranteeing lives free of violence. Washington, D.C., June 15, 2025
123	123/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Andreina Baduel in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., June 18, 2025
124	R124/25 - The SRFOE condemns recent murders of journalists in the Americas and calls on States to prevent, protect, and investigate acts of violence against them. Washington, D.C., June 18, 2025
125	125/25 - IACHR urges States to uphold their duty to provide effective protection for refugees. Washington, D.C., June 20, 2025
126	126/25 - Now Is the Time to Uphold the Rule of Law for Refugee Protection: UN and regional experts. Washington, DC / Geneva, June 20, 2025

No.	Press Releases
127	127/25 - IACHR urges States to promote the establishment of national torture registers. Washington, D.C., June 26, 2025
128	128/25 - IACHR urges Peru to refrain from passing laws granting amnesties for serious human rights violations. Washington, D.C., June 26, 2025
129	129/25 - IACHR calls on States to uphold LGBTI rights and avoid regressive measures. Washington, D.C., June 27, 2025
130	130/25 - States must eradicate violence against women and girls with sensory disabilities, IACHR says. Washington, D.C., June 27, 2025
131	131/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Aníbal Martín Rivas Reed in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., June 27, 2025
132	R132/25 - The SRFOE publishes updated edition of the "Inter-American Legal Framework on the Right to Freedom of Expression". Washington, D.C., June 30, 2025
133	133/25 - IACHR requests from Inter-American Court provisional measures in favor of Jorge Glas in Ecuador. Washington, D.C., July 1, 2025
134	134/25 - IACHR announces public hearings schedule for 193rd Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., July 3, 2025
135	135/25 - IACHR pays tribute to Hon. Justice Adrian Saunders, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice. Washington, D.C., July 8, 2025
136	136/25 - IACHR refers case to IA Court concerning irregular dismissals of Petroperú workers in Peru. Washington, D.C., July 8, 2025
137	137/25 - IACHR expresses concern over new violations of the right to nationality in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., July 10, 2025
138	138/25 - IACHR Calls for Continued Dialogue and the respect for rights in the face of Social Conflict and State of Emergency in Panama. Washington, D.C., July 11, 2025
139	R139/25 - SRFOE condemns the murder of journalist Salomón Ordóñez Miranda in Mexico and calls on the authorities to clarify the facts. Washington, D.C., July 11, 2025
140	140/25 - Nicaragua: IACHR condemns transnational repression. Washington, D.C., July 14, 2025
141	141/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Noel Vidal Álvarez Camargo in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., July 16, 2025
142	142/25 - IACHR welcomes decree strengthening Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in Colombia. Washington, D.C., July 16, 2025
143	143/25 - REDESCA publishes report on wildfires in Bolivia and calls for urgent action to address impacts on human rights and ecosystems. Washington, D.C., July 17, 2025
144	144/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of land defender Julia Chuñil in Chile. Washington, D.C., July 22, 2025
145	145/25 - IACHR files application before Inter-American Court of Human Rights in case concerning El Salvador involving rape and murder of a young girl. Washington, D.C., July 23, 2025

No.	Press Releases
146	146/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Dumar Eliecer Blanco Ruiz in Colombia. Washington, D.C., July 23, 2025
147	147/25 - Colombia: IACHR and its SRFOE condemn attack against journalist Gustavo Chicangana and urge the State to strengthen protection measures amid escalating threats. Washington, D.C., July 24, 2025
148	148/25 - IACHR announces second work plan for special follow-up mechanism on GIEI-Bolivia recommendations. Washington, D.C., July 28, 2025
149	149/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of rights defender Wendy Quintero in Colombia. Washington, D.C., July 28, 2025
150	150/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Henry Alberto Castillo Molero in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., July 29, 2025
151	R151/25 - Cuba: SRFOE condemns state repression and calls for respect and guarantee of the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. Washington, D.C., July 31, 2025
152	152/25 - IACHR completes 193rd period of sessions with 19 public hearings on human rights. Washington, D.C., July 31, 2025
153	153/25 - IACHR calls for requests for public hearings for its 194th Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., August 1, 2025
154	154/25 - IACHR publishes friendly settlement agreements concerning Guatemala. Washington, D.C., August 5, 2025
155	155/25 - IACHR publishes friendly settlement agreement on the killing of Javier Charque Choque in Bolivia. Washington, D.C., August 7, 2025
156	156/25 - El Salvador: IACHR warns of possible impacts on the rule of law in light of indefinite presidential re-election. Washington, D.C., August 8, 2025
157	157/25 - IACHR publishes friendly settlement agreements concerning Colombia. Washington, D.C., August 8, 2025
158	158/25 - IACHR and REDESCA call for urgent respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights amid impacts from extractive industries. Washington, D.C., August 9, 2025
159	159/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Ulises Ramón Martínez in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., August 11, 2025
160	160/25 - IACHR welcomes decision to decriminalize consensual sexual relations between same sex adults in Saint Lucia. Washington, D.C., August 12, 2025
161	161/25 - IACHR Welcomes Guyana's Legislative Progress in Protecting Children's Rights. Washington, D.C., August 14, 2025
162	162/25 - IACHR reiterates concern over prolonged and improper use of state of emergency in El Salvador. Washington, D.C., August 14, 2025
163	163/25 - IACHR publishes merits report on Argentina concerning conviction of a teenager without the right to appeal. Washington, D.C., August 15, 2025
164	164/25 - IACHR welcomes progress made in 2024 in friendly settlements about Colombia. Washington, D.C., August 15, 2025

No.	Press Releases
165	165/25 - IACHR condemns the assassination of Miguel Uribe Turbay in Colombia and calls on the State to guarantee the safety of political leaders. Washington, D.C., August 15, 2025
166	166/25 - IACHR adopts resolution on the rights of relatives and individuals with personal ties to people deprived of their freedom. Washington, D.C., August 19, 2025
167	167/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of activist Aldo Roso Vargas in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., August 19, 2025
168	168/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures to Pedro Miguel Guanipa and Rafael Arturo Ramírez in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., August 20, 2025
169	169/25 - IACHR requests from Inter-American Court provisional measures in favor of Juan Pablo Guanipa in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., August 20, 2025
170	170/25 - IACHR: States must guarantee the safety and integrity of older persons in care facilities. Washington, D.C., August 26, 2025
171	171/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures to political secretary Albany Milagros Colmenares in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., August 27, 2025
172	172/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court of Human Rights case concerning Argentina about the killing by police officers of adolescent Adrián Brunettini. Washington, D.C., August 28, 2025
173	173/25 - IACHR brings case on forced disappearance of five children in El Salvador before IA Court. Washington, D.C., August 28, 2025
174	174/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Juan Camilo Castaño and Gloria Nancy Gutiérrez in Colombia. Washington, D.C., August 28, 2025
175	175/25 - IACHR calls on Ecuador to respect and guarantee the independence of the Constitutional Court. Washington, D.C., August 29, 2025
176	176/25 - Enforced disappearance inflicts profound suffering on victims and violates their right not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Washington, D.C., August 29, 2025
177	177/25 - IACHR: States must ensure climate justice for people of African descent. Washington, D.C., August 29, 2025
178	178/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of journalist Rory Daniel Branker in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., September 3, 2025
179	179/25 - IACHR welcomes full compliance with friendly settlement on Ismael Mondragón case, concerning Mexico. Washington, D.C., September 4, 2025
180	180/25 - IACHR: States must prevent maternal deaths among indigenous women. Washington, D.C., September 5, 2025
181	181/25 - IACHR condemns violent deaths committed by security agents in Brazil. Washington, D.C., September 8, 2025
182	182/25 - IACHR and UN Human Rights flag risk of impunity concerning Senkata and Sacaba massacres in Bolivia. Washington, DC/Santiago, September 12, 2025

No.	Press Releases
183	183/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Sofía Sahagún in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., September 12, 2025
184	184/25 - IACHR: Protecting civic space and defending human rights is essential for democracy. Washington, D.C., September 15, 2025
185	185/25 - IACHR reaffirms its authority over Venezuela and seeks approval for an on-site visit. Washington, D.C., September 16, 2025
186	R186/25 - REDESCA and SRFOE condemn online violence against children, adolescents, and young people who defend the environment and climate. Washington, D.C., September 16, 2025
187	187/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Mariano Javier Oteiza Hernández in Argentina. Washington, D.C., September 17, 2025
188	188/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures to Marbelis Josefina Gibori and X.A.M.M. in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., September 17, 2025
189	189/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of five individuals in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., September 18, 2025
190	190/25 - IACHR and United Nations Experts: States Must Protect the Rights of Persons in Human Mobility. Washington, D.C., September 18, 2025
191	191/25 - IACHR requests IA Court expand provisional measures for three individuals deprived of freedom in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., September 22, 2025
192	192/25 - UN and regional experts urge States to stop criminalizing civil society and protests. Washington, D.C., September 22, 2025
193	193/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of rights defender Ruth López in El Salvador. Washington, D.C., September 23, 2025
194	194/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of constitutional lawyer Enrique Anaya in El Salvador. Washington, D.C., September 23, 2025
195	195/25 - IACHR brings case against Argentina before IA Court concerning violations of the right to appeal a criminal conviction. Washington, D.C., September 25, 2025
196	196/25 - Eleven years after Ayotzinapa, IACHR urges Mexico to continue the search for truth and justice. Washington, D.C., September 26, 2025
197	197/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning El Salvador about the arbitrary arrest of Guatemalan citizens and their handover to a third State. Washington, D.C., September 26, 2025
198	198/25 - Nicaragua: IACHR condemns the deaths of two opposition figures deprived of liberty. Washington, D.C., September 26, 2025
199	199/25 - States must ensure the safety of older persons in climate emergency. Washington, D.C., October 1, 2025
200	200/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Irvin Quintanilla in El Salvador. Washington, D.C., October 3, 2025
201	201/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of French citizen Camilo Castro in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., October 3, 2025
202	202/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Juan Enrique Pérez Sánchez in Cuba. Washington, D.C., October 8, 2025

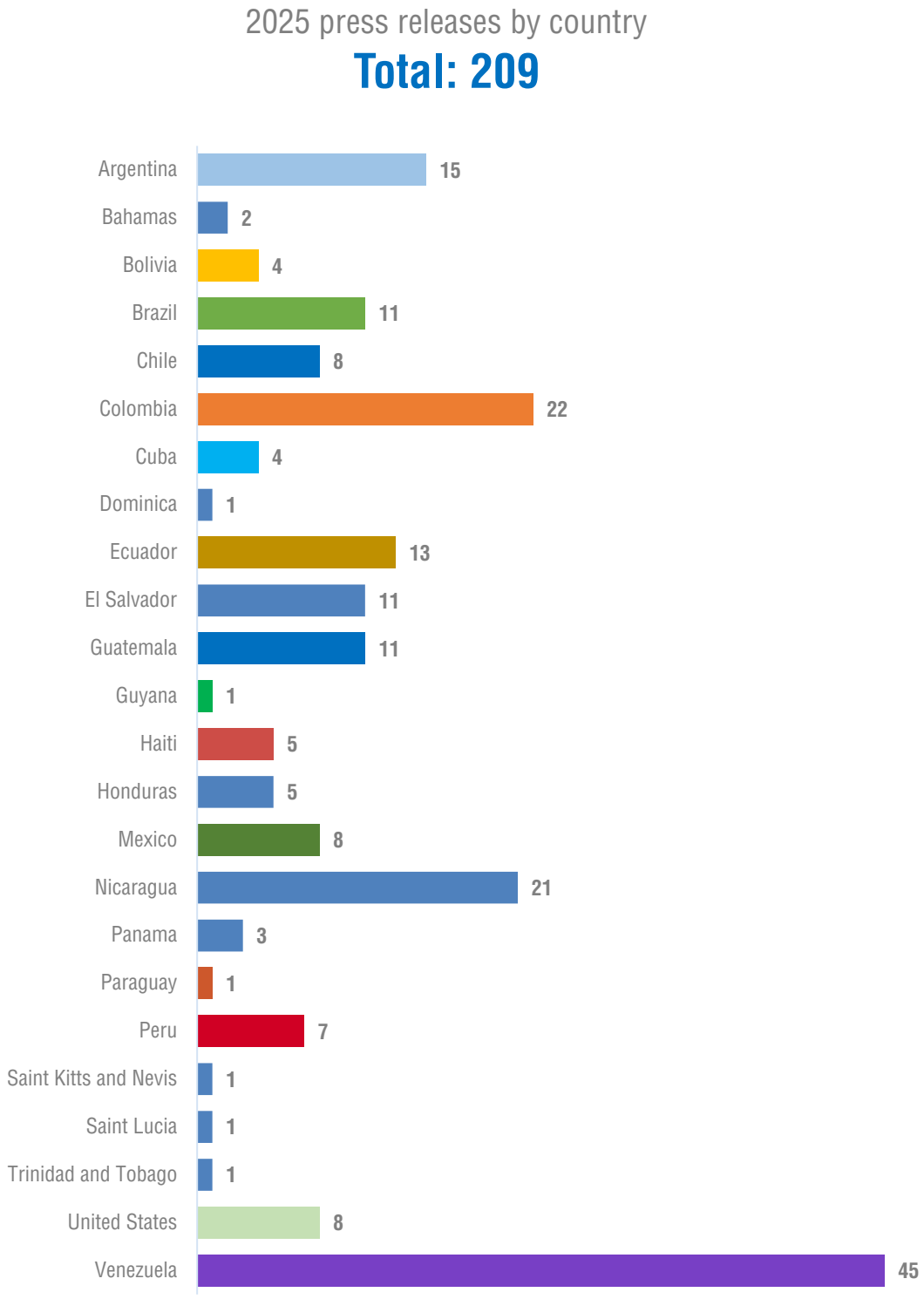
No.	Press Releases
203	203/25 - IACHR announces ex officio hearings and meeting with civil society organizations during 194th Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., October 8, 2025
204	R204/25 - The Special Rapporteurship publishes its thematic report "The Impact of Digital Surveillance on Freedom of Expression in the Americas.". Washington, D.C., October 9, 2025
205	205/25 - IACHR: States must put an end to child, early, and forced marriages and unions of girls and adolescents. Washington, D.C., October 10, 2025
206	206/25 - IACHR: States must adopt measures to end the institutionalization of people with disabilities. Washington, D.C., October 10, 2025
207	R207/25 - SRFOE expresses concern over the situation of freedom of expression in the United States. Washington, D.C., October 11, 2025
208	208/25 - IACHR stresses call for dialogue to prevent human rights violations in Ecuador. Washington, D.C., October 14, 2025
209	209/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Alireza Akbari in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., October 14, 2025
210	R210/25 - The Special Rapporteurship publishes the Special Report on the situation of freedom of expression in Chile. Washington, D.C., October 15, 2025
211	211/25 - IACHR publishes Third Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas. Washington, D.C., October 16, 2025
212	212/25 - IACHR urges Peru to specify the scope of subjective constitutional tools that continue to destabilize its democracy. Washington, D.C., October 16, 2025
213	213/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of rights defender Juan Pablo Galvis Arango in Colombia. Washington, D.C., October 16, 2025
214	214/25 - Mexico: IACHR, through its REDESCA, expresses solidarity after the floods and calls for strengthening responses to guarantee human rights. Washington, D.C., October 17, 2025
215	215/25 - IACHR completes working visit to Honduras about precautionary measures. Washington, D.C., October 23, 2025
216	216/25 - IACHR calls on States to guarantee the rights of intersex persons in medical settings. Washington, D.C., October 24, 2025
217	217/25 - IACHR concerned about reforms in Argentina regarding human mobility and international protection. Washington, D.C., October 28, 2025
218	218/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of 10 detainees in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., October 29, 2025
219	219/25 - States in the Americas must recognize care as a human right, IACHR says. Washington, D.C., October 29, 2025
220	220/25 - IACHR publishes report on violence against Indigenous peoples and people of African descent on Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast. Washington, D.C., October 30, 2025
221	221/25 - IACHR strongly condemns police raid that left 121 people dead in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Washington, D.C., October 31, 2025

No.	Press Releases
222	222/25 - IACHR announces public hearings schedule for 194th Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., October 31, 2025
223	R223/25 - SRFOE Publishes Practical Guide to Promote Transparency in the Investigation of Crimes Against Journalists. Washington, D.C., November 2, 2025
224	224/25 - REDESCA calls for international cooperation in the face of the serious impacts of Hurricane Melissa in the Caribbean. Washington, D.C., November 3, 2025
225	225/25 - IACHR urges the United States to safeguard judicial independence and prevent retaliation against justice officials. Washington, D.C., November 5, 2025
226	226/25 - IACHR publishes merits report on violation of judicial guarantees and judicial protection in Argentina. Washington, D.C., November 11, 2025
227	227/25 - IACHR completes promotional activities about friendly settlements in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., November 12, 2025
228	R228/25 - SRFOE Presents Podcast Episode Marking the 40th Anniversary of Advisory Opinion 5/85. Washington, D.C., November 13, 2025
229	229/25 - IACHR publishes merits report about unwarranted duration of inhibition of assets in Argentina. Washington, D.C., November 13, 2025
230	230/25 - COP30 | REDESCA urges placing fiscal justice at the center of climate finance with a human rights–based approach. Washington, D.C., November 14, 2025
231	231/25 - The IACHR announces the resignation of Commissioner Arif Bulkan. Washington, D.C., November 15, 2025
232	232/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures to Moisés Payares, his immediate family, and Jesús Brun in Colombia. Washington, D.C., November 18, 2025
233	233/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures to two human rights defenders in Colombia. Washington, D.C., November 18, 2025
234	234/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of three Salvadoran citizens deported from the United States to El Salvador. Washington, D.C., November 18, 2025
235	235/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of nine foreign nationals deprived of their freedom in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., November 19, 2025
236	236/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of three individuals whose whereabouts are unknown, one individual who is deprived of liberty, and a family in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., November 19, 2025
237	237/25 - IACHR calls on States to consolidate the community-based dimension of child protection systems. Washington, D.C., November 20, 2025
238	238/25 - IACHR calls on States to ensure an effective response to violence against trans persons. Washington, D.C., November 20, 2025
239	239/25 - IACHR rejects arrest of lawyer Ramón Cadena and criminalization of San Carlos University community in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., November 21, 2025

No.	Press Releases
240	240/25 - IACHR Receives Human Rights Information in 19 Regional and Country Public Hearings. Washington, D.C., November 21, 2025
241	241/25 - IACHR refers case to IA Court concerning detention of pregnant woman in Ecuador. Washington, D.C., November 24, 2025
242	242/25 - IACHR urges Ecuador to take effective action against ongoing prison violence. Washington, D.C., November 26, 2025
243	243/25 - IACHR: States must ensure gender-sensitive development for all women, girls, and adolescents. Washington, D.C., November 26, 2025
244	244/25 - IACHR announces visit to Brazil, to observe the situation of citizen security in the context of "Operation Containment". Washington, D.C., December 1, 2025
245	245/25 - IACHR issues report on the situation of human rights in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., December 1, 2025
246	246/25 - IACHR Receives Requests for Public Hearings for the 195th Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., December 1, 2025
247	247/25 - IACHR brings case before the IA Court over lack of investigation and sanction of extrajudicial execution in Chile. Washington, D.C., December 2, 2025
248	248/25 - IACHR urges the United States to ensure respect for human rights in extraterritorial security operations. Washington, D.C., December 2, 2025
249	249/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of three members of the CONPAZCOL association in Colombia. Washington, D.C., December 2, 2025
250	250/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning Ecuador about the failure to protect a woman with disabilities subjected to sexual violence. Washington, D.C., December 3, 2025
251	251/25 - IACHR announces visit to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Washington, D.C., December 3, 2025
252	252/25 - IACHR calls for political participation of persons with disabilities. Washington, D.C., December 3, 2025
253	253/25 - IACHR brings case before IA Court on enforced disappearance and extrajudicial execution following coup d'état in Chile. Washington, D.C., December 4, 2025
254	254/25 - IACHR brings case before IA Court over forcible disappearance of priest during military dictatorship in Panama. Washington, D.C., December 5, 2025
255	255/25 - IACHR publishes friendly settlement agreements concerning Colombia. Washington, D.C., December 5, 2025
256	256/25 - IACHR and UN Human Rights: Safeguarding civic space is protecting the right to defend rights. Washington DC / Nassau / Mexico City / Guatemala City / Tegucigalpa / Panama City / Bogota / Lima / Santiago, December 8, 2025
257	257/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning Chile about forced disappearance during the dictatorship and the failure to ensure redress. Washington, D.C., December 9, 2025

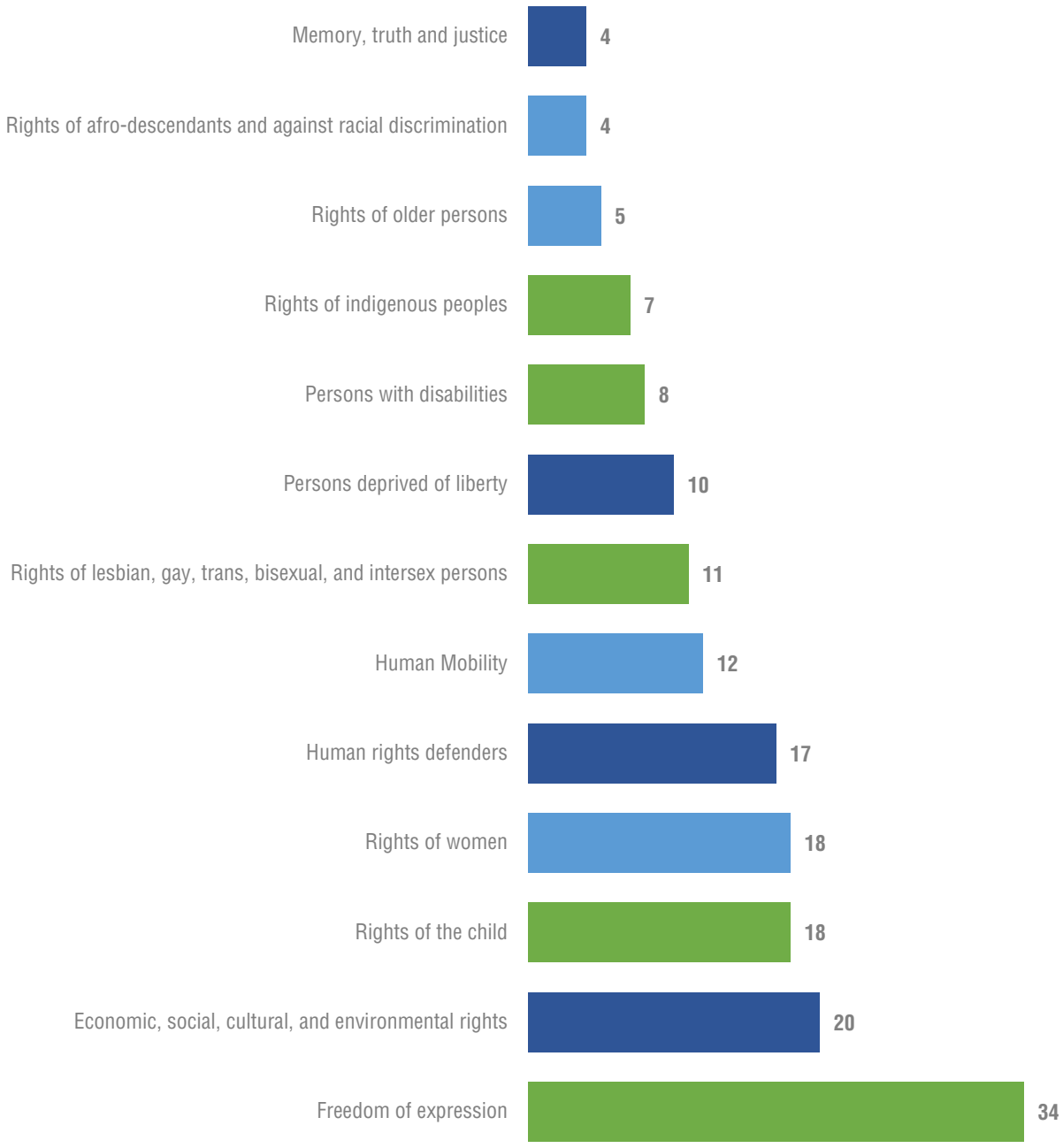
No.	Press Releases
258	258/25 - International Human Rights Day: IACHR reaffirms States' obligations to eradicate femicide in the Americas. Washington, D.C., December 10, 2025
259	259/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning Venezuela about unlawful and arbitrary detention and cruel treatment. Washington, D.C., December 11, 2025
260	260/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Xiomara del Carmen Ortiz Rivero in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., December 11, 2025
261	261/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning Chile about refusal to register maternal affiliation. Washington, D.C., December 12, 2025
262	262/25 - IACHR issues second follow-up report about recommendations made to Colombia after 2021 visit. Washington, D.C., December 12, 2025
263	263/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Ana Amelí García Gámez, a young woman who is missing in Mexico. Washington, D.C., December 15, 2025
264	264/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of nine individuals who are deprived of liberty in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., December 15, 2025
265	265/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court of Human Rights case concerning Chile about violations of the rights of Afro-descendant tribal people. Washington, D.C., December 15, 2025
266	266/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Kevin Rafael Pérez Mendoza in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., December 15, 2025
267	267/25 - The international community must renew its commitment to protecting refugees amid global challenges, PIERR and IACHR say. Washington, D.C., December 15, 2025
268	268/25 - IACHR issues report on the impact of violence on human rights in Colombia. Washington, D.C., December 16, 2025
269	269/25 - IACHR concludes visit to The Bahamas. Washington, D.C., December 17, 2025
270	270/25 - IACHR publishes friendly settlement agreement concerning Chile and welcomes full compliance. Washington, D.C., December 17, 2025
271	271/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning Venezuela about unlawful and arbitrary detention and cruel treatment. Washington, D.C., December 17, 2025
272	272/25 - Riyad Insanally elected as new IACHR commissioner. Washington, D.C., December 17, 2025
273	273/25 - IACHR and IPPDH conclude 8th International Course on Public Policies on Human Rights. Washington, D.C., December 17, 2025
274	274/25 - IACHR and CMW: States must eradicate xenophobia against migrants. Washington, D.C., December 18, 2025
275	275/25 - IACHR publishes friendly settlement agreements concerning Colombia. Washington, D.C., December 18, 2025

No.	Press Releases
276	276/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances in El Salvador. Washington, D.C., December 18, 2025
277	277/25 - Haiti: IACHR expresses concern over persistent sexual violence against women, girls, and adolescents. Washington, D.C., December 19, 2025
278	278/25 - IACHR publishes friendly settlement agreement concerning Guatemala. Washington, D.C., December 19, 2025
279	279/25 - IACHR renews mandate of Rapporteur Javier Palummo. Washington, D.C., December 19, 2025
280	280/25 - IACHR issues follow-up and extension resolution about precautionary measures in favor of missing person Suástegui Muñoz and his family in Mexico. Washington, D.C., December 23, 2025
281	281/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Arnaldo Méndez Silva in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., December 24, 2025
282	R282/25 - The SRFOE publishes Special Report on the State of Freedom of Expression in Brazil. Washington, D.C., December 26, 2025
283	283/25 - IACHR submits case to IA Court concerning enforced disappearance of individual of African descent in Brazil. Washington, D.C., December 29, 2025
284	R284/25 - The SRFOE Warns of Ongoing Violations of Freedom of Expression in Venezuela and Calls on the International Community to Support the IACHR's Request for an On-Site Visit. Washington, D.C., December 29, 2025
285	285/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning Ecuador about the failure to investigate the disappearance and murder of a trade union leader. Washington, D.C., December 29, 2025
286	286/25 - IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of 26 missing persons and 6 women who are looking for missing persons in Ecuador. Washington, D.C., December 30, 2025
287	287/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning violations of political rights and judicial guarantees in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., December 30, 2025
288	288/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning Argentina about violations of the right to appeal a court decision. Washington, D.C., December 30, 2025
289	289/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning Ecuador about extrajudicial killings and torture. Washington, D.C., December 31, 2025
290	290/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning judicial guarantees and rights of the child in Argentina. Washington, D.C., December 31, 2025
291	291/25 - IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning Nicaragua about the use of lethal force in social protests. Washington, D.C., December 31, 2025


2025 press releases by country
Total: 209
Argentina 15
Bahamas 2
Bolivia 4
Brazil 11
Chile 8
Colombia 22
Cuba 4
Dominica 1
Ecuador 13
El Salvador 11
Guatemala 11
Guyana 1
Haiti 5
Honduras 5
Mexico 8
Nicaragua 21
Panama 3
Paraguay 1
Peru 7
Saint Kitts and Nevis 1
Saint Lucia 1
Trinidad and Tobago 1
United States 8
Venezuela 45

2025 press releases by priority topics

Total: 168



D. Social participation agenda

11. The 2017-2021 Strategic Plan of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) identified the strengthening of civil society participation as one of its priorities and in connection with its implementation, the IACHR made significant efforts to broaden and deepen it in accordance with its mandate. The assessment of this Strategic Plan pointed to the continuity of consultation and dialogue with civil society, as well as improvements in its ability to protect and defend human rights, as some of the main achievements of its implementation.

12. Drawing on this experience, the construction of a new Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2027 resorted to a new participatory process, in the framework of which the different actors of the ISHR once again emphasized the relevance of civil society participation for the fulfillment of the IACHR's mandate. This was reflected in the prioritization of civil society participation in a set of strategic objectives and programs, and in the definition of a specific program to expand ties with national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, and other non-State actors that influence the enjoyment of human rights (strategic program 23).

13. In executing this mandate, the IACHR created the Social Coordination Advisory Office in order to enhance the contributions of civil society to other relevant programs that are part of the Strategic Plan 2023-2027. This strategy is based on the recognition of the IACHR's extensive institutional experience of relations with civil society, challenges identified, lessons learned, and opportunities for the new Strategic Plan.

14. Civil society is a key interlocutor for the IACHR, representing victims of human rights violations in the petition and case system; providing critical information for monitoring during visits and public hearings; alerting the IACHR to crises and other human rights situations; offering its expertise and independent perspectives on emerging human rights issues; bringing the inter-American human rights system (ISHR) closer to different audiences; and advocating in forums and political processes that impact the work of the IACHR, among many other key functions.

15. This Advisory Office seeks to:

i. Promote pluralism with respect to civil society opinions in the activities of the IACHR, by providing a broad and influential spectrum of perspectives on human rights issues.
ii. Forge relationships fostering communication and mutual support with organized civil society.
iii. Consolidate collaborative relationships with organizations that have traditionally used the ISHR.
iv. Promote the participation of new organizations in the ISHR, especially grassroots organizations.
v. Ensure that the IACHR's activities incorporate a gender and diversity perspective, as well as an ethnic-racial perspective.
vi. Bolster the use of virtual media to achieve civil society participation in IACHR activities.
vii. Strengthen and develop new channels, tools, and content to improve the accessibility of IACHR information for users and non-users of the ISHR.
viii. Use the available mechanisms of the IACHR to promote the strengthening of civil society, especially in order to counter policies and practices in some states that have restricted opportunities for civic participation.

16. During 2025, IACHR monitoring of the human rights situation in the region was strengthened thanks to the important contributions of civil society to the work of the IACHR, through different channels: open meetings during the sessions (virtual and in person), meetings in connection, inter alia, with country visits, virtual meetings, and public hearings.

17. Special mention should be made of the strategies implemented to monitor the human rights situation in countries to which the IACHR does not have access, such as Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, based on information provided by civil society.

18. Timely attention to human rights crises in different countries was another area in which the contributions of civil society were essential.

19. The various mechanisms and strategies for following up on recommendations implemented in recent years have also confirmed the value of civil society participation. Both the mechanisms established for the Ayotzinapa issue in Mexico (MESA), Nicaragua (MESENI), and Venezuela (MESEVE), as well as more recent strategies in relation to Bolivia (MESEG), Chile (MESECH), and Colombia, have exemplified the importance of having institutionalized civil society participation.

20. In addition, the periodic dialogue with the organizations that traditionally use the system (organized in the Coalition of Human Rights Organizations of the Americas) allowed for constant communication between the IACHR and civil society and a fluid exchange of information on the main issues of interest and concern to civil society, both in relation to the regional human rights agenda and to the work of the IACHR.

21. The IACHR has held regular meetings with national human rights coalitions in countries where serious human rights violations have occurred and has closely monitored laws and practices restricting the right to association, freedom of expression, and assembly in some states.

22. The continuous and varied provision of training by the IACHR has had a positive impact. On the one hand, training specific groups of users of the inter-American system -such as indigenous peoples- on access to certain mechanisms has led to significant improvements, for example, in terms of enhancing the quality of requests for precautionary measures. In addition, the provision of massive open online courses (MOOCs) broadened the scope of training initiatives and the availability of information on the inter-American system.

23. In relation to the above, the attention provided to users of IACHR mechanisms has helped raise civil society participation, not only through the training provided but also through initiatives for access to information.

24. Details of the activities conducted in each of the mechanisms to meet these objectives are described in the different chapters of this report.

E. Technical cooperation

25. The 2023-2027 Strategic Plan includes Program 22, concerning technical cooperation in the area of institutions and public policies with a human rights approach, through which the IACHR seeks to work with the states, civil society, the academic sector, and other actors, such as international and regional organizations, to contribute, on the basis of its mandate, to compliance with international obligations and the implementation of inter-American standards in the Americas. The objective is to support, from a positive agenda, efforts aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights, the transformation of social structures that give rise to violations, the prevention of their repetition, and the accompaniment of public policy development under this approach, thereby laying the foundations for progress toward a culture of rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law in the region.

26. In this context, the IACHR has continued to make progress in negotiating and processing cooperation agreements with a range of actors, including member states, civil society, human rights institutions, regional and international organizations, and other entities. With respect to general-purpose cooperation or framework agreements, in 2025 the IACHR signed a total of three agreements of that nature:[1] with the Attorney General's Office of Brazil, the Barcelona-based Fundació d'Economia Analítica (FEA), and the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD).

[1] IACHR, Cooperation Agreements.

27. The IACHR also signed a series of cooperation agreements for specific purposes. These include agreements to implement the position of associate personnel within the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR; to hold the 194th Period of Sessions with the University of Miami; to conduct a specialized course with the MERCOSUR Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights (IPPDH); and to extend the agreement for the operation of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI) in Honduras. Through these agreements, the IACHR seeks to promote standards and strengthen the work of the inter-American system within the hemispheric human rights agenda.

28. In the course of the year, 10 professional associate staff members from different institutions of OAS member states provided services to the Executive Secretariat under cooperation agreements. Of those, seven participants came from Brazilian state institutions, including the National Council of the Public Prosecution Service, the Brazilian Public Defender Office, the Public Defender Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro, and the Labor Public Prosecution Service. The IACHR also received two participants from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and one participant from the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA). In addition, three grants were awarded through cooperation projects with academic institutions, including the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, as well as with civil society organizations such as Both Ends Believing (BEB).

29. In the area of public policy, in March the Commission participated in the Hemispheric Dialogue of Subnational Governments organized by the OAS Department for the Promotion of Peace and Coordination with Subnational Governments, with a view to strengthening governance and promoting integral, sustainable, and inclusive development, democracy, and human rights. As a continuation of this initiative, a public policy network is being developed with subnational governments. In addition, as part of its collaboration with other areas of the OAS, staff of the Executive Secretariat participated in the Model OAS General Assembly for Secondary Schools (MOAS) for Secondary Schools by providing technical cooperation to that initiative, drawing on their relevant experience in human rights. The event took place from November 17 to 19 and was attended by nearly 200 students from different countries in the region.

30. The process of drafting a resolution on organized crime and human rights is also noteworthy. To this end, the IACHR concluded the cycle of consultations with experts, civil society organizations, and States.[2] [3]

1. Cooperation with States

31. During the year, the Commission made progress in the consideration, development and implementation of various proposals for technical cooperation with States and national institutions.

32. In the case of **Colombia**, cooperation focused on strengthening the work of the institutions of the Integral System of Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Non-Repetition. In particular, on December 10, 2025, a high-level meeting was held with the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), at which the IACHR was informed of the first restorative sentences issued by that body. Follow-up meetings were also held between the technical teams.

33. In the area of human rights institutions, the Commission provided assistance to the Advisory Commission for the Strengthening of the National Human Rights Institute of Chile. The purpose of the Commission's work in Chile was to advise the President of the Republic and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights on possible regulatory reforms to strengthen the independence, transparency, and effectiveness of the Institute. The request was addressed through a technical note that systematized and presented the inter-

[2] IACHR, Consultation meeting with civil society, March 12, 2025.
[3] IACHR, Consultation meeting with States., May 16, 2025.

American standards applicable to national human rights agencies, as well as good practices for strengthening them.

34. The IACHR also received requests and provided advice on the cooperation mechanism to the Ministry of Social Development of **Uruguay**, the National School for Training and Improvement of the Magistracy of **Brazil**, the Mechanism against Torture of **Paraguay**, and the Secretariat for Transparency of **Colombia**.

35. At the request of the Santa Fe Public Defender Office in **Argentina**, the IACHR attended an invitation to participate in the inauguration of the Training Seminar on Juvenile Criminal Justice. The main standards of the IACHR in this area were presented. Presentations were also delivered on the cooperation mechanism for the provincial agency, in coordination with the AIDEF (Inter-American Association of Public Defender Offices).

2. Cooperation with the Caribbean

36. The Five-Year Strategy for the Caribbean (2023–2027) continued to be implemented in conjunction with Program 17 of the IACHR Strategic Plan 2023–2027 and focused on technical cooperation initiatives in the Caribbean. In particular, the IACHR developed a work plan for the implementation of the third year of the Strategy for the Caribbean and led efforts, in collaboration with the Planning and Projects Section, to advance the strategic agenda in the Caribbean by 2025. The focus during the year continued to be on technical assistance, promotion of the ratification of the Inter-American human rights conventions, and promotion and protection of human rights in the Caribbean at the bilateral and regional levels. In this regard, a summary of the implementation of the Strategy for the Caribbean was shared with CARICOM representatives on July 15, during the Commission's 193rd session.

a. Technical assistance to states

37. The Commission provided technical assistance to public officials on inter-American human rights standards and mechanisms, as well as on how to respect and protect the human rights of all persons in their respective States. On July 7, the IACHR sent letters offering the possibility of cooperation in the framework of the extension of the ratifications of the inter-American conventions on persons with disabilities; human rights of older persons; and against racism, to Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The letters were sent together with comparative analyses of the inter-American and United Nations conventions on the rights of persons with disabilities and against racism, as appropriate. The Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, which has no equivalent in the United Nations, was also shared. These analyses have proven useful for the deliberations of legislators and/or parliamentarians and have encouraged ratification by Caribbean States. In this regard, it should be noted that the State of St. Kitts and Nevis ratified the conventions on older persons and persons with disabilities on May 28, 2025.

38. Regarding follow-up work with the states of Barbados and Belize, where technical cooperation and promotion visits were carried out in 2024, the IACHR made progress in communications to strengthen legislation on older persons and persons with disabilities in Barbados. In addition, as part of the positive agenda, progress was made in communications with the State of Belize on strengthening the country's human rights institutions.

b. Technical cooperation visits

39. During 2025, a visit was made to **The Bahamas** from December 3 to 4.[4] The visit focused on promoting technical cooperation from the IACHR to identify needs and challenges on the part of state actors, as well as civil society and regional organizations, in order to facilitate technical advice and the promotion of

[4] IACHR, IACHR concludes visit to The Bahamas, December 17, 2025.

inter-American standards by the IACHR. In line with this approach, the delegation met with high-level authorities of the country, representatives of civil society, and the Regional Coordinator for the English-speaking Caribbean of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The visit also included an update on a precautionary measure in force: *MC 535-14 – Persons in Immigration Detention at the Carmichael Road Detention Centre.*

40. The IACHR will continue to deepen its commitment to the Caribbean through the ongoing implementation of its strategy for the region. The Commission hopes that, through its various mechanisms, including technical cooperation initiatives, both States and non-State actors will be better informed about the inter-American human rights system and in a position to move toward greater compliance with and guarantee of human rights.

3. Cooperation with national human rights institutions (NHRIs)

41. As part of the actions undertaken by the IACHR to strengthen ties with national human rights institutions (NHRIs), a series of activities were carried out to strengthen inter-institutional communication channels and to explore opportunities for joint actions and cooperation. The initiatives carried out included the provision of inputs related to human rights monitoring, high-level meetings, and technical cooperation with the NHRIs of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama. A briefing session on the Commission's public hearings was held for the Costa Rican Ombudsman's Office.

42. The IACHR also continued to follow up on the Declaration of Commitment on technical cooperation and the points-of-contact mechanism with signatory NHRIs. To that end, the IACHR promoted actions aimed at expanding the number of NHRIs that are part of the Declaration. In addition, on December 4, the annual meeting of the IACHR with NHRIs was held. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a space for an exchange of best practices, challenges, and analysis of different human rights issues. A specific segment featured a presentation on the use of technologies applied to human rights and the IACHR's experience in this area. The virtual event was attended by representatives of 12 NHRIs: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Bolivia, which participated as an observer.

43. At the regional level, the IACHR highlights the rapprochement and search for opportunities for collaboration with the Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas (RINDHCA), through update and contact meetings. With regard to Ibero-American Federation of the Ombudsperson (FIO), from August 27 to 29, Commissioner Andrea Pochak participated in the Seventh Summit on Human Mobility and Human Trafficking, held in Bogotá, Colombia. Exchanges were also held to strengthen collaborative work with that institution.

44. In the case of the Caribbean States, in 2025, the IACHR convened two bilateral meetings, on September 25 and August 27, respectively, with the Ombudspersons of St. Kitts and Nevis and Grenada. The events prioritized dialogue on institutional strengthening, legislation, public policies, and national plans for older persons and persons with disabilities. In addition, two regional meetings were held—on September 11 and April 29—with the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA), with the participation of 18 representatives on either occasion. Two meetings were also held with the Executive Committee of CAROA on February 12 and April 4, 2025, at which CAROA's needs and regional operational challenges were evaluated. The two meetings focused on Belize's transition to a national human rights institution (NHRI), and on promoting the standards and mechanisms of the Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. The latter meeting was particularly important, as many Caribbean States are in the process of drafting or enacting legislation related to older persons.

45. After two years of close collaboration with CAROA and its member states, the IACHR has observed that Caribbean States are gradually moving forward in considering the adoption of broader human rights mandates. In addition, the IACHR was informed that Barbados is initiating steps to elevate its office to NHRI status. In this way, the progress in Belize and Barbados could see them joining the Public Defender Offices

in Jamaica and Haiti, which already have mandates to address human rights issues. During the IACHR visit to The Bahamas, the delegation confirmed that the Office of the Ombudsman, which is in the process of installation, would have a specific mandate for the protection of human rights in that State.

46. The IACHR believes that continued technical cooperation with ombudsman offices in the Caribbean will facilitate a clearer understanding of the inter-American human rights system and could result in greater use of the Commission's tools and mechanisms. This level of cooperation will also allow the IACHR to better understand the challenges faced by these offices and how best to respond with appropriate technical assistance. To reinforce support for its work with ombudspersons' offices, the IACHR also held a meeting with the UNDP Regional Office in Panama to discuss collaboration with the IACHR's work program with CAROA.

47. The IACHR is grateful for the active participation and commitment of NHRIs and stresses the importance of continuing to work collaboratively through a positive agenda to strengthen cooperation and address emerging human rights challenges. In this regard, the IACHR calls on the NHRIs of the Americas to continue carrying out their work with the independence and autonomy that characterize these bodies, in accordance with the Paris Principles and applicable inter-American standards.

4. Cooperation with civil society and academia

48. With regard to partnerships with civil society organizations and academic centers, the IACHR made progress in carrying out cooperation activities. Within the framework of the agreement signed with American University, the IACHR provided support to the Inter-American Human Rights Competition, in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The IACHR was also invited to participate in a series of promotional events organized by the university's Academy of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. In addition, in September, in keeping with its agreement with UNAM, the XIII Edition of the "Héctor Fix Zamudio" Diploma Course on the Inter-American Human Rights System was held, with the participation of the IACHR. Chapter III of this report provides more details on these academic initiatives.

49. The IACHR also collaborated with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, promoting the inter-American human rights system in a training activity held from June 9 to 13 in San José, Costa Rica, aimed at public officials in the Americas. Progress was also made in the implementation of the agreements with the University of the West Indies and the Universidad del Externado. In the same vein, the evaluation of previous editions of the Academic Network was completed, and a project was carried out to update the Academic Network, with an emphasis on the Impact Observatory, within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law. It is also worth noting the participation of the IACHR in actions to promote inter-American principles on migrants, with the support of Cornell University. The IACHR was also invited to participate in and promote its 2024 annual report during the Ibero-American Week of International Justice, organized by the Ibero-American Institute of The Hague for Peace, Human Rights and International Justice. The actions with the Inter-American Academy of Human Rights of Universidad de Coahuila, both through the scholarship program and meetings to articulate the work plan, are also noteworthy.

50. Also noteworthy is the initiative with Both Ends Believing, which promotes the right of children and adolescents to live in a family through the adoption of a software system that facilitates the management of information within the relevant national protection system. Within the framework of this triangular cooperation agreement, States such as Ecuador made progress with technical assistance from the Commission. In particular, a note was sent containing standards and recommendations on the right of children and adolescents to live in a family. In implementing the agreement with the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM), the IACHR participated in a training session held in Bolivia, and high-level meetings were held to follow up on the relationship and consider possible joint initiatives.

51. In order to promote and protect human rights in the subregion, the IACHR promoted technical cooperation with civil society organizations in the Caribbean to present this mechanism. On May 13, a meeting was held with the Caribbean Association for Youth Development, which addresses issues related to democratic

institutions in several Caribbean countries. In addition, on October 29, the IACHR held a meeting with the president of Civil Society Bahamas.

5. Cooperation with international and regional organizations

52. The IACHR and the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) made progress in the implementation of the joint cooperation program for 2025–2026. This program is being implemented in accordance with the IACHR's Five-Year Strategic Plan for the Caribbean and continues to strengthen the exchange of legal, institutional, and jurisprudential information, while providing technical support and mutual training. In line with the above program, a high-level dialogue was held on November 12 during the 194th session of the IACHR, the purpose of which was to promote and facilitate technical exchanges and strengthen inter-institutional ties.

53. In addition, on October 10, a webinar was held with 50 judicial officials and legal professionals from the Caribbean Court of Justice, the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officials, and bar associations. The seminar, which was also held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the CCJ, highlighted the need for historically discriminated and vulnerable groups, particularly persons with disabilities and older persons, to have adequate measures to protect their rights, and to advocate for the adoption of good legal practices shared throughout the region. The seminar allowed the Commission to share case law, standards, and guidelines on thematic areas that States in the region are actively addressing through national plans, policies, legislation, and international commitments, while facing challenges related to resources, data collection, and implementation.

54. The IACHR also made progress in negotiating and signing a cooperation agreement with ILANUD. The purpose of the agreement is to advance the preparation of a study on the social reintegration of persons deprived of liberty.

55. With regard to activities with the Mercosur Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights (IPPDH), through the signing of the aforementioned specific agreement, the eighth edition of the International Course on Public Policies on Human Rights was held.[5] From a perspective that recognizes the progress and challenges of the region, the course offers concrete conceptual training on the subject, a space for sharing practical experiences, an examination of the challenges that the implementation of the human rights approach poses for state institutions, and an exchange of opportunities for the development of this approach in the region. Chapter III of this report provides more details on this initiative.

6. Special cooperation and assistance mechanisms

56. The IACHR can collaborate in the establishment and formation of groups of international experts with experience in different areas of international human rights law. Such groups can complement State efforts to investigate and clarify facts related to human rights violations. In that regard, in 2025, the IACHR extended the cooperation agreement for the installation of the GIEI in **Honduras** to provide international technical assistance from a human rights perspective in the investigation of the intellectual authorship of the murder of Berta Cáceres and related crimes. The GIEI was established in accordance with the responsibilities defined in the instrument signed by the parties within the framework of a precautionary measure in force, and the group functions autonomously for as long as the agreed mandate for its work lasts.

57. The IACHR reiterates its willingness and availability to provide technical cooperation to States, regional agencies, social organizations, and other institutions for the purposes of institution building and the formulation, implementation, and assessment of public policies on the strengthening and observance of human rights in the Americas based on inter-American standards.

[5] IACHR, International Course on Public Policies on Human Rights, Eighth Edition.

F. Relations with member states and political bodies of the OAS

58. One of the functions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) is to provide advice to States on human rights matters. This mandate is fulfilled, among other means, through its relations with the political bodies of the Organization of American States (OAS): the General Assembly (GA), the Permanent Council (PC), and its Committees, in particular the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP). The IACHR supports the political bodies of the OAS in promoting minimum human rights standards in resolutions, declarations, treaties, conventions, and other inter-American instruments. It also maintains relations with other areas of the OAS.

59. During 2025, the IACHR maintained constant representation before the political bodies of the OAS, including the Permanent Council, the CAJP, and the CAAP, actively participating in their sessions and responding to requests from Member States. It also attended meetings convened to present information to OAS political bodies on the implementation of resolutions and other specific requests from Member States, with the participation of Commissioners, the Executive Secretary, and Special Rapporteurs. These interventions, detailed below, reflect compliance with the IACHR's mandate to serve as the Organization's consultative organ on human rights matters:

I. Presentation by Commissioner Gloria Monique de Mees, Rapporteur for Venezuela, at the Regular Session of the Permanent Council, on January 24, 2025, on the IACHR report "*Venezuela: Serious Human Rights Violations in the Electoral Context.*"

II. Presentation by the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR, Pedro Vaca, at the Special Session of the Permanent Council on February 5, 2025, to address the implementation of all aspects of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and its challenges—including the role of disinformation and false information—in compliance with the mandate established in Resolution AG/RES. 3029 (LIV-O/24).

III. Presentation by Commissioner Edgar Stuardo Ralón Orellana, at the Regular Session of the Permanent Council on February 5, 2025, under the agenda item entitled "Human Rights Approach in the Fight against Organized Crime."

IV. Presentation by Commissioner Andrea Pochak, at the Regular Session of the Permanent Council on February 19, 2025, under the agenda item "Contributions of Member States to Counter Intolerance and Discrimination in the Region."

V. Presentation by Commissioner Roberta Clarke, Chair of the IACHR and Rapporteur on the Rights of Women, at the Joint Session of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) on March 12, 2025, to commemorate International Women's Day.

VI. Presentation by Commissioner Gloria Monique de Mees, Rapporteur on the Rights of People of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination, at the Special Session of the Permanent Council on March 25, 2025, to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, under the theme "I Have a Dream: Recognition. Justice. Development."

VII. Presentation by the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights (ESCER), Javier Palummo, at the Regular Session of the Permanent Council on April 2, 2025, under the agenda item "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction and its Link to the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment."

VIII. Presentation of Reports of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, led by Special Rapporteur Pedro Vaca, at the Session of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on

April 10, 2025, including the reports "*Inter-American Legal Framework on the Right to Freedom of Expression*" and "*Digital Inclusion and Internet Content Governance.*"

IX. Presentation by Commissioner Andrea Pochak, First Vice Chair and Rapporteur on Human Mobility, at the Special Session of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on April 10, 2025, on the theme "The Power of Inclusion and the Advantages of Diversity."

X. Presentation by Commissioner José Luis Caballero, Chair of the IACHR, at the Session of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on May 8, 2025, under the topic "Presentation of the 2024 Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to the Fifty-Fifth Regular Session of the General Assembly."

XI. Presentation by Commissioner José Luis Caballero, Chair of the IACHR, of the Commission's 2024 Annual Report at the Fifty-Fifth Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly on June 29, 2025.

XII. Presentation by Commissioner Gloria Monique de Mees, Rapporteur for Venezuela, at the Regular Session of the Permanent Council on August 6, 2025, under the agenda item "Update on the Situation in Venezuela."

XIII. Presentation by Commissioner Arif Bulkan, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, at the Special Session of the Permanent Council on August 13, 2025, to commemorate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, under the theme "From the Voices of Indigenous Women: Visibility, Leadership, Rights, and Economic Autonomy."

XIV. Presentation by Commissioner José Luis Caballero, Chair of the IACHR, at the Regular Session of the Permanent Council on September 17, 2025, under the topic "Reports on the Budget Execution of the IACHR Regular Fund and Indirect Cost Recovery Fund for 2024 and the First Semester of 2025, and Report on the Implementation of the IACHR Strategic Plan 2023–2027 (First Semester 2025)."

XV. Presentation by Commissioner Gloria Monique de Mees, Rapporteur for Venezuela, at the Regular Session of the Permanent Council on October 8, 2025, under the agenda item "Presentation by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights concerning the request made to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to make an on-site visit in the last quarter of 2025, in order to observe the human rights situation, especially as regards persons incarcerated at the Metropolitan Caracas Detention Center for Defendants and Convicted Prisoners (Helicoide)."

XVI. Presentation by Commissioner José Luis Caballero, Chair of the IACHR, at the Session of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on October 30, 2025, under the topic "IACHR Report on Women Deprived of Liberty in the Americas."

XVII. Presentation by the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Pedro Vaca, at the Session of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on November 20, 2025, under the topic "Commemoration of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists."

XVIII. Presentation by Commissioner José Luis Caballero, Chair of the IACHR, at the Special Session of the Permanent Council on December 10, 2025, to commemorate Human Rights Day.

XIX. Presentation by Commissioner Andrea Pochak, First Vice Chair and Rapporteur on Human Mobility, at the Regular Session of the Permanent Council on December 17, 2025, under the agenda item themed "Presentation of IACHR Resolution No. 02/24 on human mobility induced by climate change."

60. The IACHR's participation in the political bodies of the OAS enables the Commission to raise public awareness of human rights in the Americas. Throughout 2025, the IACHR's presentations before OAS

political bodies addressed topics related to the human rights situation of women, persons of African descent, and indigenous peoples; freedom of expression; economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights (ESCER); and the implementation of the *Inter-American Democratic Charter*. The IACHR also reiterated on multiple occasions its concern over the human rights situation in Venezuela, reaffirming its commitment to continuous monitoring and constructive dialogue with States on the situation.

61. During 2025, eleven meetings were held to review the portfolio of petitions, cases, precautionary measures, friendly settlements, and follow-up on recommendations with the following States: Argentina (April 29 / September 30–October 1); The Bahamas (February 21); Barbados (August 26); Bolivia (May 15); Chile (April 4); Colombia (July 29–30); Costa Rica (October 1–2); El Salvador (May 2); Guatemala (August 26); and Mexico (August 5–6). These meetings reflect the IACHR's ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and the strengthening of access to information within its System of Petitions, Cases, and Precautionary Measures.

62. These portfolio review meetings are in addition to the meetings held with high-level authorities from different countries within the framework of the working visits carried out during 2025, which will be listed in the section corresponding to monitoring. Likewise, the IACHR Delegation held 19 bilateral meetings with Heads of Delegation during the 55th Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly in Antigua and Barbuda, including 15 Member States, 3 observer countries, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. These bilateral meetings focused strategically on fundamental aspects of the Inter-American Human Rights System, such as regional perspectives on the Commission's future, promoting financial support for the IACHR, and—in the case of observer countries—presenting results achieved in ongoing projects, as well as exploring new opportunities for cooperation and financing.

63. Similarly, it is important to highlight the meetings held with regional groups of Member States on July 15, 2025, within the framework of the 193rd Period of Sessions of the IACHR, which took place in an atmosphere of frank and respectful dialogue. These spaces for exchange consolidated the Commission's practice of engagement and cooperation with Member States, reaffirming its commitment to maintaining a permanent and constructive dialogue, allowing for a more fluid exchange and giving full effect to the Commission's mandate to provide human rights advisory services to the Organization of American States and its Member States.

G. Strengthening of coordination with regional and universal human rights bodies

64. In 2025, under Program 30 of the Strategic Plan 2023-2027, the IACHR continued to deepen its collaboration with other international human rights bodies. The central objectives of this coordination are: to strengthen the exchange of best practices, jurisprudence, and standards; to bolster strategic ties to strengthen consistency among human rights bodies; and to enhance strategic interventions for the effective promotion and protection of human rights in the Americas.

65. The Commission is aware that 2025 was a particularly challenging year due to questioning and attacks by some states on the international order, multilateralism, and international organizations. In this context, the Commission decided to strengthen coordination with regional and international organizations, promoting joint strategies to address situations of particular concern, by encouraging closer collaboration in its various mechanisms, increasing the number of actors with which it interacts, and enhancing its participation in various multilateral forums.

66. At the international level, the IACHR has tightened relations with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, based on a joint declaration signed in 2014. Since then, both institutions have strengthened their collaboration in different areas, such as coordination mechanisms on the rights of refugees, the platform of expert mechanisms on discrimination and violence against women, and the coordination mechanism to promote and protect the rights of human rights defenders in the Hemisphere. These mechanisms have resulted, inter alia, in joint public statements, strategies, and collaboration in hearings, exchange of information for visits, and joint meetings with civil society. In addition, the High Commissioner

and the President of the IACHR held a high-level dialogue that was followed by periodic dialogues between the offices to follow up on the main human rights issues in the region. The IACHR also invited representatives of the offices to participate in the hearings of the 192nd, 193rd, and 194th Sessions.

67. The IACHR also published joint communiqués with United Nations treaty bodies and special mechanisms on victims of forced disappearance in Venezuela; the rights of women and girls who are refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons; the need to strengthen actions for Memory, Truth, and Justice; expressing concern over the return to prison of journalist José Rubén Zamora in Guatemala; establishing standards on artificial intelligence and freedom of expression; and calling for respect for the rule of law for the protection of refugees, among other issues.

68. Within the Human Rights Council, the IACHR strengthened its participation in the Universal Periodic Review and took part in the High-Level Dialogue, presenting its observations and recommendations on the human rights situation in the region.

69. The Inter-American Commission and UNHCR have been working together as strategic partners in recent years. This collaboration has prioritized comprehensive protection of the human rights of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, returnees, victims of human trafficking, stateless persons, and other persons in the context of human mobility in countries of transit, destination, and return. It has been done so by identifying and implementing measures focusing on the prevention, promotion, and protection of human rights.

70. In addition, representatives of the International Red Cross met with the Executive Secretariat in Washington D.C. and Geneva to exchange information and strategies related to the human rights situation in the Americas.

71. The Commission conducts ongoing dialogues with regional human rights bodies, including the African Commission and Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the European Court, the European Commission's External Action Service Secretariat, the Inter-American Court, and the Caribbean Court of Justice.

H. Follow-up activities on recommendations and impact

72. In 2025, the IACHR consolidated its strategies for supervising the implementation of recommendations made through all its mechanisms in the context of Programs 8 and 9 of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan and in keeping with its Rules of Procedure. These actions were led by the Section for Follow-up on Recommendations and Impact (SSRI), established in 2017 and operational since 2018, and organized into five strategic lines.

73. Following is a description of the activities promoted by the SSRI during the year for each of these lines. This chapter will address: (1) strengthening the methodology for follow-up on recommendations; (2) the continuity of the special mechanisms; (3) the development of the Impact Observatory; and (4) the Inter-American SIMORE.

74. In addition, reference is made to strategic line (5) and to the analysis of compliance with the recommendations made in the country reports. Readers are invited to consult Chapter V of this Annual Report to learn about the particularities of each recommendation under supervision, with respect to the reports on the human rights situations in Bolivia, El Salvador, and Mexico. The fifth strategic line also includes follow-up on the recommendations made by the IACHR in its published reports on the merits. The results of these analyses, published in Chapter II.E of this Annual Report, which, in addition, makes it possible to access each of the updated data sheets for each case at the stage of supervision of recommendations.

1. Strengthening the methodology for following up on recommendations

75. In 2025, the IACHR applied the General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations and Decisions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (updated in November 2023) to: (i) consider the information submitted by states, civil society, victims, and others; and (ii) to determine the levels of implementation of the recommendations issued by its different mechanisms. The SSRI operationalized these criteria by preparing follow-up reports on country reports (published in Chapter V of this Annual Report) and on the merits (published in Chapter II.E), ensuring methodological consistency in evaluating and presenting results.

76. In addition, training activities were developed for public officers responsible for submitting information to the Commission to standardize report formats, enhance the relevance and quality of submitted data, and improve understanding of the criteria established in the Guidelines. In this context, training sessions were conducted in Guatemala and Colombia for teams from those respective states engaged in follow-up on recommendations, with an emphasis on incorporating a gender perspective throughout the reporting and evaluation cycle.

77. On July 9, 2025, the SSRI organized the virtual dialogue "Gains and challenges in National Mechanisms for Implementing Human Rights Recommendations in the Americas", with the participation of the President of the IACHR, the Executive Secretariat, the SSRI, the OHCHR of the United Nations, representatives of the states of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Paraguay, as well as civil society (Coletivo EPU) and academia (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and the University of Notre Dame). The objectives of the gathering were to give impetus to exchanges and collaborations among national mechanisms, provide technical assistance to establish and strengthen them, compile inputs for updating a manual of best practices, and bolster social participation in these processes. The agenda was structured in three panels: relevance of national mechanisms (with presentations on institutional findings and civil society), good practices of states and challenges faced by the states, and proposals for strengthening them, with remarks from academia, the SSRI, civil society, and comments from the states, concluding with a definition of next steps.

78. In October 2025, at the invitation of the School for Advanced Studies of the Office of the Federal Prosecutor General (ESMPU: Escola Superior do Ministério Público da União), the IACHR participated in the international seminar "The challenges faced by the Brazilian State in monitoring and implementing international human rights obligations – Universal and Inter-American Systems," held in hybrid mode at the ESMPU (Brasília), October 14 to 17. In this context, the SSRI conducted a workshop on preparing reports for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, geared to officials in the justice system and other institutions to standardize reports they send to the IACHR, align their preparation with the General Guidelines on Follow-Up, and promote the use of the Inter-American SIMORE. In addition, the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR spoke on the event's opening panel. This cooperation strengthened national capabilities for monitoring and implementing international obligations and for coordinating with national follow-up mechanisms.

79. At the same time, in 2025, the IACHR further strengthened and implemented internal guidelines to improve the processes for formulating recommendations, especially in thematic and country reports. These guidelines seek to bolster the orientation the IACHR provides to states on how to address previously identified human rights needs and issues, and to strengthen the quality of the Commission's follow-up evaluations.

80. As a novelty in 2025, the SSRI worked more closely with the monitoring areas of the Commission to make changes to the drafting and structure of the recommendations before they are issued, seeking greater clarity, specificity, and measurability. This facilitates their subsequent implementation by the states and improves the traceability of results in the follow-up stage.

2. Continuity of the special follow-up mechanisms for Colombia, Chile, and Bolivia

81. In the context of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, the IACHR consolidated special follow-up mechanisms to give impetus to the implementation of its recommendations. It was an innovative practice in the context of international human rights law; these were conceived of as technical tools to offer follow-up complementary to and focused on recommendations associated with prioritized situations.

82. These mechanisms mobilize an intensive effort based on a set of recommendations, with two key purposes: to promote their implementation and to identify their levels of compliance. At the same time, they allow for a comprehensive analysis of the IACHR's decisions and recommendations, combining public exposure of the case or situation with periodic, systematic monitoring. This contributes to more in-depth and directed follow-up, in keeping with the General Guidelines on Follow-up.

83. These mechanisms are installed once the recommendations are issued through the various means available to the Commission, most commonly in the country reports. Among the methodologies used, special note should be made of the targeting and prioritization of measures, and the adoption of a specific timetable for their implementation and evaluation.

84. In 2025, the IACHR continued developing work plans for the follow-up mechanisms established with respect to Colombia, for the recommendations made in the wake of the country visit of June 2021; Chile, regarding the recommendations in the country report published in 2022, in the wake of the working visit on occasion of the social protests in late 2019 and early 2020; and Bolivia, for the recommendations issued in the final report of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI-Bolivia).

a. Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of Recommendations made by GIEI Bolivia (MESEG)

85. MESEG monitors the recommendations made in the 2021 Final Report by the GIEI-Bolivia. The first work plan between the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the IACHR was implemented from March 2022 through March 2025. Subsequently, in July of the same year, the second work plan was launched, which will conclude in December 2025.

86. In the context of the MESEG, four technical visits were made to the Plurinational State of Bolivia from February to June 2025. During each of these visits, conversations were held with representatives of victims and their organizations to learn about progress in implementing the recommendations and to debate the contents of a reparations plan, in line with relevant international standards and mindful of comparative experience. These dialogues were held in various cities of Bolivia, including La Paz, El Alto, Santa Cruz, Potosí, and Cochabamba, with the participation of 70 persons. In addition, during three of the four visits, dialogues were organized with civil society organizations to coordinate follow-up on compliance with the recommendations.

87. In addition, during the technical visits, trainings were conducted with public servants of the judiciary, the Office of the Attorney General (Ministerio Público), the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsperson, and the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture in La Paz, Santa Cruz, Potosí, and Cochabamba, on standards for investigating and making integral reparation for serious human rights violations, as well as standards for victim participation in judicial proceedings.

b. Joint Follow-up Mechanism for Colombia

88. This joint mechanism provides close follow-up on the recommendations made by the IACHR after its working visit in June 2021, in the context of the protests that began on April 28, 2021. It was installed on June 9, 2023, with a Work Plan that prioritized 33 recommendations, including those on protection for social

protest and freedom of expression, as well as ethnic-racial matters. According to its work plan, the mechanism concluded its functions at the end of 2024, although follow-up on its recommendations continues.

89. Throughout 2025, the IACHR made progress in preparing a second report for this mechanism. It has been written by integrating information from the State provided in seven technical dialogues held in November and December 2023; responses to questionnaires sent out by the Commission; inputs from the public hearing "Follow-up on the recommendations on investigating human rights violations during the national strike" (July 8, 2024); the hearing "Situation of persons detained in the context of the 2021 National Strike" (March 6, 2025); as well as contributions from the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsperson, the Office of the Mayor of Bogotá, victims, and more than 20 civil society organizations. The document is in the final phase of production, in keeping with the relevant parts of the Rules of Procedure.

90. As part of the methodology, the SSRI conducted rounds of thematic dialogues with organizations (social protest; transformation of the institutional culture of the Security and Police Forces; investigation, accountability and reparation; transfer for protection and disappearance of persons; discrimination in protests; reparation for victims of ocular trauma; and protection for journalists, freedom of expression, and access to the Internet) and consolidated additional inputs in bilateral meetings. In addition, findings were incorporated from a specialized consultancy by Justice Rapid Response on guidelines for psychosocial reparation for victims of ocular trauma, which will be forwarded to the State to give impetus to reparation measures.

91. The Commission approved the second follow-up report on October 1, 2025. Based on the information outlined in that report, the IACHR found that a process of dialogue was fostered in Colombia in 2023 and 2024 to regulate the right to social protest and public demonstrations, and to limit the use of force in such scenarios. With respect to the levels of compliance with the recommendations, the IACHR found that of the total of 33 recommendations subject to follow-up, five are pending compliance (15%); 18 have met with partial compliance (55%), eight have met with partial substantial compliance (24%); and two have been fully implemented (6%).

92. The 2025 process documents relevant measures, among others, Directive No. 001 of 2024 of the Office of the Attorney General to recognize, guarantee, and protect the right to protest; the creation of a Permanent Inter-institutional Roundtable for investigating police abuse; the Regulation on the differentiated and proportional use of force (Decree 1231 of 2024); inter-institutional protocols to verify arrests; and actions from the Proceso de Transformación Policial +Humana (Process of More Human Police Transformation), along with persistent challenges: sluggishness of criminal and disciplinary investigations, lack of integral reparation (especially for victims of ocular lesions and sexual violence), risks of criminalization, ethnic-racial and gender gaps, and reports of the disproportionate use of force at recent events. The IACHR underscores the need to strengthen inter-institutional and territorial articulation, consolidate regulatory changes, and ensure the effective participation of victims and civil society in all stages of follow-up.

c. Joint Follow-up Mechanism on Recommendations for Chile (MESECH)

93. The MESECH accompanies the implementation of the recommendations in the 2022 report "Situation of Human Rights in Chile," using specialized methodologies for follow-up, technical assistance to the State, and coordination with autonomous institutions, victims, and civil society. Their work plan, designed to last three years (2023–2025), prioritizes three areas: (i) structural, institutional, and regulatory reforms; (ii) the duty to investigate; and (iii) the duty to make reparation.

94. In 2025, the IACHR produced the first follow-up report of the MESECH, which received inputs with official information from the State, contributions from the National Institute for Human Rights (INDH), the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children, and civil society organizations, in addition to inputs collected on visits and through formal requests. The report applies the General Guidelines on Follow-up to assess each recommendation, update its level of compliance, and provide guidance for additional measures; it also includes

a contextual chapter on economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights (without grading compliance, as these rights are not prioritized).

95. The report also describes progress and recurrent challenges: updating regulations and police protocols, training mechanisms and spaces for dialogue, along with gaps in registering cases, practical application of standards on protest and use of force, and lags in investigations and integral reparation (including psychosocial reparation for victims of ocular trauma. It drew support from a technical annex provided by Justice Rapid Response).

96. Methodologically, the document systematizes findings by each recommendation, prioritizes them, and presents, at the end, a table detailing individual compliance and the overall level reflected in the report. Of the 47 prioritized recommendations, the IACHR determined that two meet full compliance (4.26%); three, partial substantial compliance (6.38%); 33, partial compliance (70.21%); and nine, still pending compliance (19.15%). The matrix at the end details the level of compliance for each recommendation within the three prioritized lines.

3. Inter-American System for Monitoring Recommendations (Inter-American SIMORE)

97. Beginning on June 10, 2020, the IACHR made the Inter-American SIMORE available to the public. It is an online platform that systematizes the recommendations issued through the Commission's various mechanisms. This system works as a privileged channel for receiving or exchanging information on follow-up of recommendations. Its objectives are to strengthen the transparency of the IACHR's follow-up procedures and to incentivize the participation of actors interested in supervising their implementation, promoting comprehensive dialogues on compliance that translate into concrete progress.

98. The Inter-American SIMORE achieves those objectives through two main functionalities. First, it allows anyone to search for and identify, within the set of decisions adopted by the Commission over the years, the recommendations of interest to them, based on their needs. And second, it promotes the publication of information on compliance by OAS member states, civil society organizations, autonomous organs – including the national human rights institutions, and academic institutions – with respect to the recommendations issued by the IACHR in thematic reports, country reports, chapter IV.B of the annual reports, and in resolutions.

99. In this way, the tool operates as a mechanism of accountability for compliance with international human rights obligations, favoring transparency and the democratization of follow-up processes. At the same time, the information published on compliance enables the Commission to strengthen supervision of the measures adopted by the states and to identify progress and challenges in guaranteeing and protecting human rights in the region.

100. The preparation and start-up of the Inter-American SIMORE unfolded in several phases: design and tool preparation, data systematization, system development, launch and dissemination, and user training. The process included participation from the SSRI, the Technology and Systems Section (STS), and the OAS Department of Information and Technology Services (DOITS). In addition, its implementation drew on cooperation between the IACHR and the State of Paraguay, formalized through a 2017 Memorandum of Understanding; that support enabled the Commission to use the source code for the SIMORE Plus system in Paraguay and to receive technical advisory services from authorities experienced in its use.

101. As of 2025, the SIMORE has a total of 7,746 recommendations uploaded and available in the platform. Each recommendation was labelled by year of issue, mechanism/sub-mechanism, population involved, issue or right, geographic scope/country, measure recommended, and level of compliance, thereby strengthening traceability and comparative analysis. As regards promotion and dissemination, a training session was held with officials of the Office of the Attorney General (Ministério Público Federal) of Brazil.

102. Also as of 2025, the platform has 260 active users in the system who publish information on follow-up to recommendations; of these, 46 are from states (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, St. Lucia, and Suriname), 93 are from civil society organizations, and 32 are from autonomous institutions.[6] The Commission welcomes the submission by the Plurinational State of Bolivia of all information on compliance with the recommendation in the report "Social Cohesion: The Challenge to Consolidate Democracy in Bolivia," totaling 235 data sheets for follow-up.

103. The Commission has made sustained efforts to have the Inter-American SIMORE consolidate as a key mechanism for follow-up on recommendations. In particular, the IACHR seeks to position itself as the central repository of valuable information for identifying and evaluating the progress and challenges in implementing its decisions by the states of the region. Along these lines, since 2023, the Commission has encouraged the states, through follow-up reports in chapter V of the Annual Report, to present information on compliance with recommendations through the Inter-American SIMORE platform.

104. The launch of the Inter-American SIMORE provides a high-value tool for promoting effective compliance with the Commission's recommendations. The IACHR plans to continue its efforts to consolidate its operations as a relevant system for monitoring compliance with international human rights obligations in the region.

4. Impact Observatory of the IACHR

105. By Resolution No. 2/19 of September 22, 2019, the IACHR created the Impact Observatory. The objective of this initiative is to give impetus to forums for analyzing, systematizing, providing visibility to, and evaluating the impact of the Commission's defense and protection of human rights in the region. The Observatory fosters synergies with similar initiatives and promotes dialogue with universities, research centers, academic networks, and other communities interested in the inter-American human rights system. In 2024, the Impact Observatory was focused on ensuring the continuity of its strategic line of work.

106. In 2025, the second edition of the Commission's "Compendium of Progress and Measures of Compliance with Recommendations and Other Decisions", approved in November 2024, was published and disseminated. The document highlights the main gains and measures adopted by the member states of the OAS in 2023, or identified that year, to comply with the recommendations and decisions issued by the IACHR. With this publication, the Commission seeks to promote and implement its decisions and to facilitate the adequate dissemination of these measures, highlighting the efforts and actions of the states that may serve as examples or good practices for the region in following up on recommendations.

107. Accordingly, this Compendium fits within the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, in particular Strategic Objective 1.3 (promote compliance with the recommendations and standards of the inter-American human rights system), and is aligned with Program 8 (strengthening follow-up of recommendations and of the Inter-American SIMORE) and Program 9 (promoting compliance with decisions, recommendations and standards of the IACHR outlined in its different mechanisms and reports).

108. In preparing the Compendium, the IACHR adopted a methodology for selecting gains and measures, evaluating those that have the potential to have a structural impact on the human rights situation of the state in question, or that have represented substantial or full compliance with a recommendation or decision. In addition, as a new feature, this edition incorporates sections on thematic reports and on the Inter-American SIMORE, with an analysis of good practices in their implementation and follow-up.

109. In addition, in June 2025, the IACHR published two episodes of its podcast dedicated to Bolivia, aimed at sharing the work done in the country since the onset of the 2019 political and social crisis. In the first episode, representatives of victims and civil society organizations recounted what happened during the 2019

[6] The account numbers may not agree with those reports in previous years since some requests for accounts were revoked and in other cases activation was sought but not completed since some piece of information was missing.

crisis, explained how the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI) was constituted, and described the IACHR's role in that context. The second episode addressed the work of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of Recommendations made by GIEI Bolivia (MESEG-Bolivia), established to oversee the implementation of the 36 recommendations issued by the GIEI. In this chapter, victims, family members, and representatives of their organizations analyzed the impact of the GIEI and the IACHR on the process of seeking truth, justice, and reparation.

110. In August 2025, audiovisual material was disseminated entitled "El rol de la CIDH a través de la MESEG-Bolivia" (The role of the IACHR through the MESEG-Bolivia). This video summarizes the IACHR's work in Bolivia from the establishment of the GIEI-Bolivia to the subsequent establishment of the MESEG-Bolivia. In the video, victims share their testimonies about the challenges they faced and the gains they achieved during the IACHR's accompaniment. At the same time, authorities and members of the Commission's technical team explain the work done throughout this process.

111. The Impact Observatory has been consolidating as a living space for analysis and dissemination, contributing to ongoing improvements in institutional mechanisms for implementing recommendations and for designing advocacy strategies, public policies, and legal and regulatory frameworks. Each year, the IACHR promotes new ways to investigate and communicate the effects of its recommendations in the region, fostering the exchange of good practices and the transparent identification of challenges to strengthen human rights protections and guarantees.

5. Analysis of compliance with the recommendations made in country and thematic reports

112. Regarding the follow-up of recommendations in monitoring reports, in 2025, the IACHR continued its strategy for its follow-up in both country and thematic reports. In doing so, the Commission seeks to evaluate regional gains and challenges in implementing the recommendations, as well as to cast light on areas of improvement and challenges in complying with these decisions.

- **Reports following up on recommendations in country reports with respect to Bolivia and El Salvador included in Chapter V of this annual report**

113. Pursuant to Article 59(9) of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission, in Chapter V of its Annual Report, publishes documents on follow-up that set out gains and challenges in the effective observance of human rights. In 2025, the IACHR published the follow-up reports on Bolivia and El Salvador which have been incorporated in this chapter.

114. In all, these reports evaluated 110 recommendations: 32 for Bolivia and 23 for El Salvador. The matters addressed include, among others, social cohesion; economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights; citizen security and the use of force; due process and access to justice; conditions of detention; freedom of expression and access to information; torture and extrajudicial executions; as well as groups in special situations of vulnerability (women, children and adolescents, indigenous peoples, LGBTI persons, migrants, and persons deprived of liberty).

115. In terms of levels of compliance, the results, by country, were as follows:

- Bolivia: of 32 recommendations, one has met with full compliance (3.13%); no recommendations were found to have met with partial substantial compliance; 13 had partial compliance (40.62%); and 18 are still pending (56.25%).
- El Salvador: of 23 recommendations, none has met with full compliance or partial substantial compliance; 1 meets with partial compliance (4%); 18 are still pending (78%); and four were considered to have failed to be implemented (17%).

- **Progress in 2025 in implementing recommendations included in Chapter V follow-up reports with respect to Bolivia and El Salvador**

116. In line with the SSRI practice of showing the evolution of compliance with the recommendations in country reports in Chapter V, a table is included with figures for the period covered to provide a general overview of progress.

Categories/percentage compliance	Bolivia	El Salvador
	2025	2025
Full compliance	3.13%	0%
Partial substantial compliance	0%	0%
Partial compliance	40.62%	4%
Pending compliance	56.25%	78%
Failed to comply	0%	17%

- **Second follow-up report on recommendations in the Report on the situation of human rights defenders and social leaders in Colombia, published in 2019**

117. In 2025, the IACHR began preparing the second follow-up report on recommendations stemming from the "Report on the situation of human rights defenders and social leaders in Colombia," published in 2019. This process draws on inputs from several activities carried out by the IACHR in recent years to follow up on compliance with the recommendations in the report. Once concluded, it will be possible to identify the measures of compliance adopted by the State with respect to the recommendations noted in the thematic report and to highlight the most prominent challenges to their implementation.

System of Petitions and Cases, Friendly Settlements and Precautionary Measures

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CHAPTER II

THE SYSTEM OF PETITIONS AND CASES, FRIENDLY SETTLEMENTS, AND PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

A. Introduction

1. This chapter reflects the work carried out by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ("the Commission", "Inter-American Commission", or "IACHR") during 2025 in relation to its system of petitions, cases, friendly settlements, and precautionary measures, as well its work before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ("Inter-American Court" or "IACHR"). It is structured into the sections described below.

2. First, Section B addresses the most significant results achieved during 2025. It presents the work carried out on the initial review of petitions, the admissibility and merits stages, and the archiving of petitions and cases. It also contains a summary of the most notable decisions adopted by the Commission, both in its admissibility and merits reports, and mentions the final reports published in compliance with Article 51 of the American Convention on Human Rights ("ACHR" or "American Convention"). It also details the hearings and working meetings held by the Commission, as well as active transparency and information measures undertaken with the States. Finally, it highlights the work related to the referral of cases to the Inter-American Court.

3. Second, Section C discusses the IACHR's work in its friendly settlement mechanism. This section includes an analysis of the status of compliance with the recommendations in approved friendly settlement reports.

4. Third, Section D discusses the interventions made by the Commission before the Inter-American Court. It highlights the cases sent to this court, as well as the written observations submitted in cases pending and in supervision of compliance with judgments. Subsequently, it lists the appearances and participation in public and private hearings.

5. Fourth, Section E deals with the status of compliance with the recommendations issued by the IACHR in its merits' reports, published on the basis of Article 47 of its Rules of Procedure and Article 51 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

6. Fifth, Section F summarizes the Commission's activities in its precautionary measures mechanism, as well as its mandate to follow up on provisional measures requested to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

7. Finally, Section G presents the most representative annual statistics on the work carried out during the year.

B. Petitions and Cases

8. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is the only international body in the region with the capacity to receive and process individual complaints. Its recommendations, through its coordination with the Inter-American Court, result in decisions that are binding on States. Beyond individual justice, these decisions have a transformative impact. Through the system of petitions and cases, the Commission has facilitated access to justice for victims of the most serious human rights violations, such as forced disappearance, torture, and extrajudicial executions. It has also declared the incompatibility of impunity figures, such as amnesty laws and statutes of limitations in the region. In addition, it has established limitations

on military criminal jurisdiction for human rights violations, while also encouraging the creation of public policies and protection mechanisms for vulnerable and historically discriminated groups. This has made it possible to address both immediate and structural issues in the region and achieve the progressive development of the Inter-American public order. Thus, the petition and case system not only benefits victims in specific matters but also has the capacity to change situations that affect human rights and generate transformative impacts through the recommendations of the IACHR, the friendly settlement agreements approved by it, or, eventually, the judgments handed down by the Inter-American Court.

9. Under the terms of Articles 23 to 48 of its Rules of Procedure, proceedings before the Commission are structured by the following procedural stages: initial study or review, admissibility and merits. Under Article 40 of the Rules of Procedure, at any time during the examination of a petition or case, the parties may reach a friendly settlement based on respect for human rights. Likewise, after issuing the merits report, the Commission may decide to publish it in accordance with Article 47 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 51 of the ACHR, or to send the case to the IACHR Court for the States under its jurisdiction, in accordance with Article 51 of that treaty. Finally, during the processing of a petition or case, the Commission may decide to archive it, as provided in Article 42 of its Rules of Procedure.

10. The main results are presented below, followed by a more detailed description of the work carried out in the different procedural stages: initial review, admissibility, and merits. Information on the decisions to archive cases taken during this period is also included.

1. Initial study or review

11. The Commission evaluates petitions received in accordance with Articles 26 through 34 of its Rules of Procedure. Pursuant to Article 26, the initial review of petitions is conducted by the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR, which is responsible for examination and initial processing of petitions.

12. In the initial review stage, using a prima facie standard, the Commission verifies that the petition meets the same admissibility and jurisdiction requirements that are examined in the admissibility report (Article 27 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure). The difference is that this first review is conducted exclusively with the information provided by the petitioner, because the State has not yet intervened at this stage, since the petition has not yet been opened for processing. This initial review is preliminary to the one carried out in the subsequent admissibility phase. In turn, if deemed necessary, Article 26.2 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure empowers the Executive Secretariat to request additional information from the petitioner in order to complete a specific aspect of the petition before making a decision at this initial stage.

13. If the Commission decides not to open proceedings on a matter, its Resolution 1/19 regulates the possibility for petitioners to request that the Executive Secretariat re-examine their petition, provided that they do so in accordance with the terms established in that resolution. In this context, priority is given to the initial review of new petitions, with these requests for reconsideration being addressed chronologically on a periodic basis, depending on the allocation of available resources.

14. In 2025, the IACHR received a total of 3,357 petitions (a record figure in the history of the IACHR, surpassing the 3,034 petitions received in 2019). Of these 3,357 petitions, at the end of the year, 2,771 petitions (82,5%) had been evaluated, with 533 decisions to open proceedings (19,23%); 2,040 rejections (73,6%); and 198 requests for additional information (7,14%). Through this rigorous analysis, the Commission safeguards, through its initial review decisions, the subsidiary and complementary nature of the Inter-American Human Rights System, both from a procedural perspective (when domestic remedies have not been exhausted or the granting of an exception does not apply) and a substantive perspective (when the facts in question clearly do not constitute a violation of the rights recognized in the instruments under its jurisdiction).

15. With regard to the regular flow of new petitions, the Commission has managed to maintain a pace of work that generally allows for their evaluation within one year of receipt, thus avoiding the accumulation of delays in this first phase of the procedure. This progress is significant considering that in 2015,

the IACHR had more than 9,000 petitions pending initial review. This progress is largely attributable to the creation of a specialized section that has consolidated a methodology that allows for a more agile examination of cases and also works on petitions that enter the admissibility stage, ensuring legal consistency in the analysis. This technical area also conducts periodic reviews of portfolios from previous years to ensure that no complaints are left behind and to prevent the accumulation of cases that have not been reviewed. Following up on the implementation of the Commission's current prioritization policy, work began on identifying, in all petitions with a decision to open proceedings, the prioritization criteria established in Resolution 4/23 on the Policy for Prioritizing Petitions and Cases.

16. In turn, once the backlog in the initial evaluation of petitions had been cleared, the IACHR continued to implement measures to ensure orderly and progressive notification to States, as well as to steadily reduce the delays associated with this process.

17. Thus, at the end of 2025, the IACHR had only 198 petitions with a decision to proceed—pending notification—corresponding to 18 member states of the Organization, representing a reduction of 88% compared to the 1,698 reported in 2021. This progress has been achieved even though the number of new petitions filed has continued to rise and the percentage of decisions to open proceedings has remained consistently around 15% of those evaluated annually.

18. This unprecedented achievement was made possible by the notification of 605 decisions to open proceedings, in accordance with Article 30 of the Commission's Regulation, as well as the definitive archive of 48 petitions in accordance with Article 42 of the same instrument. Additional information on decisions to archive at this procedural stage will be found under the heading in this chapter devoted to the matter.

19. In terms of optimization and efficiency, the results achieved during 2025 reflect a substantial improvement in the methodologies applied for the notification of the initiation of proceedings. In fact, 257 petitions filed that same year were notified within the period itself (42,4%), significantly exceeding the 26% recorded in 2024 and demonstrating a strengthened institutional capacity to quickly manage incoming petitions. This progress was accompanied by the implementation of e-books for notifications, an innovation that introduced a more organized and systematic process and was widely recognized by several States. Likewise, the application of the chronological criterion as a general rule for notification, complemented by the prioritization criteria provided for in Article 29.2 of the Rules of Procedure—identified in 13,7% (83) of the requests notified—made it possible to balance operational efficiency with differentiated attention to situations requiring priority treatment. These advances consolidate a more effective and transparent management model geared toward the timely processing of petitions in which a decision for processing was adopted.

20. Experience shows that the submission of digitized, complete, and properly structured petitions, that establish an effective means of communication that allows for a prompt response to the requirements made by the Executive Secretariat, not only facilitates their initial review but also significantly speeds up their processing and eventual notification of commencement of processing. Likewise, it was found that when petitions are submitted without documentary omissions and with clear details on aspects such as the confidentiality of the parties or the language of the accompanying documents, it is possible to avoid the need to request prior clarifications, as well as the issuance of warnings concerning the archive of the petition, which represented 29% (176) during the year.

2. Admissibility and merits

21. During 2025, in accordance with Articles 30 to 36 of the Rules of Procedure and Articles 44 to 48 of the American Convention, the Commission approved a total of 170 reports on the admissibility of petitions. Of this total, 96 decisions (56%) concerned admissibility as such, while the remaining 74 were determinations of inadmissibility. It is important to note that, of these 170 reports, 27 referred to petitions identified as **urgent** under the prioritization policy.

22. In addition, 47 admissibility decisions were adopted in cases in which the analysis of admissibility had been deferred to the merits stage. These decisions remain confidential in accordance with Article 50 of the American Convention.

23. In 2025, the IACHR continued to expand Resolution 1/16 on Measures to reduce procedural backlog of Petitions and Cases, adopted on October 18, 2016. In accordance with Article 36.3 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission notified the deferral of the admissibility analysis to the merits stage in 95 petitions, in which compliance with one or more of the six conditions set forth in that resolution was verified. The failure to submit the State's initial response at the admissibility stage continues to be the predominant criterion for application, present in 88.5% (85) of these notifications.

24. Furthermore, in accordance with the provisions of Article 37 of the Rules of Procedure, Article 20 of the Statute, and Article 50 of the American Convention, the Commission approved a total of 132 reports in which it ruled on the merits of the case. These reports examined the international responsibility of States in light of the international treaties under their jurisdiction and, where appropriate, issued recommendations for full reparation for the violations that had occurred. These reports are confidential, in accordance with Article 44 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 50 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

a. Admissibility and inadmissibility decisions

25. This section contains a total of 170 reports on admissibility, of which 96 are decisions of admissibility and 74 are decisions of inadmissibility. All are listed below.

No.	Name of Alleged Victim	State	Report No.	Date of Approval	Petition or Case No.	Decision	Assigned Case No.
1	A. y otros	Argentina	1/25	3/2/2025	P-471-21	Admissibility	15.748
2	L.	Paraguay	2/25	3/1/2025	P-2390-19	Admissibility	15.749
3	Irma Lemuz Amaya y familiares	Honduras	3/25	3/1/2025	P-343-19	Admissibility	15.750
4	C.	Chile	4/25	3/1/2025	P-445-20	Admissibility	15.751
5	Wesley Belz Guidoni & family members	Brazil	5/25	3/3/2025	P-219-15	Admissibility	15.752
6	José Mauricio Mercado Arámbula e hijas	Peru	6/25	3/2/2025	P-462-23	Inadmissibility	N/A
7	James Ángel Márquez García	Peru	7/25	3/1/2025	P-1811-14	Admissibility	15.753
8	Rubens Valente Soares	Brazil	8/25	3/10/2025	P-2247-21	Admissibility	15.754
9	Luz Marina Tabraj Briceño y V.	Argentina	9/25	3/10/2025	P-1707-16	Inadmissibility	N/A
10	Orlando Rene Sanjur Paz	Panama	10/25	3/10/2025	P-412-19	Admissibility	15.755
11	Jorge Antonio Aguilar Camara	Mexico	11/25	3/10/2025	P-1648-14	Inadmissibility	N/A
12	Antonio de Jesús Mares Ruiz	Mexico	12/25	3/10/2025	P-1825-14	Admissibility	15.756
13	Rachel Cardone-Barnett & sons	United States	13/25	3/12/2025	P-530-22	Admissibility	15.757
14	Daniel Fernando Vico e hijo	Peru	14/25	3/9/2025	P-1964-22	Inadmissibility	N/A
15	Carlos Roncero Órtiz y su hijo	Paraguay	15/25	3/9/2025	P-138-23	Inadmissibility	N/A

16	Alfredo Chipasso Chipenda Bonga	Paraguay	16/25	3/9/2025	P-1064-21	Inadmissibility	N/A
17	Nancy Piedrahita Ramírez	Colombia	21/25	3/18/2025	P-1141-14	Admissibility	15.759
18	Juan Carlos Rodríguez Rincón y familiares	Colombia	22/25	3/19/2025	P-1899-14	Admissibility	15.761
19	José Luis Jaquez Velázquez	Mexico	23/25	3/19/2025	P-2038-14	Admissibility	15.762
20	María Cristina Hunicken y otros	Argentina	24/25	3/18/2025	P-739-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
21	Carlos Ganduglia Trapanese	Argentina	25/25	3/18/2025	P-1128-15	Admissibility	15.765
22	ABT	Argentina	26/25	3/19/2025	P-514-14	Inadmissibility	N/A
23	Jhony Olarte Meza y familiares	Colombia	27/25	3/18/2025	P-1419-14	Admissibility	15.760
24	Nelson Miguel Hernández Cortés y familiares	Colombia	28/25	3/19/2025	P-1590-14	Inadmissibility	N/A
25	Guillermo Valencia Cossio	Colombia	29/25	3/18/2025	P-100-15	Admissibility	15.764
26	L.M. e N.C.	Brazil	30/25	3/18/2025	P-597-18	Inadmissibility	N/A
27	Elton Nascimento de Souza	Brazil	31/25	3/18/2025	P-1096-14	Inadmissibility	N/A
28	José de Jesús García Acevedo y familiares	Colombia	32/25	3/18/2025	P-1521-14	Inadmissibility	N/A
29	Juan Fernando Garaicoa Crespo y sus hijos	Ecuador	33/25	3/17/2025	P-170-20	Inadmissibility	N/A
30	Mauricio Fernández Margain y su hija	Mexico	34/25	3/25/2025	P-2537-18	Admissibility	15.766
31	Daniel Gutiérrez y otros	Colombia	35/25	3/26/2025	P-80-15	Admissibility	15.763
32	Anthony Sharif Gay	United States	36/25	3/27/2025	P-2353-21	Inadmissibility	N/A
33	Daniela Faria Machado	Mexico	38/25	3/20/2025	P-2105-19	Inadmissibility	N/A
34	S.G.	Ecuador	39/25	4/3/2025	P-1938-21	Admissibility	15.777
35	D., M. e I.	Brazil	40/25	3/26/2025	P-1706-18	Inadmissibility	N/A
36	N.C. e P.C.	Brazil	41/25	4/1/2025	P-2079-17	Inadmissibility	N/A
37	R.C. y sus familiares	Paraguay	61/25	4/15/2025	P-1388-21	Admissibility	15.784
38	Jorge Peirano Basso, Dante Peirano Basso y José Peirano Basso	Uruguay	62/25	4/15/2025	P-2396-17	Inadmissibility	N/A
39	Ángel Marcelo Prado Caamaño	Chile	63/25	4/15/2025	P-144-21	Inadmissibility	N/A
40	Henry de Jesús Castaño Ríos, Alexander Castaño Ríos y familiares	Colombia	64/25	4/28/2025	P-193-15	Admissibility	15.780
41	Víctor Servín Morales	Mexico	65/25	4/28/2025	P-1037-14	Admissibility	15.778
42	Eduardo Vinicius Fosch dos Santos e sua família	Brazil	66/25	4/28/2025	P-2360-20	Admissibility	15.782
43	Elison da Silva Reis e outros	Brazil	67/25	4/28/2025	P-2043-21	Admissibility	15.783

44	Mario Vinicio Cevallos Condoy	Ecuador	68/25	4/15/2025	P-1767-14	Admissibility	15.779
45	Manuel Jesús Canché Rodríguez y Armando Cazola Cabrera	Mexico	69/25	4/25/2025	P-621-15	Admissibility	15.781
46	Paulo Alexandre Gomes e familiares	Brazil	71/25	4/28/2025	P-777-21	Admissibility	15.788
47	Y.F. y sus hijos	Panama	72/25	5/2/2025	P-3068-18	Inadmissibility	N/A
48	Habitantes del Poblado “El Aeroplano”	Mexico	73/25	4/28/2025	P-702-14	Inadmissibility	N/A
49	Familia Castañeda Bonilla	Colombia	74/25	5/1/2025	P-420-13	Admissibility	15.787
50	Nelly Preuss Windfield	Mexico	75/25	5/13/2025	P-894-15	Admissibility	15.789
51	José Luís Salgado Téllez	Mexico	76/25	5/13/2025	P-725-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
52	Jaime Torres Gacitúa	Chile	77/25	5/16/2025	P-2123-15	Admissibility	15.790
53	Silvia Alicia Cristina Anaya Ferrel Barrera y otras	Bolivia	78/25	5/16/2025	P-121-14	Inadmissibility	N/A
54	Habitantes y comerciantes del sector "La Plaza"	Colombia	80/25	5/28/2025	P-311-15	Admissibility	15.809
55	Daniel Ledezma Luna	Mexico	81/25	5/20/2025	P-1849-14	Inadmissibility	N/A
56	Julián Andrés Hurtado Alfonso y sus familiares	Colombia	82/25	5/20/2025	P-409-15	Admissibility	15.810
57	Minverva Vera Alvarado y sus familiares	Mexico	83/25	5/21/2025	P-1787-15	Admissibility	15.811
58	Freddy Rubio Lozada	Ecuador	84/25	5/19/2025	P-2129-15	Admissibility	15.812
59	Lucas Alberto Bianco y H.	Argentina	85/25	5/20/2025	P-1586-18	Admissibility	15.813
60	Manuel Antonio Echeverria Babilonia	Colombia	86/25	5/21/2025	P-52-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
61	B. and her daughter	United States	87/25	6/3/2025	P-454-18	Admissibility	15.816
62	Familia Bustos Rodríguez	Colombia	88/25	6/6/2025	P-609-11	Admissibility	15.818
63	Juan Antonio Caballero Villamizar and family members	Colombia	99/25	6/5/2025	P-1169-14	Admissibility	15.817
64	N. e seu filho H.	Brazil	100/25	6/2/2025	P-1616-16	Admissibility	15.814
65	Claudia Noemí Heer y otros	Argentina	101/25	6/2/2025	P-2477-20	Inadmissibility	N/A
66	Gonzalo Hernán López Durán	Colombia	102/25	6/3/2025	P-1968-15	Admissibility	15.815
67	Victor Manuel Ramos Molina	Guatemala	103/25	6/2/2025	P-1277-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
68	Deyanira Castro de Moreno y otros	Colombia	104/25	6/3/2025	P-351-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
69	Jorge Alberto Suárez Meló y familiares	Colombia	105/25	6/18/2025	P-2039-13	Inadmissibility	N/A
70	Reinaldo Chavarro Mahecha y familiares	Colombia	106/25	6/13/2025	P-2034-13	Inadmissibility	N/A

71	Miembros del Sindicato del Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje	Colombia	107/25	6/16/2025	P-1677-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
72	Omar Hernando Miramón Gutiérrez, Mario Ernesto Miramón Gutiérrez and family members	Colombia	123/25	7/2/2025	P-1236-15	Admissibility	15.822
73	Luis Ramón Cárdenas y familia	Colombia	124/25	7/2/2025	P-884-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
74	Luis Orlando Reyes López and Kenia Yelizabeth García González	Colombia	125/25	7/2/2025	P-1061-15	Admissibility	15.821
75	Daniela Trujillo Martínez y familiares	Colombia	126/25	7/2/2025	P-940-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
76	José Severo Prieto Velásquez y otros	Colombia	127/25	7/2/2025	P-1129-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
77	Francisco Daniel Endara Daza	Ecuador	128/25	7/1/2025	P-2113-16	Admissibility	15.827
78	Adrián Esteban Bustos	Argentina	129/25	7/15/2025	P-783-13	Inadmissibility	N/A
79	Pedro Flores Medina	Bolivia	130/25	7/14/2025	P-1110-19	Admissibility	15.826
80	Josué Dimas Gómez Ortiz	Colombia	131/25	7/17/2025	P-1023-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
81	Familiares de Diana Muegues Rondón	Colombia	132/25	7/19/2025	P-317-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
82	Ramiro Alfonso Molina Balbín & family members	Colombia	133/25	7/19/2025	P-230-15	Admissibility	15.825
83	Analía Julieta Viganó	Argentina	134/25	7/21/2025	P-1585-15	Admissibility	15.823
84	Pedro Antonio Fajardo Véliz	Peru	135/25	7/14/2025	P-1961-15	Admissibility	15.824
85	Javier Oswaldo Galvis Carrillo y familiares	Colombia	136/25	7/16/2025	P-1784-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
86	Pastor de Jesús Loaiza Loaiza, Eider Miranda Garzón y familiares	Colombia	137/25	7/15/2025	P-834-15	Admissibility	15.820
87	Germán Vargas Morales	Colombia	140/25	8/5/2025	P-505-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
88	Francisco Potes Mosquera y familia	Colombia	141/25	8/7/2025	P-932-15	Admissibility	15.844
89	Jorge Antonio Parral Radabán y familiares	Mexico	142/25	8/8/2025	P-1759-15	Admissibility	15.846
90	Campo Elias Vega Goyeneche	Colombia	143/25	8/11/2025	P-1223-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
91	Víctor Maldonado Rodríguez y otros	Colombia	144/25	8/11/2025	P-1060-15	Admissibility	15.845
92	Eduardo Enrique Dávila Armenta	Colombia	145/25	8/8/2025	P-1080-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
93	John Alexánder Rincón Barbosa y familiares	Colombia	146/25	8/18/2025	P-1055-14	Admissibility	15.841
94	Jhon Jader Alape Hoyos y familiares	Colombia	147/25	8/18/2025	P-386-15	Admissibility	15.843

95	Martín Bárcenas Tapia	Mexico	148/25	8/14/2025	P-1887-14	Admissibility	15.842
96	Rubén Darío Arciniegas Calderón	Colombia	149/25	8/18/2025	P-1303-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
97	Ruben Darío Carvajal Hernández y Howard David Méndez Blanco	Colombia	150/25	8/17/2025	P-1551-15 y P-2061-16	Admissibility	15.849
98	Esperanza Perea Díaz y otros	Colombia	151/25	8/16/2025	P-1952-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
99	Domingo Gutiérrez Mendívil	Mexico	152/25	8/14/2025	P-1985-14	Inadmissibility	N/A
100	Enzo Fabián Álvarez	Argentina	153/25	8/20/2025	P-796-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
101	Juan Manuel Pineda Barroterán	Mexico	154/25	8/24/2025	P-2291-15	Admissibility	15.852
102	Jairo Adolfo Chamorro Pérez	Colombia	155/25	8/19/2025	P-1405-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
103	Francisco Antonio Molina Guerrero y familia	Colombia	156/25	9/1/2025	P-1849-15	Admissibility	15.850
104	Carlos Ernesto Sanchez Escobar y Carlos Sergio Aviles	El Salvador	157/25	9/2/2025	P-1559-21	Admissibility	15.853
105	Carlos Alberto Candia y familiares	Colombia	158/25	9/2/2025	P-471-15	Admissibility	15.848
106	Mabel de Valle Torres y otro	Argentina	159/25	9/3/2025	P-1230-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
107	Leonardo Fabio Cuenca Trujillo	Colombia	160/25	9/2/2025	P-2065-15	Admissibility	15.851
108	María Dolores Sánchez Rojas	Colombia	183/25	9/8/2025	P-2198-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
109	Darwin Díaz Campoverde	Ecuador	184/25	9/11/2025	P-1858-14	Admissibility	15.859
110	Ana Alicia Sánchez Umaña y otros funcionarios judiciales	El Salvador	185/25	9/11/2025	P-1642-21	Admissibility	15.858
111	Walter Valdimir Sandoval Penate y otros	El Salvador	186/25	9/11/2025	P-2046-22	Admissibility	15.861
112	La Comunidad Chisis	Guatemala	187/25	8/25/2025	P-1497-11	Admissibility	15.856
113	Comunidad Las Muñecas	Guatemala	188/25	8/25/2025	P-1801-11	Admissibility	15.855
114	Comunidad Villa Hortensia II	Guatemala	189/25	8/25/2025	P-1492-11	Admissibility	15.857
115	Adriana Sandra Rearte	Argentina	190/25	9/24/2025	P-1969-15	Admissibility	15.860
116	Maryurith Paola Castrón	Mexico	191/25	10/6/2025	P-1186-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
117	Carlos Alberto Mantilla Gutiérrez	Colombia	192/25	10/6/2025	P-1700-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
118	Arquímedes Rivera Galvis, Wilson Cañaveral y otros	Colombia	193/25	10/6/2025	P-2297-15	Admissibility	15.862
119	José Humberto Gómez Herrera	Colombia	194/25	10/6/2025	P-2316-15	Admissibility	15.863

120	Julio Diez Merino	Ecuador	205/25	10/14/2025	P-293-15	Admissibility	15.869
121	Nilson Roberto Dos Santos	Brazil	206/25	10/6/2025	P-2170-16	Admissibility	15.872
122	J.D.G. y sus hijos	Argentina	207/25	10/14/2025	P-1551-20	Admissibility	15.873
123	S.P.C. y su hijo	Ecuador	208/25	10/14/2025	P-2362-21	Inadmissibility	N/A
124	Marlen Hidalgo Prado e hija	Costa Rica	209/25	10/14/2025	P-1529-12	Inadmissibility	N/A
125	Gerardo María Arellano Becerra y familiares	Colombia	210/25	10/14/2025	P-2342-15	Admissibility	15.871
126	Jorge Alberto Morán Rosero y familia	Colombia	211/25	10/14/2025	P-2343-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
127	M.A.L.	Mexico	212/25	10/20/2025	P-1898-20	Admissibility	15.874
128	Rafael Gurrola Garbalena	Mexico	213/25	10/19/2025	13.248	Inadmissibility	N/A
129	David Ravelo Crespo y familia	Colombia	214/25	10/20/2025	P-2271-15	Admissibility	15.870
130	Graciela Beatriz Rossi	Argentina	215/25	11/3/2025	P-118-15	Admissibility	15.868
131	Fernando Patricio Albán Escobar y Juan Evangelista Núñez Sanabria	Ecuador	244/25	11/21/2025	2197-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
132	Walter Marcelo Vásquez Piña	Ecuador	245/25	11/21/2025	1632-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
133	Grace Tatiana Valenzuela Lozada y su hijo	Ecuador	246/25	11/24/2025	2243-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
134	Millaray Huichalaf Pradines	Chile	247/25	11/23/2025	2282-15	Admissibility	15.884
135	José Fernando López Artero y familia	El Salvador	248/25	11/21/2025	780-16	Inadmissibility	N/A
136	Eduardo Antonio Lituma Rodríguez y otros	Ecuador	249/25	11/21/2025	135-16	Inadmissibility	N/A
137	Juan Alexander Moya Carillo	Costa Rica	250/25	11/16/2025	321-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
138	Uriel Capera Jaramillo y família	Colombia	277/25	11/25/2025	P-469-13	Admissibility	15.885
139	Robinson Martínez Arango y familiares	Colombia	278/25	11/26/2025	P-123-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
140	Gustavo Adolfo Ochoa Góngora y familiares	Colombia	279/25	11/26/2025	P-1580-10	Inadmissibility	N/A
141	José Severino Ruiz	Mexico	280/25	11/26/2025	P-1334-14	Inadmissibility	N/A
142	Rodrígo Alvarado Moreno	Colombia	281/25	11/25/2025	P-2230-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
143	María Angélica Hernández García	México	282/25	11/26/2025	P-1578-14	Admissibility	15.886
144	Juan Marcelo Garcia y Marcela Fabiana Ponce	Argentina	283/25	12/1/2025	P-1621-16	Admissibility	15.887
145	Candelaria Reyes Zavaleta y otros	Mexico	284/25	12/2/2025	P-633-15	Admissibility	15.888

146	Francisco Oswaldo Simbaña Angulo y Cristhian Andrés Simbanya Bravo	Ecuador	285/25	11/30/2025	P-2547-16	Inadmissibility	N/A
147	Josefa Del Carmen López Bugallo y otro	Colombia	286/25	12/3/2025	P-1840-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
148	Kirman Napoleón Cantuña Nieto	Ecuador	287/25	11/30/2025	P-1495-16	Admissibility	15.889
149	Mike Settle	United States	289/25	12/15/2025	P-20-15	Admissibility	15.890
150	Mynor René Campollo Morales	Guatemala	290/25	12/15/2025	P-2674-16	Inadmissibility	N/A
151	Domingo Gutiérrez Mendível	Mexico	291/25	12/15/2025	P-1009-15	Admissibility	15.891
152	Remedios e hija	Colombia	292/25	12/15/2025	P-1508-17	Admissibility	15.892
153	Jorge Oscar Álvarez y otros	Argentina	293/25	12/14/2025	P-6-16	Admissibility	15.893
154	Patricio Alfonso Arteaga Molina	Chile	294/25	12/14/2025	P-2268-16	Admissibility	15.894
155	Andrés Betancur Arcila y familiares	Colombia	295/25	12/15/2025	P-2186-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
156	José María Uribe Freile	Ecuador	296/25	12/14/2025	P-2082-16	Inadmissibility	N/A
157	Carlo Andree Quezada Mejía	Honduras	297/25	12/14/2025	P-1335-16	Admissibility	15.895
158	Damián Delvalle Sanabria	Paraguay	298/25	12/14/2025	P-1560-16	Admissibility	15.896
159	Luis Alberto Correa Valencia	Colombia	299/25	12/20/2025	P-68-09	Admissibility	15.897
160	Tomás Alberto González Feuillebois	Panama	300/25	12/27/2025	P-1286-15	Admissibility	15.898
161	Norberto Ríos	Argentina	301/25	12/23/2025	13.111	Inadmissibility	N/A
162	Jennifer Acuña Vargas Y Otros Habitantes De La Zona Americana De Quepos	Costa Rica	302/25	12/27/2025	P-2230-16	Admissibility	15.899
163	GLT	Ecuador	303/25	12/30/2025	P-1927-16	Admissibility	15.900
164	Nora Leyda Osorio Y Otros (Habitantes Del Municipio De Argelia)	Colombia	304/25	12/27/2025	P-494-11	Admissibility	15.901
165	Afiliados De La Asociación Nacional De Empleados Del Banco De La República (ANEBRE)	Colombia	305/25	12/27/2025	P-1512-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
166	Rafael García Elizondo	Costa Rica	306/25	12/27/2025	P-878-16	Inadmissibility	N/A
167	Elizabeth Mayela Biasetti	Costa Rica	307/25	12/29/2025	P-779-16	Inadmissibility	N/A
168	José Guillermo Meza Beteta	Peru	317/25	8/12/2025	P-389-15	Inadmissibility	N/A
169	Héctor Vergara Mallqui	Peru	318/25	8/12/2025	P-1484-15	Admissibility	15.902
170	W.G.	Peru	319/25	9/1/2025	P-441-15	Inadmissibility	N/A

b. Notable Decisions

- **Admissibility**

26. Below are, by way of example, summaries of some cases that have been declared admissible and are currently in the merits stage, based on the seriousness of the alleged facts, because they involve novel issues that have not been extensively addressed in the jurisprudence of the Inter-American System, or because of their relevance in the specific context of the State to which they refer[1].

- **P-311-15, Colombia, Report No. 80/25, Residents and merchants of the "La Plaza" sector[2]**

27. The petition addresses Colombia's alleged failure to regulate mining activities in the municipality of Marmato, particularly at the "La Granadina" mine, whose operation, according to the petitioners, caused cracking, subsidence, and progressive deterioration of homes and commercial premises in the "La Plaza" sector, affecting more than thirty families. The petitioners argued that the expansion of underground tunnels, the use of explosives, and the absence of technical safety measures caused land subsidence that compromised the personal safety, private property, and economic livelihood of the residents. They added that, despite technical warnings issued since 1999 and contradictory court decisions in the class action lawsuit, the authorities continued to allow mining activity without adopting effective controls, leaving the community unprotected against structural risk and without adequate redress after the definitive closure of the domestic proceedings.

28. The IACHR affirmed that the class action brought by the alleged victims constituted a valid and appropriate means of raising the States responsibility, and determined that, despite the subsequent appeals rejected by the Council of State, domestic jurisdiction had been duly exhausted. With regard to the characterization, the Commission held that there was sufficient evidence to conclude that the alleged facts, relating to the absence of State control over a risky mining activity and its impact on the community, were not manifestly unfounded and warranted a substantive analysis. Finally, it concluded that, if corroborated, the State's omissions could constitute violations of Articles 5, 8, 21, 25, and 26 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1.

- **P-1586-18, Argentina, Report No. 85/25, Luis Alberto Bianco and H[3]**

29. The petition concerns the alleged ineffectiveness of decisions adopted in a family proceeding to prevent the obstruction of contact suffered by the petitioner, as his ex-wife allegedly has not allowed him to see his son for eight years. The petitioner separated from his former partner in early 2018, and since then he has not been able to see his son, who at that time was a baby. He indicated that on August 21, 2018, Family Court No. 2 of La Plata issued an interlocutory decision ordering a provisional communication and visitation regime in his favor; however, that order has not been complied with due to the ineffectiveness of the Judiciary. The State replied that the petition was inadmissible for failure to exhaust domestic remedies and because the grounds that gave rise to it no longer subsist, since on November 25, 2019, the Second Chamber of Civil and Commercial Appeals confirmed the first-instance decision ordering the visitation regime and the undertaking of mandatory psychotherapy for both parents.

30. The Commission determined that Mr. Bianco undertook various actions within the family proceedings to secure compliance with the judgment in his favor; nevertheless, his former partner refused to appear before the court and to comply with the judicial orders. Accordingly, the Commission declared

[1] All these reports are available at: OAS: IACHR: Admissibility Reports (oas.org).

[2] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido, a Colombian national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

[3] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

applicable the exception to the exhaustion of domestic remedies due to the absence of due process of law for the protection of his rights, in accordance with Article 46.2(a) of the American Convention. Thus, the Commission admitted for merits analysis Articles 5 (right to personal integrity), 8 (judicial guarantees), 17 (protection of the family), 19 (rights of the child), and 25 (judicial protection) of the American Convention. Likewise, the IACHR recalled the State's obligations regarding the restoration of the parent–child relationship in contexts of family separation and the duty to ensure the effectiveness of judicial decisions.

- **P-1559-21, El Salvador, Report No. 157/25, Carlos Ernesto Sánchez Escobar and Carlos Sergio Avilés Velásquez**

31. The petition analyzes the dismissal, on May 1, 2021, of Justices Carlos Ernesto Sánchez Escobar and Carlos Sergio Avilés Velásquez of the Constitutional Chamber of El Salvador by the Legislative Assembly, in a proceeding that was allegedly immediate, without previously established legal cause, without prior notification, and without opportunity for defense. The petitioners stated that this removal, adopted in a context of concentration of power and confrontation with the judiciary, was punitive in nature, violated the principle of legality, affected judicial independence, and left the alleged victims without guarantees in the face of pressure, risks, and lack of impartiality in domestic remedies. They also argued that the action for the protection of constitutional rights was not appropriate, as it would have been decided by the same judges appointed to replace the victims.

32. The IACHR considered that the available evidence showed that the Constitutional Chamber had already validated the removal and appointment of the replacement judges, which it identified as an indication of a possible lack of objectivity and impartiality in resolving the appeal filed by the alleged victims. It also determined that the action for the protection of constitutional rights did not offer an effective or secure means of reversing the dismissal, as it would be heard precisely by the judges appointed after the contested removal. Consequently, the Commission held that the exception provided for in Article 46.2.a of the American Convention on Human Rights was applicable and that the petition had been filed within a reasonable time. Finally, it considered that the alleged facts were not manifestly groundless and could characterize possible violations of Articles 8, 9, 23, 25, and 26 of the American Convention, in relation to Articles 1.1 and 2, and therefore it was appropriate to proceed to the analysis of the merits.

- **P-1642-21, El Salvador, Report No. 185/25, Ana Alicia Sánchez Humaña and other judicial officials**

33. The petition refers to the consequences of Legislative Decree No. 144, approved on August 31, 2021, by which the Legislative Assembly amended the Judicial Career Law and imposed the mandatory retirement of judges upon reaching 60 years of age or 30 years of service, as well as the creation of a system of availability that enabled transfers and relocations. The petitioner argued that these measures, adopted without a prior procedure, without individual justification, and in a context of pressure from the executive branch, led to mass dismissals, forced resignations, and arbitrary transfers of judicial officials, affecting judicial independence and violating due process, the principle of legality, equality before the law, and the right to work, both through collective removal and the imposition of forced retirement based on age.

34. The Commission considered that the alleged victims were in a situation where the available domestic remedies, particularly actions for the protection of constitutional rights and the unconstitutionality action, did not offer minimum guarantees of impartiality or a real possibility of obtaining judicial protection, since the Constitutional Chamber had previously validated the contested decree itself and was composed of judges appointed in a contested process. Based on existing precedent, it identified that any attempt to challenge the regulation or its effects would have been a formality without real effectiveness. It also argued that the context of previous dismissals, institutional pressure, and the absence of objective avenues for review placed the alleged victims in a situation of defenselessness, concluding that the exception in Article 46(2)(a) of the ACHR was applicable and that the petition had been filed within a reasonable time frame. Finally, it found that the alleged facts were not manifestly groundless and could characterize possible violations of Articles 8, 9, 23, 25, and 26 of the Convention, in relation to Articles 1.1 and 2, thus justifying a review on the merits.

- **Petition 2342-17, Colombia, Report No. 210/25, Gerardo María Arellano Becerra and relatives**[4]

35. In this report, the Inter-American Commission deemed admissible for consideration on the merits Articles 4 (right to life), 5 (right to personal integrity), 8 (judicial guarantees), and 25 (judicial protection) of the American Convention on Human Rights due to possible state collusion and impunity in the investigation of the attack perpetrated against an airplane on November 27, 1989, in which Mr. Gerardo María Arellano Becerra died.

36. The IACHR determined that there had been an unjustified delay in the resolution of the criminal proceedings, given the long periods of inactivity in the investigation. Furthermore, in analyzing whether the facts constituted possible human rights violations, the Commission recalled the state's obligations to prevent, investigate, and punish terrorist acts, and noted that there were elements in the case that could involve the direct or indirect participation of state agents in the terrorist attack against the Avianca flight. It also noted that the petitioner questioned certain decisions made during the criminal proceedings that could constitute obstacles or impediments to the punishment of those responsible.

- **P-1009-15, Mexico, Report No. 291/25, Domingo Gutiérrez Mendívil**[5]

37. The petition concerns the authorization and operation of a hazardous waste landfill by the company Cytrar S.A. on the property known as "Las Víboras," located south of Hermosillo, Sonora. Mr. Domingo Gutiérrez Mendívil, as petitioner, argued that this authorization created environmental and public health risks for the inhabitants of the area, and that the State did not provide him with adequate and effective administrative or judicial resources to challenge the legality of the land use, obtain a technical assessment of the risks, or guarantee the judicial protection of the rights involved.

38. According to the information provided, on July 5, 1994, the Hermosillo City Council authorized the land use that allowed for the installation of the Cytrar landfill. In response, the petitioner and other residents filed various complaints with the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) and the Sonora State Human Rights Commission (CEDH). The latter gave rise to recommendations 01/99 and 03/2001, which concluded that the municipal authority had acted without jurisdiction and recommended that the authorization be revoked, recommendations that were not complied with. At the same time, the petitioner filed administrative and judicial appeals, including a direct and an indirect actions for the protection of constitutional rights, the latter of which was processed for almost fourteen years and concluded on February 10, 2015, with the dismissal confirmed by the review court on the basis of lack of legal interest, the untimeliness of the claim, and the collective nature of the risks reported.

39. The Commission considered that the absence of a substantive ruling on the environmental effects of the landfill in the various administrative and judicial instances, as well as the duration of the indirect action for the protection of constitutional rights, could give rise to violations of Articles 8, 25, and 26 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1. In the merits stage, the IACHR will have the opportunity to analyze the adequacy and effectiveness of the judicial remedies available to address complex environmental risks, as well as the State's obligation to guarantee access to environmental justice in the face of activities that could affect the right to a healthy environment of the inhabitants of Hermosillo.

[4] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido, a Colombian national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

[5] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner José Luis Caballero Ochoa, a Mexican national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

- **Petition 1508-17, Colombia, Report 292/25, Remedios and daughter**[6]

40. This case concerns the alleged failure to provide comprehensive care to a teenage victim of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and the possible repetition of these acts. The Commission admitted for consideration on the merits Articles 5 (right to personal integrity), 6 (prohibition of slavery and servitude), 7 (right to personal liberty), 8 (judicial guarantees), 11 (protection of honor and dignity), 19 (rights of the child), 20 (right to nationality), 22 (right to freedom of movement and residence), 24 (equality before the law), 25 (judicial protection), and 26 (economic, social, and cultural rights) of the American Convention; and Article 7 of the Convention of Belém do Pará, to the detriment of Remedios and her daughter.

41. The petitioner reported that Remedios was a Venezuelan teenager with a Colombian father. She was thirteen years old when he took her to Colombia in early 2016, where he sexually exploited her and "sold her in bars." As a result, she became pregnant, and in March 2016, her case came to the attention of the Colombian authorities when she was found in a hospital. She also reported that the authorities acted contrary to the protocols for assisting victims of human trafficking, took steps to prevent Remedios from having an abortion, and deported her to Venezuela, from where she was again transferred to Colombia and lived with her father until the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) ordered, as a protective measure in her favor and that of her newborn daughter, her placement in an educational facility for pregnant and nursing adolescents. Currently, however, the petitioner organization reports that her whereabouts are unknown and there are indications that she may once again be a victim of human trafficking.

42. The Commission held that domestic remedies had been exhausted through a writ of protection filed on behalf of Remedios, in which the Constitutional Court failed to rule on the measures to be taken in cases of human trafficking. It also considered applicable the exception of lack of due process based on the allegations that the case was not prosecuted as human trafficking, but rather as sexual abuse of a minor under the age of fourteen. Finally, the IACHR recalled the State's obligations to care for victims of human trafficking and drew attention to the ongoing debate as to whether the actions of the entities that heard the case complied with international standards in this area and with the adoption of an intersectional approach to gender, children, and migrants.

- **Merits**

43. Below are some of the pronouncements and advances in Inter-American standards developed by the Commission in 2025 in its reports on the merits. These reports are confidential after they are adopted, in accordance with Article 50 of the American Convention and Article 44 of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR. Such reports may be made public until the Commission decides to send them to the Inter-American Court for those States that have recognized its jurisdiction, or their publication in accordance with Article 51 of the American Convention and Article 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR.

- **Rights of indigenous peoples; recognition of legal personality; of their authorities and forms of government; respect for and guarantee of collective property; and of their cultural rights.**

44. In a case related to the rights of indigenous peoples—particularly with regard to the recognition of their forms of organization, their traditional authorities, and their ancestral territory—the Commission elaborated on the standards of self-determination, with special emphasis on the right to autonomy and self-government. In applying the *corpus iuris* on the rights of indigenous peoples and in light of Articles 3 and 23 of the American Convention, it argued that self-determination should be understood as "a catalyst for effective participation in the process of state-building and as a basis for the construction of a new relationship between indigenous peoples and the State." In turn, it explained that this right has a dual dimension that States must guarantee: (i) an internal dimension, which implies the recognition and maintenance of indigenous

[6] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido, a Colombian national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

peoples' own decision-making institutions, the free election of their traditional authorities and, consequently, a State duty of non-intervention; and (ii) an external dimension, which involves the participation of indigenous and tribal peoples, through their authorities and institutions, in decision-making processes on matters that may affect their rights. Similarly, the IACHR noted that Article 3 of the ACHR, interpreted in a collective key, requires recognition of indigenous peoples as collective subjects with the capacity to use and enjoy their communal property, as well as to have equal access to judicial protection against violations of their rights.

- **Duty to guarantee the rights of indigenous communities**

45. The Commission analyzed a case related to the State's failure to fulfill its duty to guarantee the rights of an indigenous community and its members to life; personal integrity; water; health; food; cultural identity; and a healthy environment; as well as to ensure compliance with court rulings issued in favor of the community. In this case, the IACHR ruled on the material and cultural importance of the rights to food and water as a means of guaranteeing other rights of indigenous peoples, such as life, personal integrity, and health. Similarly, it specified that one of the obligations that the State must inevitably assume in its position as guarantor, with the aim of protecting and guaranteeing the right to life, is to create minimum living conditions compatible with human dignity. It also explained that structural discrimination in access to water, food, and health care has a particular and differentiated impact on pregnant and lactating women, children, and older adults, because their circumstances make them more vulnerable to malnutrition and diseases caused by exposure to pollutants.

- **Indigenous communities' right to free, prior, and informed consultation in the context of climate change**

46. In a case alleging the development of a project without prior consultation that could affect an indigenous community, the Commission recalled that it is up to the State to effectively demonstrate that all dimensions of the right to free, prior, and informed consultation were effectively guaranteed. It also emphasized the State's duty to monitor and supervise projects that may affect the rights of indigenous communities in order to guarantee their rights. It also emphasized that, in the face of a phenomenon such as climate change, it is particularly important for the State to take appropriate measures to protect the traditional water sources of indigenous communities, including glaciers.

- **Differentiated environmental reparation for Afro-descendant communities**

47. In a case involving the contamination of a river by a private company to the detriment of an Afro-descendant community, the IACHR considered that, in accordance with Articles 8 and 25 of the American Convention, States must guarantee effective judicial remedies, ensure the enforcement of decisions within a reasonable time, and adopt enhanced measures in the case of historically marginalized Afro-descendant communities. It is also understood that Article 26 recognizes the right to a healthy environment, with individual and collective dimensions, which requires the conservation of ecosystems and differentiated redress for environmental damage that compromises the subsistence of these communities. Similarly, Article 26 protects the rights to health, food, and drinking water, imposing on the State the obligation to provide adequate and culturally relevant services and to adopt a differentiated approach to disproportionate impacts resulting from polluting activities, guaranteeing comprehensive redress and future protection for affected communities.

- **Health effects caused by aerial spraying of chemicals**

48. The case analyzes the State's responsibility for damage caused to the health and property of individuals as a result of aerial spraying of chemicals. In this case, the IACHR emphasized that the principle of prevention of environmental damage is part of customary international law and entails the obligation of States to take the necessary *ex ante* measures to prevent environmental damage. It emphasized that, by virtue of this principle, States are obliged to use all means at their disposal to prevent activities carried out under their jurisdiction from causing significant damage to the environment. The Commission also reiterated the Inter-American standard that it is not necessary to demonstrate a direct causal link between acquired diseases and

exposure to pollutants, and that the State bears the burden of proving that it is not responsible for the existence of high levels of pollution or that these do not constitute a significant risk to people.

- **Failure to prevent forced displacement**

49. In a case addressing the international responsibility of the State for failing in its duty to prevent situations of forced displacement, the IACHR reiterated that when a State is aware that persons are in a situation of real and imminent risk, it must take reasonable measures within its power to avoid that risk. The Commission added that the obligation to take appropriate measures in the face of a risk of forced displacement is of particular importance when it may affect persons in a situation of special vulnerability, such as children. It therefore emphasized the importance in such cases of adopting prevention and protection measures with a focus on children. Similarly, it emphasized that a community organized in stilt houses is placed in a particularly vulnerable situation if it is subject to displacement due to the cultural shock that moving from the water to a space on dry land can represent, highlighting the importance of specific actions by the State that take this situation into account.

- **Internal displacement**

50. The IACHR heard a case concerning human settlements formed as a result of internal displacement. In that case, it established that States must avoid eviction, relocation, or any other displacement of persons remaining in the settlement before they can return to their homes or are offered another place of residence that meets international standards. It also emphasized that States have a duty of enhanced due diligence with regard to the processing of appeals filed by victims of displacement, and that it is the obligation of the authorities to ensure that the measures ordered in such appeals are complied with and contribute effectively to ending the situation of rights violations.

- **Comprehensive protection and reparation for women defenders in situations of displacement**

51. The Commission resolved a case in the context of forced displacement that particularly affects women human rights defenders. It understood that in this context, the State's duty to guarantee the rights to judicial guarantees and protection, personal integrity, and comprehensive reparation requires a reinforced approach to due diligence, with a gender focus. This means that States must remove institutional barriers that hinder the early reporting and investigation of acts of displacement, sexual violence, threats, and other forms of harassment, avoiding practices that revictimize victims and ensuring effective investigations with a gender-based approach. It also emphasized that the duty of prevention requires the adoption of adequate and effective measures when there are known or foreseeable risks, considering the exacerbated risk faced by displaced women, including sexual violence, threats against them and their families, and the increased burden of care resulting from conflict and forced mobility. Finally, the IACHR affirmed that the right to comprehensive reparation includes ensuring the full compliance of plans and agreements previously made with victims, which requires concrete and verifiable actions that demonstrate the state's willingness to restore violated rights and ensure guarantees of non-repetition, especially through the effective implementation of orders and policies issued to protect displaced women.

- **Decent working conditions in the maquila sector with a gender focus**

52. The IACHR affirmed that the lack of effective measures to mitigate the occupational risks of women in poverty in work contexts, in accordance with Articles 24 and 26 of the American Convention, may constitute intersectional discrimination, in response to which the State must adopt specific measures to reverse the comparative disadvantages that women in poverty face in terms of their ability to access decent working conditions in the maquila sector. Thus, the Commission stated that this implies, among other things, that States have a reinforced duty to prevent occupational risks when situations of vulnerability such as those described are identified, and therefore must guarantee women's rights, particularly so that they are not objectified in

production processes and, on the contrary, so that specific data-based policies are adopted to mitigate situations of vulnerability and react in a timely manner to prevent the materialization of risks to their rights.

- **Judicial protection of defenders of the rights of transgender and intersex persons**

53. The case refers to the State's failure to provide protection to a defender of the rights of transgender and intersex persons in the face of threats and attacks against them. In this context, the IACHR emphasized that the failure to diligently investigate reports of threats and harassment constitutes a violation of the State's obligation to guarantee the right to personal integrity and its duty to adopt protection and prevention measures. It also noted that when an LGBTI person or someone perceived as such is assaulted or killed, the State must conduct an investigation to determine whether the crime was motivated by discrimination.

- **Political rights and equality before the law in the registration of candidates in an electoral process**

54. In a case involving the refusal to register an independent candidate in an electoral process, the Commission insisted that the rights to be elected and to hold public office must be exercised under conditions of equality and stressed the importance of the law being applied uniformly to all candidates in such circumstances. In a more detailed analysis, the IACHR noted that, in principle, it is compatible with the American Convention to require a number of supporting signatures as a requirement for the registration of independent candidates, and that States are not necessarily obliged to regulate the procedure for verifying this requirement by law but may do so through regulations. In light of these standards, it concluded that the use of different verification methods to assess compliance with a registration requirement violates political rights and equality before the law.

- **Removal of parliamentarians**

55. In a case involving the removal of individuals from parliamentary positions to which they had been popularly elected, the IACHR specified that, in order to be compatible with the State's international obligations, a restriction on political rights must observe the principles of legality, necessity, and proportionality. In this regard, it stated that, even when based on a rule, a sanction does not comply with the principle of legality if that rule does not establish with a minimum of clarity the conditions and circumstances under which political rights may be restricted in its application. It also reiterated that, in accordance with Article 23.2 of the American Convention, the law may regulate the exercise of political rights exclusively by conviction by a competent judge in criminal proceedings. The Commission also emphasized that the arbitrary dismissal of persons who enjoy job security for the period for which they were elected affects not only their political rights but also their right to work. Finally, with regard to due process, it held that the imposition of disciplinary sanctions without the persons sanctioned having been previously heard, informed of the existence of accusations or charges against them, or provided with opportunities to prepare or present a defense is incompatible with the State's international obligations.

- **Dismissal and permanent disqualification of a deputy**

56. In a case concerning the removal of a person from a position to which they had been elected by popular vote, as well as their permanent disqualification from holding that position, the IACHR recalled the Inter-American standard that, pursuant to Article 23(2) of the American Convention, penalties of this nature may only be imposed by means of a judicial decision (judgment) by a competent judge in criminal proceedings. It also highlighted the seriousness of the penalties of removal from office and permanent disqualification for popularly elected officials, as they imply permanent separation from office. In addition, it explained that such measures not only affect political rights but also the right to job security. Finally, the Commission established that in cases where measures of this nature are imposed as sanctions, the guarantee of the right to a comprehensive review of the conviction provided for in Article 8.2.h of the American Convention applies.

- **Political rights and guarantees applicable in the context of proceedings for the removal of popularly elected public officials**

57. In a case involving the removal of a high-ranking elected official through a coup d'état, the IACHR referred to the relationship between democracy and the exercise and enjoyment of human rights. It emphasized that its validity in the American States constitutes an international legal obligation. It also recalled the standards related to the guarantees that must be observed in removal proceedings such as those mentioned above, highlighting, among others: the principle of legality; the duty to provide reasons; the presumption of innocence; the rights to defense; and to a proceeding conducted by competent, independent, and impartial authorities. The Commission reaffirmed the representative nature of public office and recalled that, according to case law, democratically elected officials may only be removed from office by a judgment issued by a competent judge in a criminal proceeding. Finally, it reiterated Inter-American jurisprudence, according to which job security is related to the content of Article 23(1)(c) of the American Convention on Human Rights, since the right to access public office, under conditions of general equality, must be accompanied by effective protection of tenure in office. In the specific case, the IACHR observed that the authority that dismissed the senior official did not have the legal power to do so, such that there was no doubt that the removal did not comply with the guarantee of competence and arbitrarily affected his political rights, as well as his right to work.

- **Political rights, due process, and suspension of elected officials**

58. The Commission ruled on a case in which it had to examine the suspension of an elected official following criminal charges, as well as his inability to exercise the mandate for which he had been democratically elected. The merits report refers to Inter-American standards on political rights and determines that the current regulatory framework established automatic suspension in the event of criminal charges, without review mechanisms and with effects that continued even after the rule was declared unconstitutional. The IACHR considered that this measure operated as an early punishment imposed without judicial intervention or due process.

- **Death penalty and conditions of detention**

59. In a case involving a person sentenced to death and experiencing poor conditions of detention, the Commission emphasized the high level of scrutiny that must be exercised to guarantee the rights to life, personal integrity, and due process. It also elaborated on the special duties and responsibilities of State authorities to protect persons with mental disabilities. In this regard, it explained that, in accordance with this duty, authorities must review all documentation and information in their possession that relates to the mental health of a person accused of a crime punishable by death, and that the State must provide persons accused of such crimes with the means to obtain an independent evaluation of their mental health. The IACHR also affirmed that the evaluation of the legal assistance provided by the State to a person accused of a crime punishable by death must be carried out taking into consideration that context and the magnitude of what is at stake. In addition, it stipulated that executing a person as a result of judicial proceedings that were not conducted in accordance with their rights constitutes a serious and deliberate violation of the right to life.

- **Rights of persons deprived of liberty; pretrial detention; end of imprisonment; and judicial guarantees**

60. In a matter related to the conditions of deprivation of liberty of a person, the Commission developed standards regarding the scope of Article 7 of the American Convention. In application of the international *corpus juris* on personal liberty and in accordance with Article 29 of the aforementioned instrument, the Commission highlighted the relevance of the criteria of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights regarding the dignified treatment of persons deprived of liberty and the requirement that all sentences serve the purpose of reform and social rehabilitation. It also stated that no prison system can be based exclusively on retribution and that, even in cases of serious crimes, States must guarantee effective mechanisms for reviewing sentences that allow for the

possibility of social reintegration to be evaluated. It also affirmed that any State decision affecting personal liberty must be duly justified, since a lack of justification constitutes a form of arbitrariness. In this regard, it held that the authorities must set forth the facts, reasons, and rules on which their decision is based, especially given the intensity of scrutiny required for any restriction on a right as essential as personal liberty. Finally, the IACHR recalled that the analysis of deprivation of liberty must be carried out in accordance with the principle of equality and non-discrimination. Along these lines, it emphasized that States have a duty to bring their domestic law and practices into line with their obligations under the Convention, which includes the exercise of conventionality control by all authorities.

- **Right to personal integrity of adolescents deprived of liberty and duty of enhanced due diligence in the investigation of possible torture, cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment**

61. In a case involving torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, as well as the isolation of adolescents deprived of liberty in a center for the enforcement of socio-educational measures, the Commission reiterated the Inter-American standards on the obligations of States regarding the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents deprived of liberty, governed by the principle of the best interests of the child. It also recalled the State's special position as guarantor of persons deprived of liberty, which has the legal consequence of a rebuttable presumption that the State is internationally responsible for violations of the rights to life and integrity of persons in its custody. It also noted that children and adolescents are in a particularly vulnerable situation when they are deprived of liberty, which implies specific duties on the part of the State. In this regard, the IACHR reaffirmed that, in structuring the criminal justice system applicable to adolescents, States are obliged to incorporate an approach that takes into account the specific characteristics and particular needs of this population and prioritizes prevention and protection. Furthermore, it recalled that the absolute and non-derogable nature of the prohibition of physical and psychological torture belongs to the domain of international *jus cogens*. In turn, the Commission mentioned that the particularly vulnerable situation of young persons deprived of liberty requires that the provisions and guarantees aimed at preventing torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment be applied with greater rigor and scope, and that a stricter threshold be applied to determine the degree of suffering that may constitute torture in the case of children and adolescents. In this context, based on international *corpus iuris*, it noted that the imposition of solitary confinement on adolescents should not be used as a punishment and may constitute cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or even torture. Finally, the IACHR specified the standards under which the State must investigate acts that may constitute torture or ill-treatment and emphasized the State's duty of enhanced due diligence in the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of those responsible for possible acts of torture when the alleged victims are children and adolescents.

- **Obligations of States toward children and adolescents in situations of human mobility who are deprived of liberty in detention centers administered by private entities**

62. The IACHR referred to a case involving physical and sexual abuse suffered by eleven unaccompanied migrant children detained in a center administered by a private company contracted by a State. In that context, it elaborated on Inter-American standards on the detention of children in an irregular migratory situation, the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment during detention, as well as the State's obligation to prevent and investigate any act of ill-treatment. In addition, it held that prolonged arbitrary detention constitutes cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. In order to analyze the attribution of international responsibility, the Commission referred to the Articles on State responsibility for Internationally Wrongful Acts, precedents from the International Court of Justice, as well as other international courts such as the European Court of Human Rights and international human rights protection bodies, to emphasize the duty of States to adequately supervise facilities administered by private companies, which is reinforced by the State's position as guarantor and the principle of the best interests of the child. Finally, the Commission recalled the duties to prevent and investigate acts of torture and ill-treatment suffered by victims, especially adolescents.

- **Judicial protection against possible acts of discrimination by private educational institutions**

63. The Commission heard a case related to the denial of access to education at a private educational institution to a child with a disability. In this context, it reiterated that, in cases alleging acts of discrimination by private individuals, it is incumbent upon the administrative and/or judicial authorities to monitor the actions of those individuals in light of Inter-American and international standards. It also noted that once the complainant has demonstrated the existence of evidence of discrimination, the burden of proof must be reversed. This is because the person who allegedly committed the act of discrimination is normally the one who has the means to disprove the occurrence of discriminatory treatment or to offer an objective justification for the difference in treatment. In this regard, it established that effective judicial protection implies that it is incumbent upon national authorities to require the accused entity or person to demonstrate that their actions did not have a discriminatory purpose or effect, or that there was an objective and reasonable justification for those actions. Finally, it emphasized that proceedings to resolve alleged crimes committed against children, by their very nature, must be expeditious.

- **Right to life and obligations of States in contexts of organized crime and citizen insecurity, and use of force in entertainment gatherings**

64. In a case involving two massacres committed by gang members and a third perpetrated with the intervention and acquiescence of police officers during a soccer match, the IACHR emphasized the obligations of States in contexts of organized crime and citizen insecurity, and reaffirmed Inter-American standards on the use of force, highlighting their application in the context of entertainment gatherings. With regard to the former, it underscored, among other aspects, the State's obligation to guarantee security and maintain public order, as well as its duty to prevent, repress, and investigate acts of violence. With regard to the latter, in addition to reiterating Inter-American standards relating to the principles of legality, legitimate purpose, necessity, and proportionality that should govern the use of force by police officers, it stressed the importance of also observing the principle of due diligence in cases of entertainment events, such as a soccer game. This principle requires that, when preparing and executing an operation in such circumstances, all necessary measures be taken to avoid the use of force or, if it is unavoidable, to minimize its adverse effects.

- **Duty of due diligence in investigating acts of political violence; right to peace in relation to the exercise of other human rights**

65. In a case related to the death of a presidential candidate who had State protection, the Commission analyzed the State's obligations to conduct investigations with due diligence to clarify acts of political violence. It also delved into the scope of the right to peace and its recognition and relationship with other rights in the American Convention. To this end, it evaluated treaties on the subject, case law from regional courts, and conclusions from United Nations bodies, and considered the right to peace in its individual and collective dimensions, together with political rights, freedom of expression, and freedom of association.

- **Rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection, and obligations of States in relation to the enforcement of pension judgments**

66. In a case concerning non-compliance with a pension-related judgment, the Commission reiterated the Inter-American standards on effective judicial protection and compliance with domestic judgments in matters involving older persons. In this regard, it stated that States must guarantee mechanisms that allow for the full and timely enforcement of their judgments, since their effectiveness depends on it. It also stated that there is a reinforced criterion of speed in the obligation to comply with decisions that favor older persons, based on their situation of special vulnerability. The Commission also reaffirmed that the guarantee of a reasonable time frame is applicable to the enforcement of final court rulings, emphasizing in this context the particular effects that the passage of time has on the legal situation of older persons. On the other hand, the Commission highlighted the impact of non-compliance with domestic rulings that protect pension rights on the rights to property and social security.

c. Merits reports published

67. During 2025, in accordance with the provisions of Article 47 of its Rules of Procedure and Article 51 of the American Convention, the Commission decided to publish the following 14 merits reports:

- Report No. 113/25, Case 12.855, Analía Verónica Tapia and Family (Argentina); [7]
- Report No. 112/25, Case 13.092, Héctor Leonardo Kemelmajen and Rafael Chaikin (Argentina) [8]
- Report No. 111/25, Case 13.079, Diego Armando Pacheco (Argentina) [9]
- Report No. 110/25, Case 12.935, Hebe Sánchez de Améndola and daughters (Argentina) [10]
- Report No. 109/25, Case 12.692, M.E.F. (Argentina) [11]
- Report No. 45/25, Case 13.055, Julio César Rito De Los Santos et al. (Argentina) [12]
- Report No. 17/25, Case 12.704, Ramón Nicolás Guarino (Argentina) [13]
- Report No. 241/25, Case 12.636, Edgar Quiroga, Gildardo Fuentes, and Victoria Delgado Anaya (Colombia) [14]
- Report No. 114/25, Case 12.491 Gustavo Sastoque Alfonso (Colombia) [15]
- Report No. 89/25, Case 12.936, Oscar Alfonso Morales Díaz (Colombia) [16]
- Report No. 37/25, Case 12.952, Mariela del Carmen Echeverría de Sanguino (Colombia) [17]
- Report No. 60/25, Case 14.042, Anastasio Hernández Rojas and family (United States) [18]
- Report No. 251/25, Case 14.264, Maykel Castillo Pérez (Cuba).
- Report No. 288/25, Case 13.866, Sarah Lyn Langton and family (Venezuela).

68. In addition, considering the provisions of the 2024 annual report and the available resources, progress was made in processing the reports that the IACHR decided not to refer to the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court (see *below*, para. 117); or, in the case of those States that have not recognized the jurisdiction of that Court, in accordance with the provisions of Article 47 of the Rules of Procedure. In the first half of 2026, the Commission will continue to prioritize the publication of the merits reports that are currently at this stage.

d. Activities involving petition and case management and decision-making

69. Within the framework of its Strategic Plan 2023-2027, the Commission continued to take measures to promote more timely access to Inter-American justice. These actions are aimed, on the one hand, at increasing productivity in final decisions on pending cases and reducing the caseload; and, on the other hand, to implement its Policy on Prioritizing Petitions and Cases (Resolution No. 4/23) in order to improve

[7] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this case.

[8] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this case.

[9] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this case.

[10] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the discussion or decision of this case.

[11] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the discussion or decision of this case.

[12] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the discussion or decision of this case.

[13] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the discussion or decision of this case.

[14] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido, a Colombian national, did not participate in the discussion or decision of this case.

[15] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido, a Colombian national, did not participate in the discussion or decision of this case.

[16] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido, a Colombian national, did not participate in the discussion or decision of this case.

[17] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido, a Colombian national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this case.

[18] In accordance with Article 17.3 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido, a resident of the United States, did not participate in the discussion or decision of this report.

management and expedite decisions on the most urgent, serious, and high-impact cases in the Inter-American system, given the existing procedural backlog.

70. During 2025, the IACHR registered a total of 4,634 matters in its portfolio of petitions and cases. In this context, the work of the Processing Section, responsible for guiding the procedure in accordance with the applicable regulatory provisions, achieved high productivity by sending 10,012 communications, which allowed 78.5% of the portfolio of petitions and cases to be ready for a substantive decision. These figures translate into an estimated monthly average of 834 notifications, reflecting a sustained productivity trend comparable to the levels reached in 2024. [19] This sustained effort aims to reduce waiting times in the processing of information; ensure predictability in the procedure; and guarantee that the Commission has duly substantiated case files, in accordance with the relevant procedural rules, for the adoption of reports in contentious matters under its consideration.

71. Regarding strengthening internal processes and in order to streamline docket management in both stages, capacities were reinforced to ensure the periodic review of petitions and cases, with a view to encouraging the participation of the parties and streamlining the procedure. In terms of admissibility, the monitoring of those petitions in which the State did not submit its initial response within the time limit set forth in Article 30.3 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure was strengthened, and the corresponding request was reiterated with a view to the possible application of Article 36.3, in accordance with Resolution No. 1/16 on measures to reduce procedural backlog. Meanwhile, in the merits stage, monitoring was strengthened for cases in which the petitioning party did not submit additional observations within the time limit established in Article 37 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, reiterating the request sent and warning of the possibility of archive pursuant to Article 42, should the lack of response persist. Although with different effects depending on the stage, both strategies contribute to making the procedure more dynamic and ensuring the timely intervention of the parties.

72. In 2025, the consolidation of the initial study and the admissibility of petitions into a single technical team—already initiated in 2024—generated significant progress, reflected in a more agile and efficient review of petitions as well as the beginning of the task of applying the prioritization criteria established in Resolution 4/2023. These measures are intended to maintain an adequate initial review of petitions within the year in which they were received and to achieve greater consistency and coherence between the initial review and admissibility decisions. It is important to note that, of the 170 admissibility reports, 27 correspond to petitions diagnosed as relating to urgent matters, mainly concerning children who could face situations of violence or whose family ties could be irreparably affected. This will enable these matters to move on to the merits stage and obtain a timelier response.

73. Among the most notable advances are those achieved in the merits stage, as 2025 was the first year in which the three case coordination units created in 2024 operated throughout the entire year. These technical areas consolidated work and organizational methodologies aimed at increasing productivity. This technical strengthening enabled the Commission to adopt an unprecedented number of merits reports, maintaining a sustained upward trend in the production of substantive decisions with greater impact for the region [20]. Thus, the Commission managed to increase the number of merits decisions produced five years ago by 97.01%.

74. During 2025, the IACHR made chronological progress in the study of cases, giving special priority to those linked to serious human rights violations, without prejudice to the cases prioritized by the Plenary in accordance with the categories established in Resolution No. 4/23, through which the IACHR adopted its Policy on the Prioritization of Petitions and Cases. The implementation of this policy—designed to ensure transparency, predictability, efficiency, and active participation by States and civil society in the

[19] It should be noted that in 2025, significant challenges included the temporary suspension of financial resources during the first half of the year, as well as periods of slowness in the "GAIA" system, which was worked on to restore its optimal performance.

[20] In 2024, the Inter-American Commission adopted 121 merits reports (IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II: The Petitions and Cases System, Friendly Settlements, and Precautionary Measures, para. 20). In 2023, the IACHR adopted a total of 100 merits reports (IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II: The Petition and Case System, Friendly Settlements, and Precautionary Measures, para. 20).

planning of petitions and cases—has helped to optimize and expedite the handling of the most urgent, serious, and relevant matters for the Inter-American system.

75. All cases with the procedural process completed as of the date of planning related to urgent matters concerning persons sentenced to death were resolved. Cases related to urgent medical care for children and adolescents were also planned and decided, as well as those in which a delay could cause irreparable damage to family ties. For the first time, the IACHR is implementing procedures to ensure the participation of children in matters that involve them. In particular, the Commission conducted the first consultation with psychological and specialized support to ensure the participation of a girl in a case related to her international return.

76. Furthermore, the IACHR continued to decide cases related to circumstantial or structural situations, or cases that developed Inter-American public order in accordance with the categories of Resolution No. 4/23. The planning process for these cases was participatory and open, including a space for receiving input from States and other civil society actors, aimed at identifying issues that would contribute to the strengthening and development of Inter-American public policy. The Commission values and appreciates the contributions received for the implementation of the prioritization policy, which were weighed by the Plenary together with the technical contributions of the special, thematic, country, precautionary measures, and follow-up on recommendations rapporteurships, for the planning of cases for the 2024–2025 period. On June 4, 2025, the Commission presented the first results of this initial implementation exercise, highlighting the importance of these contributions.

77. This prioritization made it possible to address cases related to structural situations or current issues, such as discrimination in private educational institutions; the rights of defenders of the rights of transgender and intersex persons; and the right of indigenous communities to free, prior, and informed consultation in the context of climate change. In turn, cases of particular relevance to the development of standards that strengthen Inter-American public order were resolved, including those relating to the obligations of States towards children and adolescents in situations of human mobility; persons deprived of liberty in privately run detention centers; standards applicable to the protection of persons in situations of forced displacement; restrictions on the political rights of parliamentarians or popularly elected high-ranking officials; as well as the duty of due diligence in the investigation of acts of political violence and their link to the right to peace and the exercise of other human rights. Further details on these decisions can be found in the section on relevant decisions in this report.

78. The first exercise in implementing the prioritization policy has shown that, with a strategic focus on case resolution, the Commission is not only moving toward strengthening a more timely justice, but also guiding States in adopting legislative changes and modifying key State practices to ensure the protection of human rights in the region, thereby making it possible to prevent new human rights violations and provide legal certainty regarding legislation or institutional practices.

79. Within this framework, and in application of Resolution No. 4/23, the Commission carried out activities aimed at implementing the second exercise of the Policy for Prioritizing Petitions and Cases, with a view to planning cases for the year 2026. Following the results achieved in its first exercise, in June 2025 the IACHR, in a renewed commitment to a participatory and open process of identifying priority issues, once again opened a space to receive contributions from States and civil society acting as petitioners. The purpose was to identify cases with the potential to strengthen Inter-American public order and consolidate the scope of human rights standards relevant to the region, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 7 of the aforementioned resolution. A total of 95 contributions were received. Likewise, as approved by the Commission and following the practice of the previous exercise, the special, thematic, and country rapporteurships, together with the precautionary measures and recommendation follow-up teams, conducted a study of the case docket and presented 111 case proposals that could contribute to developing Inter-American public policy or to addressing current and structural issues in the States of the region.

80. The Commission will continue to systematize and directly study these proposals to conclude its case planning exercise in 2026. It is expected that next year, depending on the resources available, the IACHR will be able to extend the application of this policy to the docket of petitions in the admissibility stage, which will enable it to have a broader and more strategic view of its entire docket of petitions and cases.

81. Furthermore, it should be noted that the Commission continues to implement its Resolution 1/16 on measures to reduce the procedural backlog, in order to apply Article 36.3 of its Rules of Procedure, which allows for more expeditious processing of cases by deferring the admissibility review until the merits debate. In 2025, the Commission approved 95 reports through the application of the aforementioned resolution. These cases are based, on the one hand, on the need to take decisive measures to reduce procedural delays and ensure that the passage of time does not prevent the Commission's decisions from having a useful effect and, on the other, on the objective of acting more swiftly in serious and urgent cases, as provided for in Article 36.3.b of the Rules of Procedure.

82. With the aim of continuing to strengthen the technical capacity of the staff responsible for managing petitions and cases, in 2025 the Continuing Education Program in Human Rights for the team of the Assistant Executive Secretary for the Petitions and Cases System was continued. The program has included a series of training activities taught by experts, aimed at staff, with the objective of strengthening and updating their knowledge on relevant topics and standards. Noteworthy activities include three workshops on *"Training in the incorporation of a gender and intersectional perspective in matters submitted to the IACHR,"* led by expert Leticia Bonifaz; an activity on *"Crimes against Humanity: Dialogues and (Dis)agreements with International Humanitarian Law,"* led by expert Susana SáCouto; as well as discussions led by specialists from the Assistant Executive Secretary for Petitions and Cases. The latter included activities on *"Cases before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights,"* which promoted dialogue on matters currently pending before the court; and *"Access to justice in the face of impunity,"* which focused on procedural legal institutions that hinder the investigation of serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity, such as the statute of limitations. The newsletter on the activities of the Assistant Executive Secretary for Petitions and Cases has also continued to be published, sharing information among technical teams on the Inter-American standards developed in the reports on admissibility and merits approved, as well as the judgments and hearings held before the Inter-American Court, among other topics.

83. Finally, an inventory of petitions and cases was carried out at the beginning of the year, through the verification, classification, and purging of physical and digital files, which made it possible to establish the correspondence between both formats and confirm a sustained trend toward digitization. As of February, of that year, the docket contained 4,785 files, of which 2,570 corresponded to the admissibility stage (70% digital and 30% physical) and 2,215 to the merits stage (22% digital and 78% physical). This has resulted in greater agility in the processing and accessibility of the files in custody of the IACHR. In this context, 150 boxes of inactive physical files were purged and prepared for eventual transfer to the Central Archives, all duly identified to ensure their custody, traceability, and preservation.

3. Archive

84. With regard to petitions under initial review, the Commission, as part of its annual docket management exercise, individually examined cases in which, having previously notified the petitioner of the filing[21], no response had been received. Consequently, on December 4, 2025, the IACHR decided to definitively archive 48 petitions under initial review. In this regard, it should be noted that in almost half of the archived petitions (48%), the initial complaint constitutes the petitioner's only action before the Commission.

[21] With regard to the criterion set forth in Article 42.1.b of the Rules of Procedure, the IACHR considers procedural inactivity on the part of the petitioner for more than two years in petitions under initial review, with a decision to proceed, to be unjustified. Another serious indication of lack of interest in the processing of a petition, under the terms of the aforementioned article, is the failure to respond to a request made for the purpose of completing the relevant parts of a complaint for eventual notification to the State.

85. Likewise, on December 23, 2025, the IACHR archived 254 petitions and cases in contentious proceedings, in accordance with Article 42 of its Rules of Procedure. Except in those situations where the petitioner expressly withdrew the petition in accordance with Article 41 of the same Rules of Procedure, the Commission provided warning of the archive without having received any response.

86. In this regard, it should be noted that, of the total number of cases archived, 155 petitions were in the admissibility stage, representing 5% of the docket at that stage; 98 cases were in the merits stage, equivalent to 4% of the docket in the merits stage; and one case was being processed under the friendly settlement procedure.

87. Regarding petitions archived at the admissibility stage, it should be noted that, of the 155 petitions archived, 124 (80%) showed procedural activity only during the initial review stage; once the start of the contentious proceedings had been notified, no further action was taken by the petitioner. The average time elapsed from receipt of the petition to notification of the start of proceedings to the State was 3 years and 7 months. There were also nine withdrawals, for various reasons, including the lack of substance to the allegations or a lack of interest in continuing with the proceedings, given that favorable decisions had been obtained at the domestic level or that some reparation had been obtained that made it moot to continue the proceedings before the IACHR.

88. Regarding the cases archived at the merits stage, it should be noted that in 42 of the 98 cases (42.85%), there was no procedural activity on the part of the petitioner after the State was notified of the commencement of proceedings. At this stage, the cases were closed mainly due to the petitioner's failure to submit additional observations on the merits, as provided for in Article 37.1 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, which accounted for 79% of the cases closed. Likewise, in 13% of the cases, the closure was due to procedural inactivity for more than three years, and in the remaining 8%, it was due to withdrawals. Of the latter, it was noted that in some cases the decision not to proceed with the complaint was linked to harassment and fear of reprisals by the alleged victims and/or their representatives, allegedly attributable to State officials or undertaken with their collaboration or acquiescence. In this regard, States are reminded that the right of individuals to access and resort to the Inter-American Human Rights System implies the obligation to guarantee such access in conditions free from pressure, intimidation, or reprisals of any kind.

89. It is important to remember that, since 2018, the IACHR considers it necessary to confirm the petitioner's interest in continuing with a proceeding when there has been a period of inactivity for three years. This is relevant to ensure that the reasons that gave rise to the petition continue to exist over time, to keep the proceedings up to date, and thereby to ensure that the IACHR can concentrate its available resources on cases that are active. In the absence of such confirmation, the Commission may proceed to close the case. In turn, the Commission has understood the failure to submit observations on the merits by the petitioner, a requirement under Article 37.1 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure, as a serious indication of lack of interest that may lead to the case being closed under the terms of Article 42.1.b of the same instrument.

90. The following is a list of petitions under consideration that the Commission decided to close in 2025.

a. Petitions under initial review

No.	State	Petition	Year	Stage of Proceedings
1	Barbados	P-2632-19	2019	Initial Review
2	Bolivia	P-1112-24	2024	Initial Review
3	Brazil	P-1925-21	2021	Initial Review
4	Canada	P-1288-23	2023	Initial Review
5	Chile	P-1004-19	2019	Initial Review

6	Chile	P-1638-19	2019	Initial Review
7	Chile	P-339-19	2019	Initial Review
8	Chile	P-943-23	2023	Initial Review
9	Colombia	P-786-15	2015	Initial Review
10	Colombia	P-616-17	2017	Initial Review
11	Colombia	P-2278-18	2018	Initial Review
12	Colombia	P-2814-18	2018	Initial Review
13	Colombia	P-1312-19	2019	Initial Review
14	Colombia	P-1593-19	2019	Initial Review
15	Colombia	P-318-19	2019	Initial Review
16	Colombia	P-1276-20	2020	Initial Review
17	Colombia	P-1932-21	2021	Initial Review
18	Colombia	P-929-21	2021	Initial Review
19	Colombia	P-987-21	2021	Initial Review
20	Colombia	P-472-22	2022	Initial Review
21	Colombia	P-1891-23	2023	Initial Review
22	Colombia	P-1332-24	2024	Initial Review
23	Colombia	P-1938-24	2024	Initial Review
24	Colombia	P-2069-24	2024	Initial Review
25	Colombia	P-455-24	2024	Initial Review
26	Costa Rica	P-95-24	2024	Initial Review
27	Ecuador	P-2441-20	2020	Initial Review
28	Mexico	P-609-08	2008	Initial Review
29	Mexico	P-400-14	2014	Initial Review
30	Mexico	P-562-15	2015	Initial Review
31	Mexico	P-1940-19	2019	Initial Review
32	Mexico	P-325-19	2019	Initial Review
33	Mexico	P-577-20	2020	Initial Review
34	Mexico	P-974-20	2020	Initial Review
35	Mexico	P-457-21	2021	Initial Review
36	Mexico	P-1107-23	2023	Initial Review
37	Mexico	P-1669-23	2023	Initial Review
38	Mexico	P-1549-24	2024	Initial Review
39	Nicaragua	P-795-25	2025	Initial Review
40	Panama	P-785-22	2022	Initial Review
41	Paraguay	P-1459-21	2021	Initial Review
42	Peru	P-1341-20	2020	Initial Review
43	Peru	P-2286-22	2022	Initial Review

44	Peru	P-2235-23	2023	Initial Review
45	United States	P-1961-17	2017	Initial Review
46	United States	P-2970-19	2019	Initial Review
47	Venezuela	P-480-20	2020	Initial Review
48	Venezuela	P-1443-22	2022	Initial Review

b. Petitions on admissibility and cases on the merits stage, pending

No.	State	Petition or Case No.	Year	Name	Stage of Proceedings
1	Argentina	P-124-08	2008	Andrés Florentino Ceberio	Admissibility
2	Argentina	P-1664-12	2012	Jorge Pablo Gómez	Admissibility
3	Argentina	P-469-15	2015	Pablo Adrián Ávila	Admissibility
4	Argentina	P-1604-15	2015	Daniel Dionisio Rivero	Admissibility
5	Argentina	P-38-16	2016	Antonio Enrique Rojas	Admissibility
6	Argentina	P-326-16	2016	Eduardo Antonio Romero Lascano	Admissibility
7	Argentina	P-1989-17	2017	Francisco Antonio Diaz	Admissibility
8	Argentina	P-845-17	2017	Ramón Leonardo López Arismendi	Admissibility
9	Argentina	P-1876-17	2017	Nélida Alicia Figueroa	Admissibility
10	Argentina	P-574-18	2018	Gustavo Oscar Trebucq	Admissibility
11	Argentina	P-598-18	2018	Felix Cayetano Lopez	Admissibility
12	Argentina	P-1323-18	2018	Liliana Aurora Duarte, Nahiara Nuñez, Brenda Nuñez	Admissibility
13	Argentina	P-1167-20	2020	Andrea Rossana Bellesi	Admissibility
14	Argentina	P-2188-21	2021	Bin Ding	Admissibility
15	Argentina	P-1089-21	2021	Javier Antonio Castaño, Salvador Domingo Ross, Ana Rosa Escudé	Admissibility
16	Argentina	P-934-21	2021	Francisco Abel Reyes Rosales	Admissibility
17	Argentina	P-469-21	2021	Gonzalo Alberto Paulero Jaime, Fernanda Lucrecia Cardozo	Admissibility
18	Argentina	P-1446-21	2021	M. I. D. M. y familia	Admissibility
19	Argentina	P-568-21	2021	Horacio Oscar Valentini, Liliana del Carmen Lomazzi	Admissibility
20	Argentina	13.075	2004	Francisco Wenner	Merits
21	Argentina	13.091	2005	Eugenio Figueroa	Merits
22	Argentina	14.097	2005	Carlos Alberto Sablich y otras	Merits
23	Argentina	14.893	2006	Raul Franklin Buganem y otros	Merits
24	Argentina	14.394	2010	Eduardo Ezra Saiegh	Merits
25	Argentina	13.701	2011	Ramón Alfredo Martínez, Elías Eudosio Villafañe	Merits
26	Argentina	15.428	2012	Omar Rodolfo Randone	Merits
27	Argentina	13.619	2013	Sebastian Alejandro Leyes	Merits
28	Argentina	15.093	2015	Antonino D'Amico y Pascual Isaac Manchineles	Merits

29	Argentina	15.136	2016	Eduardo Saiegh	Merits
30	Barbados	P-1570-19	2019	Jamal Omar Henry	Admissibility
31	Barbados	14.100	2017	Dwnye Omar Severin, Jabari Sensimania Nervais	Merits
32	Barbados	14.953	2020	Corey Jefferson Rollins	Merits
33	Bolivia	P-1500-17	2017	Roger Ivan Alvarez Calla	Admissibility
34	Brazil	P-214-15	2015	Ruth Gomes de Sá	Admissibility
35	Brazil	P-1873-16	2016	Helio Reis de Souza e outros	Admissibility
36	Brazil	P-329-17	2017	André Gomes Cardoso Baliera	Admissibility
37	Brazil	P-778-18	2018	Bernardo Dayrell Pedroso e Renata Waechter Ferreira	Admissibility
38	Brazil	P-815-18	2018	Daniel Goulart de Almeida	Admissibility
39	Brazil	P-1370-18	2018	Julio Cesar Ferreira	Admissibility
40	Brazil	P-1086-20	2020	Trabalhadoras e Trabalhadores de Empresas Mineradoras	Admissibility
41	Brazil	P-1781-20	2020	Sindicato dos trabalhadores do ramo químico e petroquímico	Admissibility
42	Brazil	P-1530-21	2021	José Leonardo de Oliveira	Admissibility
43	Brazil	P-1202-21	2021	Hongjiang Miao	Admissibility
44	Brazil	13.806	2009	José Rafael Brezer e outros	Merits
45	Brazil	14.837	2013	Cecy Tigre	Merits
46	Brazil	15.286	2021	Antônio Martins Alves	Merits
47	Chile	P-1799-18	2018	Gustavo Adolfo Osorio Toro	Admissibility
48	Chile	P-2250-21	2021	Jordano Jesús Santander Riquelme	Admissibility
49	Chile	P-2158-21	2021	Jacquy Lubin, Daniel Raphael, Duvens Charles, Daniel Clairzimon, Bernanie Penel	Admissibility
50	Chile	P-1760-21	2021	Marina Soto Pasmiño y Erich Alexander Birkner Rebolledo	Admissibility
51	Chile	P-1749-21	2021	Comunidad Indígena De Ganaderos San Juan De Caquena	Admissibility
52	Chile	P-176-21	2021	Comunidad Mapuche Huilliche Reñinhue	Admissibility
53	Chile	P-2271-21	2021	Rolando Guajardo Arévalo	Admissibility
54	Chile	P-512-21	2021	Carmen Isolina Arias Saldaña y familia	Admissibility
55	Chile	13.127	2003	Enrique Olegario Núñez, Carlos Francisco Otazo, Eliana Laura Vidal Cortés y otros (Archivo parcial respecto de Mario Galetovic Sapunar)	Merits
56	Chile	13.527	2010	Juan Isaías Heredia Olivares	Merits
57	Chile	14.377	2011	José Domingo Adasme Nuñez Y Familia	Merits
58	Chile	15.235	2011	Integrantes de la comunidad Mapuche	Merits
59	Chile	13.880	2012	Fabiola Palominos Flores	Merits

60	Chile	14.378	2012	Familiares de Domingo Bartolomé Blanco Tarrés	Merits
61	Chile	15.052	2012	Sergio Omar López Romero	Merits
62	Chile	15.053	2012	Maximiliano Segundo Ramos Rojas	Merits
63	Chile	15.188	2012	Juan Alfredo Soto Alvarado	Merits
64	Chile	15.315	2012	Francisco Hernán Ruiz Oyarzún	Merits
65	Chile	15.364	2013	Arturo Inayado Morales y familiares	Merits
66	Chile	15.190	2014	Milton Gregory Flores Gatica	Merits
67	Chile	15.191	2015	Leyla Alejandra Chaín Valenzuela y Otros	Merits
68	Chile	15.070	2020	J.A.A.O.O.	Merits
69	Colombia	P-1712-09	2009	José Heli Espinosa Baquero y familia	Admissibility
70	Colombia	P-1633-14	2014	Jose Edgar Laguna	Admissibility
71	Colombia	P-254-14	2014	Rodrigo Meneses Hidalgo	Admissibility
72	Colombia	P-319-14	2014	Vianey Mario Gamboa Murcia y Familia	Admissibility
73	Colombia	P-884-14	2014	Jazmin Camacho Guerrero y Familia	Admissibility
74	Colombia	P-1001-14	2014	Hovedis del Carmen Miranda de Vallejo y Manuel Esteban Lozano	Admissibility
75	Colombia	P-2211-15	2015	Consuelo de la Inmaculada Castaño Mejía	Admissibility
76	Colombia	P-2154-15	2015	Carlos Conrad Pfizenmaier Giraldo	Admissibility
77	Colombia	P-1807-15	2015	Sofonias Paredes Castañeda	Admissibility
78	Colombia	P-1111-15	2015	Juan Carlos Galvis Cadavid y otros	Admissibility
79	Colombia	P-1131-15	2015	Jorge Alberto Pacheco Daníes	Admissibility
80	Colombia	P-912-16	2016	Dairo Andrés Herrera	Admissibility
81	Colombia	P-769-16	2016	Libia Mendoza Ariza	Admissibility
82	Colombia	P-1528-16	2016	Silvio Severini Florez	Admissibility
83	Colombia	P-63-17	2017	Olga Lucia Rodriguez de Cerquera y sus hijos	Admissibility
84	Colombia	P-151-17	2017	Mirian Angulo Guarnizo	Admissibility
85	Colombia	P-501-17	2017	Norma Isabel Forero Zea y familia	Admissibility
86	Colombia	P-1059-17	2017	Leydi Liliana Quinchoa e hija	Admissibility
87	Colombia	P-1096-17	2017	Hernan David Bedoya Rojas	Admissibility
88	Colombia	P-1115-17	2017	Matilde Mireya Alvarez Becoche	Admissibility
89	Colombia	P-1240-17	2017	Rubiela Marin Silva y familia	Admissibility
90	Colombia	P-1887-17	2017	Carlos Vicente Getial	Admissibility
91	Colombia	P-1939-17	2017	Ramon Antonio Davila Quintero	Admissibility
92	Colombia	P-2091-17	2017	Olga Chapal	Admissibility
93	Colombia	P-1631-18	2018	German Alzate Montoya	Admissibility
94	Colombia	P-1845-18	2018	José Agustín Cañón González	Admissibility
95	Colombia	P-2324-18	2018	Martha Lucía Piñeros Castro	Admissibility

96	Colombia	P-2078-21	2021	Pedro Jorge Marques Silvestre da Costa Coelho	Admissibility
97	Colombia	P-757-25	2025	Ovidio de Jesus Largo Diaz y familia	Admissibility
98	Colombia	13.175	2006	Miguel Alfredo Paredes Villalobos	Merits
99	Colombia	15.183	2011	Patricia Ibañez Guayazan	Merits
100	Colombia	15.180	2013	Jair de Jesús Jaramillo Arias	Merits
101	Colombia	15.208	2013	Jairo Humberto Cubides Zamora Y Familiares	Merits
102	Colombia	15.410	2013	Jorge Iván Guerrero Murillo y Familiares	Merits
103	Costa Rica	P-1329-09	2009	Johel Guillermo Araya Ramírez	Admissibility
104	Costa Rica	P-1486-09	2009	Giovanni Lara Álvarez	Admissibility
105	Costa Rica	P-100-11	2011	Xie Ning Hui	Admissibility
106	Costa Rica	P-121-11	2011	Edgar Torres Rodríguez	Admissibility
107	Costa Rica	P-180-11	2011	Oscar Gerardo Fonseca Tenorio	Admissibility
108	Costa Rica	P-959-16	2016	Valery Karasev	Admissibility
109	Costa Rica	P-2811-19	2019	Elmer Gutierrez Aragon y otros	Admissibility
110	Cuba	15.268	2014	José Antonio Martínez Ricardo	Merits
111	Cuba	15.162	2019	Willian Esmerido Cruz Delgado	Merits
112	Cuba	15.049	2021	Sandy Peralta Torres, Víctor Manuel Izquierdo Peralta, Ernesto Israel Rojas Peralta, Paloma del Alba Vegó Peralta y Osvadi Rosales Estoque	Merits
113	Cuba	15.537	2021	Yerandis Reyes Escobar	Merits
114	Cuba	15.538	2021	Yordan Manuel Escobar Machin	Merits
115	Ecuador	P-877-15	2015	Katerine Endara Romero	Admissibility
116	Ecuador	P-2174-15	2015	José Ricardo Villagrán Cepeda	Admissibility
117	Ecuador	P-2544-17	2017	Luis Alberto Fernández Piedra	Admissibility
118	Ecuador	P-597-17	2017	María de Lourdes Valdivieso Valdivieso	Admissibility
119	Ecuador	P-953-18	2018	Diana Judith Trujillo y otros	Admissibility
120	Ecuador	P-2246-18	2018	Virgilio Prado y otros	Admissibility

121	Ecuador	P-2838-18	2018	Haidee Alexandra Granda Arias	Admissibility
122	Ecuador	P-2395-18	2018	Luz Rugel	Admissibility
123	Ecuador	P-2396-19	2019	Jorge Antonio Burbano Muriel	Admissibility
124	Ecuador	P-1106-21	2021	Fernando Casado	Admissibility
125	Ecuador	P-249-21	2021	Hernan Leonardo Pesantez Villacis	Admissibility
126	Ecuador	15.138	2014	Integrantes del Sindicato del Ingenio San Carlos	Merits
127	El Salvador	P-2472-17	2017	Mardoqueo Vladimir Pineda Aguilar	Admissibility
128	Guatemala	P-2018-17	2017	Jesús Hernández Campollo	Admissibility
129	Guatemala	P-680-18	2018	José Carlos Enrique Paiz Riera.	Admissibility
130	Guatemala	15.415	2017	Maximino Milagro de Jesús Gómez Serrano	Merits
131	Guatemala	15.383	2018	Sonia Jannet Jiménez Rojas Le Jeune	Merits
132	Haiti	P-1348-15	2015	Jacky Lumarque	Admissibility
133	Honduras	P-630-21	2021	Maximo Portillo Espinal	Admissibility
134	Honduras	15.414	2018	Carlos Manuel Escoto Trujillo Y Otros	Merits
135	Jamaica	P-1470-22	2022	Dean Nelson	Admissibility
136	Mexico	P-1118-12	2012	Joel Martínez Villa	Admissibility
137	Mexico	P-819-12	2012	Phanor Eriko Kuratomi y otras	Admissibility
138	Mexico	P-1447-13	2013	Mauricio Granados García	Admissibility
139	Mexico	P-461-13	2013	Osman Lenin Ramírez Montero	Admissibility
140	Mexico	P-1249-14	2014	Gerardo Antonio Torres Mena	Admissibility
141	Mexico	P-1527-14	2014	Ex-Policías Federales Ministeriales de la Procuraduría General de la República	Admissibility
142	Mexico	P-415-14	2014	Alberto Sánchez Hinojosa	Admissibility
143	Mexico	P-253-14	2014	Jose Antonio Vidal Arriaga	Admissibility
144	Mexico	P-1973-15	2015	Luis Emilio César Abogado	Admissibility
145	Mexico	P-1199-15	2015	Jerson Alexander Enamorado Monge	Admissibility
146	Mexico	P-1633-15	2015	Comunidad Indígena Chalchihuapan Puebla	Admissibility

147	Mexico	P-602-15	2015	Valeria Susarrey Pedrero	Admissibility
148	Mexico	P-468-16	2016	Jorge Luis Ocampo	Admissibility
149	Mexico	P-1567-16	2016	Hazael López Morales	Admissibility
150	Mexico	P-1459-17	2017	Aarón Israel González Espino	Admissibility
151	Mexico	P-1101-17	2017	José García Ordaz	Admissibility
152	Mexico	P-2240-17	2017	Verónica Fuentes Rodríguez, José Antonio Monroy Flores	Admissibility
153	Mexico	P-1780-17	2017	Antonio de la Rosa Díaz, Comunidad Wixarika "Huichol" y otros	Admissibility
154	Mexico	P-1473-18	2018	Jesús Pérez Hurtado	Admissibility
155	Mexico	P-1419-19	2019	Luis Rodríguez Barbosa	Admissibility
156	Mexico	P-399-20	2020	Rodolfo Leyva Martínez	Admissibility
157	Mexico	P-2344-20	2020	Generadora Fénix, S.A.P.I de C.V.	Admissibility
158	Mexico	P-1926-20	2020	Edwin Abdiel Pineda Torres	Admissibility
159	Mexico	P-1933-20	2020	Marcelino Heleria Mancilla	Admissibility
160	Mexico	P-1766-20	2020	Ángel Antonio Postigo Yanaculis	Admissibility
161	Mexico	P-139-21	2021	Iván Coronel Altamirano	Admissibility
162	Mexico	P-1631-21	2021	Berenice Guadalupe Romero Rodríguez	Admissibility
163	Mexico	P-859-21	2021	Sunshine Antonio Rodríguez Peña	Admissibility
164	Mexico	P-1535-21	2021	Eleodoro Yañez Y Otros	Admissibility
165	Mexico	P-1484-21	2021	María del Refugio Cruz Ruiz	Admissibility
166	Mexico	P-1135-21	2021	Christopher Gustavo Lara Rodríguez	Admissibility
167	Mexico	P-1212-21	2021	Silvestre Diego Hernández	Admissibility
168	Mexico	P-68-22	2022	Demetrio Diego Diego	Admissibility
169	Mexico	P-307-22	2022	Victor Landeros Sifuentes	Admissibility
170	Mexico	P-1034-23	2023	Iván Ricardo Cano Zúñiga	Admissibility
171	Mexico	P-2508-23	2023	Valentín Muñoz Pasten	Admissibility
172	Mexico	13.796	2009	Florencia Hernández Romero y Otros	Merits

173	Mexico	15.234	2011	Integrantes De La Comunidad Indígena De San Mateo Texcalyácac	Merits
174	Mexico	15.193	2012	Sixto Rivas Sánchez	Merits
175	Mexico	15.072	2014	José Luis Ramírez Hernández	Merits
176	Mexico	15.276	2014	Ivan Martinez y familia	Merits
177	Mexico	15.277	2014	Sergio Javier Arreola Vargas, Jair Abel Saldaña Villanueva y otros	Merits
178	Mexico	15.290	2014	Noemí Hernández Santiago	Merits
179	Mexico	15.088	2016	Gaudencio Sánchez Veneroso	Merits
180	Mexico	15.108	2016	Esperanza Solano Galvez	Merits
181	Mexico	15.279	2016	Mayren Mendoza Solano y otros	Merits
182	Mexico	15.308	2016	Miguel Alfonso Tzintzun Borquez	Merits
183	Mexico	15.333	2016	José Mercedes Castro Castro	Merits
184	Mexico	15.337	2016	Leydy Araceli Pech Martin y otros	Merits
185	Mexico	15.343	2016	Elizabeth Ramírez Ehlinger	Merits
186	Mexico	15.401	2016	Víctor Javier Serrano Galván	Merits
187	Mexico	15.526	2016	Alejandro Cárdenas Naranjo	Merits
188	Mexico	15.352	2017	Jorge Daniel Portugal Muñoz	Merits
189	Mexico	15.357	2017	Víctor Alfonso Carlos Solorio	Merits
190	Mexico	15.403	2017	Antonio Montero Martínez	Merits
191	Mexico	15.423	2017	Santos Cruz Santiago	Merits
192	Mexico	15.519	2017	Ejido Coahuila y otros	Merits
193	Mexico	15.527	2017	Felipe Rodríguez Salgado	Merits
194	Mexico	15.114	2018	Francisco Javier Villanueva Reyna	Merits
195	Mexico	15.455	2018	Omar Rodríguez	Merits
196	Mexico	15.545	2018	Gorgonio Gómez González	Merits
197	Mexico	15.546	2018	Anarik Eugenia Gonzales Castillo y Héctor Everardo Carrillo Solís	Merits
198	Mexico	15.447	2019	Amadeo Zamudio Chávez	Merits

199	Mexico	15.482	2019	Jorge Rivas Félix y Erick Eduardo León Rodrigo	Merits
200	Mexico	15.547	2019	Ángel Martínez García y otros	Merits
201	Mexico	15.556	2019	Fernando Cervantes Zavala y familia	Merits
202	Mexico	15.484	2020	Fabián Gochar González, Benjamín Gochar Pérez y familias	Merits
203	Mexico	15.567	2022	Rocío Mesino Mesino y familia	Merits
204	Nicaragua	P-1219-18	2018	Jerson Alexander Flores Medrano	Admissibility
205	Nicaragua	P-1235-18	2018	Humberto Mauricio Flores González	Admissibility
206	Nicaragua	P-1824-18	2018	Wendy Patricia Morales Alonso	Admissibility
207	Nicaragua	P-1709-18	2018	Luis Javier Tellez Balladares	Admissibility
208	Nicaragua	P-297-23	2023	Rolando José Álvarez Lagos	Admissibility
209	Nicaragua	15.155	2015	Bosco José Aguilera Guevara Y Otros	Merits
210	Nicaragua	15.098	2018	Luis Alberto Sobalvarro Herrera y familiares	Merits
211	Nicaragua	15.201	2018	Obreras/os de la empresa Sae A Tecnotex	Merits
212	Nicaragua	15.450	2019	Diego Ramón Reyes Salazar y familia	Merits
213	Nicaragua	15.534	2020	Eduardo Antonio Mora Baez, Eduardo Antonio Mora Arana y Raúl Antonio Mora Arana	Merits
214	Nicaragua	15.427	2021	Fundación Popol Na, Fundación Del Río Y Sus Integrantes (Archivo parcial respecto de Franklin Antonio Briceño Martínez, Saúl Hernaldo Obregón Gutiérrez, Gabriel Miguel Jaime Rodríguez y Genoveva Gaitán Matamoros)	Merits
215	Nicaragua	15.467	2021	Linda Maria Barba Rodriguez	Merits
216	Nicaragua	15.468	2021	Fernando Antonio Rojas Ulloa	Merits
217	Nicaragua	15.541	2021	Jeisson Antonio Chavarria Urbina	Merits
218	Nicaragua	15.563	2021	Arenia Judith Martínez Alvares Y Edgardo Ignacio Rivera Cruz	Merits
219	Nicaragua	15.564	2021	Orlando Tabare Perez Teran	Merits
220	Nicaragua	15.795	2021	Marlene del Socorro Ponce Espino, Jennifer Esperanza Altamirano Pozo y Haydeé Isabel Castillo Flores (Archivo parcial respecto	Merits

				de Marlene del Socorro Ponce Espino)	
221	Nicaragua	15.565	2022	Maria Exania Lagos Rugama	Merits
222	Panama	P-2384-16	2016	Yong Jain Wu	Admissibility
223	Paraguay	P-1200-08	2008	77 Jubilados y Pensionistas bancarios	Admissibility
224	Paraguay	P-1612-16	2016	Jesús Mario José Rojas	Admissibility
225	Paraguay	P-1210-21	2021	Martín Gómez Mendoza	Admissibility
226	Peru	P-641-19	2019	Murphi Erling Cruz Bardales	Admissibility
227	Peru	P-1295-20	2020	Ceferino Marcial Castro Castillo	Admissibility
228	Peru	P-1339-21	2021	Población de la Provincia de Santiago de Chuco	Admissibility
229	Peru	P-873-21	2021	Hugo Celso Miranda Méndez	Admissibility
230	Peru	11.096	1993	Alfredo Crespo Bragayrack , Jorge Cartagena Vargas Y Otro (Archivo parcial respecto de Jorge Cartagena Vargas y Andrés Coello Cruz).	Merits
231	Dominican Republic	P-2729-19	2019	Francisco Antonio Pérez	Admissibility
232	Dominican Republic	P-1472-21	2021	Asociación Dominicana Pro-Bienestar de la Familia, Inc. y otros	Admissibility
233	Dominican Republic	13.655	2010	Juan Manuel Moline Rodriguez	Merits
234	Dominican Republic	15.487	2020	Jessica Rubí Morí	Merits
235	Dominican Republic	15.549	2020	Juan Cesáreo Compres Guzmán	Merits
236	Dominican Republic	P-3072-18	2018	Adolfo Salasier Sanchez Perez	Friendly Settlement Negociation
237	Trinidad and Tobago	15.557	2021	Safraz Talim Juman	Merits
238	United States	14.036	2012	David Johnson	Merits
239	United States	13.908	2013	Douglas Morin	Merits
240	United States	15.027	2015	Darrell Farley	Merits
241	United States	15.251	2018	Sigfredo Anahel Hernandez-Palomo and Jose Fernando Hernandez-Palomo	Merits
242	Uruguay	P-336-19	2019	Walter Ariel Requel Da Silva	Admissibility
243	Venezuela	P-1130-19	2019	Jose Enrique Luongo Rotundo	Admissibility

244	Venezuela	P-440-20	2020	Darwilson Aramis Sequera Sanchez	Admissibility
245	Venezuela	P-483-20	2020	Carlos Luis Beomont Martinez	Admissibility
246	Venezuela	P-522-20	2020	Heber Geovanny Escobar Garnica	Admissibility
247	Venezuela	P-2426-20	2020	Inaam Mamo	Admissibility
248	Venezuela	P-389-20	2020	Luis Ángelo Martínez Rotundo	Admissibility
249	Venezuela	P-1806-20	2020	Domingo Ramón Valencillo Pérez y otros	Admissibility
250	Venezuela	P-790-20	2020	Angel Gabriel Camero Martínez	Admissibility
251	Venezuela	P-1512-20	2020	Daniel Alexander Morales González.	Admissibility
252	Venezuela	P-2019-21	2021	Zulma Carolina Briceño Torres	Admissibility
253	Venezuela	P-424-23	2023	Deyvis Evelio Rea Alvarado	Admissibility
254	Venezuela	14.240	2018	Autoridades y miembros de la comunidad universitaria de la Universidad de Carabobo	Merits

4. Portfolio meetings and information to member states

91. With the aim of guaranteeing access to information related to the fulfillment of its mandate and promoting a culture of active transparency with regard to the information under its control, the Assistant Executive Secretary for Petitions and Cases, at the request of the Commission, provided information on the status of the portfolio of petitions and cases pending before the IACHR on 21 occasions, with respect to 19 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS).

92. Of the total, 11 corresponded to meetings—virtual, in-person, and hybrid—aimed at a detailed review of the dockets, which were arranged with the States of Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico. It should be noted that, in the case of Barbados, this was the first meeting of this nature held by the Commission's Executive Secretariat, constituting a significant milestone and a first step toward bringing the country closer to the petition and case system.

93. Of the remaining 10, one referred to a specific request submitted by Bolivia regarding the status of its portfolios of petitions and cases, while another was provided as a courtesy in view of the impossibility expressed by the State of Peru to hold the meeting previously agreed upon for that exercise. The remaining eight responded to the ex officio referral of information regarding Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and Suriname, confirming the IACHR's commitment to promoting transparent, efficient, and user-oriented management of the Inter-American system.

5. Hearings on contentious cases

94. During 2025, in accordance with the provisions of Article 64 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission held a total of four public hearings and one private hearing on cases pending before it. At these hearings, the Commission received testimonial or expert evidence and heard arguments from the parties involved.

95. Some of the hearings were held at the request of a party, while others were convened ex officio by the IACHR, given that they were related to matters under its consideration and deliberation. This allows the Commission to have more evidence on the issues under debate between the parties, as well as updated information before issuing its ruling.

96. Specifically, the IACHR held public hearings in the following cases:

- Case No. 14.458, Diego Lamagna and family et al. v. Argentina, March 3, 2025[22].
- Case No. 13.147, Ricaurte Losada Valderrama v. Colombia, July 25, 2025[23].
- Case No. 14.407, Persons Affected by the Closure of the Pachamama Foundation v. Ecuador, November 17, 2025.
- Case No. 15.475, Gloria Patricia Porras and her relatives v. Guatemala, November 18, 2025[24].

97. The Commission also held a private hearing in the following case:

- Case No. 15.425, Ladies in White v. Cuba, November 17, 2025.

6. Cases in transition

98. After a merits report is adopted in accordance with Article 50 of the American Convention and Article 44 of the Rules of Procedure, the Executive Secretariat proceeds to notify the parties. As a result of the increase in the productivity of merits reports, such notification is carried out in an orderly and progressive manner. With the aim of increasing the transparency and predictability of cases that already have a decision that is pending notification, in its 2024 annual report, the IACHR authorized the Executive Secretariat to inform the parties to the specific case of the decision adopted while awaiting its formal notification. This communication allows the dispute between the parties to be closed, in accordance with the provisions of Article 44 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, without triggering the time limit provided for in Article 51 of the American Convention or affecting the confidential nature of the report issued in accordance with Article 50 of the American Convention. This practice ensures transparency with respect to the date of approval and, at the same time, allows the State to anticipate the reports on the merits of which it will be notified, to organize its institutional capacities to address them, in accordance with Articles 45 and 46 of the Rules of Procedure.

99. As announced in the aforementioned annual report, this practice would begin to be implemented in 2025. However, its implementation was initially impacted at the beginning of the year due to available resources and was instead undertaken in a sustained manner during the second half of the year. As of the closing date of this report, the IACHR had provided preliminary notice in 90 decisions on the merits . During 2026, the IACHR will continue to report on the decisions that were adopted this year.

100. However, Article 51.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights establishes that, after being notified of the report issued in accordance with Article 50 of the same instrument, the Commission may submit it to the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court within three months. However, based on the requirements established in Article 46 of its Rules of Procedure, the IACHR may suspend this period and extend it for a specific period, provided that the State has demonstrated its willingness and ability to implement the recommendations and expressly and irrevocably accepts the suspension of the period. This has led to the

[22] In accordance with the provisions of Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the public hearing.

[23] In accordance with the provisions of Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido, a Colombian national, did not participate in the public hearing.

[24] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Edgar Stuardo Ralón Orellana, a Guatemalan national, did not participate in the public hearing.

implementation of the Commission's recommendations in the merits reports of several cases, in which it plays an active role in monitoring the status of compliance with the recommendations. The IACHR currently has 139 cases at this stage, which are reviewed periodically to decide in a timely manner whether to refer them to the Inter-American Court or publish them.

101. As part of the Commission's active role in this phase, working meetings on cases in transition continued to be held, chaired by the Commissioners and Rapporteurs from each country. During 2025, the IACHR held 25 virtual working meetings with the parties. The purpose of the meetings was to obtain information on the progress made by the State in complying with the recommendations issued by the Commission in its merits reports and to support the parties in the dialogue on the measures necessary for compliance. As a result of these meetings, specific advances were made, including the creation of roadmaps for the implementation of the recommendations; the development of proposals and counterproposals to reach compliance agreements; the start of the implementation of rehabilitation measures; and the delivery of timelines for actions to be taken in the short and medium term. The working meetings also served to evaluate the possibilities of continuing to monitor compliance during the transition stage or submitting the case to the contentious jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court.

102. The Commission recognizes and appreciates the goodwill of the States that participated in these meetings, which were attended by delegations that included authorities from the various institutions involved in complying with the recommendations and provided updated information on the progress made in implementing various measures. It also values the participation of the victims and their representatives and the information they have provided.

103. In 2025, the IACHR continued to send written communications during this stage, requesting specific information and preparing technical notes to promote compliance with the recommendations, ensuring comprehensive reparation in accordance with the standards of the Inter-American system. Within this framework, the Commission prepared eleven technical notes. Eight of them included precedents on compensation measures, based on cases decided by the Inter-American Court, with the aim of facilitating dialogue between the parties. The IACHR also evaluated two specific proposals for monetary compensation presented by the State, verifying their compliance with Inter-American standards. Finally, another technical note was intended to support the parties by clarifying the scope of the States' obligation to bring their domestic legislation into line with those standards, in accordance with the recommendations made in the Merits Report.

104. In the face of an extension under the terms of Article 46 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the States involved have had to demonstrate their willingness and ability to comply with the recommendations of the respective Merits Report in order for the Commission to extend the deadline again. In 2025, the IACHR adopted a total of 491 decisions, in which it evaluated the granting of a new extension, publications, or referrals of cases to the Inter-American Court.

105. During 2025, information was received on progress made by some States in complying with merits reports. In particular, the Commission recorded 561 measures adopted by States, including the payment of compensation to victims and negotiation processes between the parties based on the principle of agreement; progress in domestic judicial proceedings to investigate the human rights violations declared in the report, including the identification, capture, and conviction of some of those responsible; the provision of health services to victims by state institutions; and the signing of compliance agreements that include measures for financial reparations, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition. The IACHR noted favorably that some States implemented the training recommended in the Merits Report, among other topics, in relation to standards on the use of force; equality and non-discrimination; prevention of acts of torture; application of a gender perspective in the deprivation of liberty of pregnant women, nursing mothers, and women in the postpartum period; and principles of international humanitarian law.

106. Within the framework of such compliance, efforts were made to actively promote negotiation processes and agreements to comply with the recommendations contained in merits reports. During 2025, the

Commission took note of the signing of twelve agreements between the parties on compliance with cases in transition and continued to monitor the progress of 15 agreements that had been signed in previous years.

107. These activities enable the IACHR to advance in the implementation of its strategic plan, adopting measures so that more victims of human rights violations obtain justice through compliance with the decisions in the merits reports and the guarantee of comprehensive reparation, which involves strengthening the management and handling capacities of cases in transition in its Assistant Executive Secretary for Petitions and Cases.

108. At its 194th session, held from November 10 to 21, 2025, the Commission analyzed several of the tools and practices it has developed during the transition phase with the aim of promoting compliance with the recommendations contained in the merits reports in transition. In this regard, the IACHR approved the initiation of a process in 2026 aimed at making the practices and tools it has adopted in the management of cases at this stage more transparent, as well as providing greater predictability regarding the criteria for the publication of reports and their submission to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

C. Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlements agreements

1. Introduction

109. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, presents in this chapter the work of promoting negotiations and compliance with friendly settlement agreements, and for the visibility of the efforts made by the IACHR in the framework of its Strategic Plan 2023-2027, to potentiate the friendly settlement mechanism, as an effective tool for the attention of matters that fall under the system of individual petitions and cases, as well as for obtaining full reparation by victims of human rights violations and to expand the use of the friendly settlement procedure as a strategy to address the procedural backlog [25].

110. The Commission addresses in this chapter first the relevant results in the negotiation processes and implementation of friendly settlement agreements, including the agreements fully complied with in 2025; the specific advances in the implementation of measures of friendly settlement agreements; the new agreements signed during the year; and the new friendly settlement follow up processes. On the other hand, the activities for the promotion of friendly settlement agreements carried out during the year are addressed, which includes the actions taken to promote negotiations and compliance with agreements; as well as the steps taken to promote the exchange and dissemination of good practices on the mechanism. Likewise, the compliance status of the friendly settlement reports approved by the Commission is presented in the light of article 49 of the American Convention and the good practices and setbacks observed in 2025 regarding friendly solutions are raised.

111. Lastly, it should be noted that in accordance with the provisions of Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Regulations, none of the Commissioners participated in the debate nor in the conclusions of the matters related to their countries of nationality.

[25] In this regard, the Commission notes that, starting in 2019, it has published the progress and setbacks regarding friendly settlements as an independent chapter in its Annual Report for greater visibility of the mechanism and its transformative impact. See IACHR, 2019 Annual Report, Chapter II, Section G, Friendly Settlements.

2. Relevant results on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements

a. Friendly settlement agreements fully implemented in 2025

112. The Commission notes with satisfaction that, in 2025, progress was made in terms of full compliance with 11 friendly settlement agreements. Listed below are the matters that reached full compliance this year:

- Case 13.888, Diego Pablo Paredes, Argentina
- Case 14.778, Graciela Edit Abecasis, Argentina
- Case 14.769, Claudia and Ana María Kleinman, Argentina
- Case 14.835, Lilia Ana Villagra, Argentina
- Case 14.836, Lydia Cristina Vieyra, Argentina
- Case 14.940, Horacio Ricardo Neuman, Argentina
- Case 11.289, José Pereira, Brazil
- Case 12.674, Marcio Lapoente da Silveira, Brazil
- Case 13.661, Giorgio Vera Fernández, Chile
- Case 13.125, Ricardo Antonio Elías and family, Colombia

113. The Commission considers that this progress is very important, and commends the states of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia for advancing in the full implementation of friendly settlement agreements and urges them to continue making use of the mechanism for resolving matters that are pending in the system of individual petitions and cases by having recourse to this non-contentious procedure.

b. Progress toward implementing measures of friendly settlement agreements in 2025

114. The Commission is pleased to share the progress in the implementation of measures in **62** friendly settlement agreements. In addition, it was observed in the Commission's analysis that, in 2025, **11** petitions and cases reached total compliance, and **16** cases advanced towards partial compliance.

115. On the other hand, the Commission verified that progress was made in implementing **113** measures, attaining total compliance with respect to **69** measures of reparation; partial substantial compliance with respect to **23** measures of reparation; and partial compliance with respect to **21** measures of reparation. Of the **113** measures that saw progress in 2025, **38** are structural and **75** are individual in nature.

116. In this regard, the Commission noted that the countries that registered the highest levels of progress in the implementation of measures were, in the first place, Colombia, with 74 advanced measures in 2025, of which 40 achieved full compliance, 14 partial substantial compliance and 20 partial compliance. Likewise, Argentina made progress in complying with 20 measures (16 with full compliance and 4 with partial substantial compliance). Additionally, Mexico advanced in 5 measures, 3 with total compliance and 2 at the partial substantial level of compliance.

117. Other States that showed progress in the implementation of friendly settlement agreements included Chile, which achieved full compliance with 4 measures; Guatemala, which fully complied with 3 reparation measures; and Brazil, which fully complied with 2 measures and achieved substantial partial compliance with 1 additional measure. For its part, Bolivia made progress on 2 measures (1 fully complied with and 1 with substantial partial compliance); Honduras achieved substantial partial compliance with 1 measure; and Panama reached partial compliance with another.

118. The following is a detail of the specific progress in each case by country in the levels of total, partial substantial, and partial compliance with the clauses of the friendly settlement agreements as of 2025:

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FRIENDLY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS 2025				
No.	**Matter**	**Impact**	**Clause or measure**	**Level of compliance achieved**
ARGENTINA				
1.	Case 12.289, Report No. 168/22, Guillermo Santiago Zaldivar	Individual	**B. Pecuniary reparation measures.** The parties agree to set up an ad-hoc Arbitral Tribunal, in order to determine the amount of the pecuniary reparations owed to Mr. Zaldívar, derived from the violation of article 8.2.h of the American Convention in relation to article 1.1 of said instrument in the present case, which will be defined based on the criterion of equity.'	**Partial substantial 2025**
2.	Petition 1256-05, Report No. 305/22, Ivana Emilce Rosales	Structural	**III.2.12. Dissemination of the documentary "Gotas de Lluvia".** The State, through the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and Family (SENAF), commits to acquire the rights to the documentary "Gotas de lluvia" (Raindrops, 2020, Nuevos Aires Producciones, directed by Susana Nieri), to be used as material for the territorial teams of the Secretariat, deployed in the all 24 of the country's jurisdictions, to address the issue of child sexual abuse. Likewise, the State, through SENAF, commits to carry out workshops aimed at the personnel of provincial child welfare agencies and civil society organizations involved in the subject—mediated by local SENAF officials—on how to properly approach child sexual abuse. Lastly, through SENAF, the State commits to manage the participation of Abril Rosales and Susana Nieri in the activities described above through a video and/or virtual chat in which they will share with the community their personal experience and their work on raising awareness, prevention, and training. To this end, the State shall inform the petitioners of the tentative dates of each workshop at least one month in advance to ensure the participation of Abril Rosales and Susana Nieri in all of them. The parties agree that, with the presentation to the IACHR of the instrument or official document reflecting the operation described in the first paragraph of this clause and the holding of—at a minimum—one workshop per province with the participation of Abril Rosales and Susana Nierione—the State will be considered in "full compliance" with this clause and, consequently, IACHR supervision with respect to its execution will conclude.	**Total 2025**
3.	Case 13.888, Report No. 85/23, Diego Pablo Paredes	Individual	**4.** Once the petitioner submits to the National Administration of Social Security [ANSES in Spanish] a true copy of the alleged victim's national identity document and the correctly completed form (PS.6.298) requesting the benefit established in Law nº 26.913, as well as signs the affidavit attached as an annex, the Argentine State commits to issue the corresponding resolution within three (3) months.	**Total 2025**
4.	Case 14.778, Report No. 217/23, Graciela Edit Abecasis	Individual	**3.** Once the petitioner submits to the National Administration of Social Security (ANSES) a valid copy of her national identity document and the form (PS.6.298), correctly completed, for requesting the benefit provided for in Law No. 26.913and signs the affidavit attached as an annex, the Argentine State undertakes to issue the corresponding resolution within three (3) months.	**Total 2025**
5.	Case 14.769, Report No. 267/23, Claudia Laura	Individual	**1.** The parties agree that pecuniary reparation will be granted in accordance with the scheme provided for by Law No. 24.043, considering for this purpose the entire period during which Mrs. Claudia Laura and Ana María Kleinman remained in forced exile,	**Total 2025**

	Kleinman and Ana María Kleinman		according to ruling IF2022-59784416-APN-DNAJIMDDHH#MJ. That is, from May 31, 1977 and October 28, 1983.	
6.		Individual	**2.** The Argentine State undertakes that, within three (3) months from the publication in the Official Gazette of the Argentine Republic of the Decree of the National Executive Power approving this agreement, the ministerial resolutions granting the reparation benefit provided for in Law No. 24,043 shall be issued, without additional costs or expenses. The amount of the reparation shall be calculated as of the date of the issuance of such ministerial resolution.	**Total 2025**
7.		Individual	**3.** Once the petitioner submits to the National Social Security Administration (ANSES) a true copy of the national identity documents and the form (PS.6.298) requesting the benefit provided for in Law No. 26.913 correctly completed, as well as signs the sworn statement that accompanies it as an annex, the Argentine State undertakes to issue the corresponding resolutions within a term of three (3) months.	**Total 2025**
8.		Individual	**4.** The State also undertakes to comply with the term of Article 30 of the regulation of Chapter V of Law No. 25,344, provided for in Executive Decree No. 1116/2000.	**Total 2025**
9.	Case 14.835, Report No. 27/24, Lili Ana Villagra	Individual	**1.** The parties hereby agree that monetary reparation shall be granted in accordance with the framework provided by Law No. 24.043, considering to that end the entire length of time during which Ms. Lilia Ana Villagra remained in forced exile, in accordance with opinion IF-2022-117767013-APN-DNAJIMDDHH#MJ. That is, from March 12, 1977, to October 28, 1983.	**Total 2025**
10.		Individual	**3.** Once the petitioner submits a true copy to the National Administration of Social Security (ANSES) of her national identity document, along with the form (PS.6.298) requesting the benefit provided for in Law No. 26.913—filled out correctly—and signs the affidavit attached as an annex, the Argentine State undertakes to issue the corresponding resolution within three (3) months.	**Total 2025**
11.		Individual	**4.** The State hereby undertakes to comply with the term set forth in Article 30 of the rules of Chapter V of Law No. 25.344, as set forth in the Executive Decree 1116/2000.	**Total 2025**
12.	Case 14.836, Report No. 28/24, Lydia Cristina Vieyra	Individual	**1.** The parties hereby agree that monetary reparation shall be granted in accordance with the framework provided by Law No. 24.043, considering to that end the entire length of time during which Ms. Lydia Cristina Vieyra remained in forced exile, in accordance with opinion IF-2022-118407986-APN-DNAJIMDDHH#MJ. That is, from July 26, 1978 to October 28, 1983.	**Total 2025**
13.		Individual	**3.** The State hereby undertakes to comply with the term set forth in Article 30 of the rules of Chapter V of Law No. 25.344, as set forth in the Executive Decree No. 1116/2000.	**Total 2025**
14.	Case 14.940, Report No. 29/24, Horacio Ricardo Neuman	Individual	**1.** The parties hereby agree that monetary compensation shall be granted in accordance with the framework provided by Law No. 24.043, considering to that end the entire length of time during which Mr. Horacio Ricardo Neuman remained in forced exile, in accordance with opinion IF-2022-114762451-APN-DNAJIMDDHH#MJ. That is, from August 11, 1976 through October 28, 1983.	**Total 2025**
15.		Individual	**3.** Once the petitioner submits to the National Administration of Social Security (ANSES) a true copy of his national identity document and the correctly completed application form (PS.6.298) for the benefit established by Law No. 26.913, and signs the affidavit attached to it as an appendix, the Argentine State commits to issue the corresponding resolution within a period of three (3) months.	**Total 2025**

16.		Individual	**4.** The State commits to respect the term set forth in Article 30 of the rules of Chapter V of Law No. 25.344, as set forth in the Executive Decree No. 1116/2000.	**Total 2025**
17.	Case 14.739, Report No. 30/24, Mary Beatriz Guerra Peña	Individual	**1.** The parties hereby agree that monetary reparation shall be granted in accordance with the framework provided by Law N° 24.043, considering to that end the entire length of time during which Mrs. Mary Beatriz Guerra Peña remained in forced exile, in accordance with opinion IF-2022-104548251-APN-DNAJIMDDHH#MJ. That is, from August 22, 1975, to October 28, 1983.	**Partial substantial 2025**
18.		Individual	**3.** Once the petitioner submits a true copy to the National Administration of Social Security (ANSES) of her national identity document, along and the form (PS.6.298) requesting the benefit provided for in Law N° 26.913—filled out correctly—and signs the affidavit attached as an annex, the Argentine State undertakes to issue the corresponding resolution within three (3) months.	**Partial substantial 2025**
19.		Individual	**4.** The State hereby undertakes to comply with the term set forth in Article 30 of the rules of Chapter V of Law No. 25.344, as set forth in Executive Decree N° 1116/2000.	**Partial substantial 2025**
20.	Case 14.768, Report No. 95/25, Juana Belfer	Individual	**2.** The Argentine State hereby undertakes to issue, within three (3) months as of the publication in the Official Gazette of the Argentine Republic of the Decree of the National Executive Branch approving this agreement, the ministerial resolution granting the monetary benefit established in Law No. 24.043, without additional costs or expenses. The amount of the reparation shall be estimated as of the date of issuance of the aforementioned ministerial resolution.	**Total 2025**
Argentina: **Number of measures where progress was achieved: 20 (19 individual, 1 structural)** **Total compliance: 16** **Partial substantial compliance: 4** **Partial compliance: N/A**				
No.	**Matter**	**Impact**	**Clause or measure**	**Level of compliance achieved**
BOLIVIA				
21.	Case 13.139, Report No. 115/25, Javier Charque Choque	Structural	**III. MEASURE OF SATISFACTION. a. Restoration of honor and dignity.** As a measure to restore the honor and dignity of Javier Charque Choque (deceased), the Plurinational State of Bolivia will hold a private event to acknowledge its international responsibility; subsequently, the friendly settlement agreement, except for Annex 1, shall be published in the official websites of the Office of the Attorney General of the State for a period of one (1) year, computable from the date its publication.	**Partial substantial 2025**
22.		Individual	**V. MONETARY REPARATION.** Pursuant to Article 113(I) of the Political Constitution of the State, the Office of the Attorney General of the State, in legal representation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, will make a one-time payment as compensatory damages in favor of the mother of the deceased Javier Charque Choque, for the damages caused as a result of the human rights violations. The amount of this payment is defined in Annex 1, which is an integral part of this friendly settlement agreement; which shall be paid in three installments in the months of September, October, and November of the current year. Lastly, the Parties will request the IACHR to keep the amount to be paid in compliance with the obligation established in this section as confidential, and therefore the amount will not be published upon official approval of this agreement.	**Total 2025**
Bolivia:				

Number of measures where progress was achieved: 2 (1 individual, 1 structural) Total compliance: 1 Partial substantial compliance: 1 Partial compliance: N/A				
No.	**Matter**	**Impact**	**Clause or measure**	**Level of compliance achieved**
BRAZIL				
23.	Case 11.289, Report No. 95/03, José Pereira	Structural	**14.** The Government undertakes to revoke, by the end of the year, by means of the appropriate administrative acts, the Cooperation Agreement signed between the owners of estates and authorities of the Ministry of Labor and Public Ministry of Labor, signed in February 2001, and which was denounced in this proceeding on February 28, 2001.	**Total 2025**
24.	Case 12.674, Report No. 111/20, Marcio Lapoente Da Silveira	Individual	**II. 2. PECUNIARY REPARATION. 11.** The parties agree not to establish any pecuniary reparation in this Friendly Settlement Agreement and indicate in this regard that it will be decided in judicial action No. 93.0013784-0, which is pending before the 16th Federal Court of Rio de Janeiro. Therefore, the parties agree that there is no pecuniary provision in the present Agreement for the relatives of Márcio Lapoente da Silveira and this matter will be decided in the Brazilian domestic judicial instances and that this Agreement does not affect in any way the rights and obligations of the parties from the judicial action No. 93.0013784-0.	**Total 2025**
25.	Case 12.277, Report No. 136/21, Fazenda Ubá	Structural	**8.** The state of Pará will work actively in relation to the criminal action proposed for the person who ordered the crime (already convicted in two instances) and will activate all it institutions (Military Police, Civil Police, Public Ministry, Public Defender, Public Security Secretariat, among others) so that, in collaboration with federal institutions and in full respect of the respective competencies, as appropriate, they locate, process and judge the other people involved in the process, who are currently fugitives.	**Partial substantial 2025**
<u>Brazil:</u> Number of measures where progress was achieved: 3 (1 individual, 2 structural) Total compliance: 2 Partial substantial compliance: 1 Partial compliance: N/A				
No.	**Matter**	**Impact**	**Clause or measure**	**Level of compliance achieved**
CHILE				
26.	Case 13.661, Report No. 276/25, Giorgio Vera Fernández	Individual	**FIRST.– Private meeting for apologies.** The State undertakes to hold a private meeting for issuing an apology with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the participation of the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Human Rights, and special guarantees agreed upon by the parties, to be held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At that meeting, the State shall provide a letter offering a formal apology for the facts alleged and their harmful effect on his human rights. The private meeting will be held, to the extent possible, on the same date that this Agreement is signed, or as soon as possible thereafter insofar as the agenda of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so allows.	**Total 2025**
27.		Individual	**SECOND.– Delivery of official note that accredits the expungement of any criminal record.** The State shall deliver to Mr. Vera Fernández the Official note D.N. ORD. No. 119 of March 13, 2023, signed by the National Director of the Civil Registry and Identification Service in which it accredits that having reviewed the	**Total 2025**

			antecedents available at the General Registry of Convictions, it shows that Mr. Vera Fernández has no criminal record.	
28.		Individual	**THIRD.- Evaluation a request for a Special Pension (Pensión de Gracia).** The State commits to evaluating, in keeping with Law No. 18,056, and budget availability, in 2024, a request for a Special Pension (Pensión de Gracia) to be presented by Mr. Vera Fernández to the Special Advisory Commission of His Excellency the President of the Republic, which shall be based on the need to obtain reparation for the human rights violations recognized by the State in the instant case.	**Total 2025**
29.		Structural	**FOURTH.- Commitment of the police to respect and ensure human rights.** The State shall give Official Note No. 6 of February 8, 2023, to Mr. Vera Fernández, signed by the Director for Human Rights and Family Protection of Carabineros of Chile, which declares that as part of the forces of order and public security, Carabineros of Chile has in place plans for education and training in the use of force and human rights that have been created in the wake of friendly settlements with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which are carried out on an ongoing basis. In addition, the State shall deliver to Mr. Vera Fernández Official Note No. 31 of February 27, 2023, signed by the Office of the National Chief for Crimes against Persons of the Investigative Police of Chile, in which it declares that as one of the leading institutions that make up the Forces of Order and Public Security, under the Ministry of Interior, it confirms its professional commitment and responsibility to respect human rights by constantly updating its institutional regulations, ongoing education and training programs, and code of ethics, among other measures.	**Total 2025**
Chile: **Number of measures where progress was achieved: 4 (3 individual, 1 structural)** **Total compliance: 4** **Partial substantial compliance: N/A** **Partial compliance: N/A**				
No.	**Matter**	**Impact**	**Clause or measure**	**Level of compliance achieved**
COLOMBIA				
30.	Case 11.144, Report No. 109/19, Gerson Jairzinho González Arroyo	Structural	**3.** The parties will arrange for the realization and implementation of a pedagogical measure that contributes to the non-repetition of the facts and to the recovery of the victim's memory. The expenses for the implementation of the concerted measure will be borne by the Colombian State.	**Partial substantial 2025**
31.	Case 13.319, Report No. 213/20, William Fernández Becerra and Family	Individual	**Psychosocial care component. a. Traceability:** Pursuant to the database of the victims recognized in case 13,319 InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), each of them will be contacted in order to verify their location and carry out their targeting, to later determine whether they are within the municipalities of operation of the program (Ministry Operators-Territorial entity), as well as verify their willingness to receive psychosocial care, within the framework of the Program for Psychosocial Care and Comprehensive Health for Victims (PPCCCV).	**Partial substantial 2025**

32.		Individual	**Psychosocial care component. b. Diagnosis of psychosocial disorders:** After the recognized victims consent to receiving psychosocial care, the psychosocial care teams made up of professionals in psychology, social work, sociology and / or anthropology, with training and experience in psychosocial and community care of victims of the armed conflict or vulnerable populations, will carry out a diagnosis in which the psychosocial disorders will be identified and the coping resources will be determined, in accordance with guidelines and framework of the PPCCCV.	**Partial 2025**
33.	Case 13.654, Report No. 64/22, Juan Simón Cantillo Raigoza, Keyla Sandrith Cantillo Vides and Family	Individual	**Seventh Section: Justice Measures.** The Office of the Attorney General of the Nation, within the framework of its powers, will continue to advance with due diligence the judicial actions needed to advance the investigation and the possible identification and individualization of those responsible for the events. Pursuant to the foregoing, the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation and the petitioners will hold a meeting every six months to socialize the progress made with regards to justice. The six-monthly meeting to be held will be convened directly by the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation.	**Partial 2025**
34.	Case 14.306, Report No. 65/22, José Ramón Ochoa Salazar and Family	Individual	**SIXTH SECTION: COMPENSATION MEASURES.** The State undertakes to start the process of Law 288 of 1996 "Through which instruments are established for the compensation of damage to the victims of human rights violations by virtue of the provisions of certain international human rights bodies", once this friendly settlement agreement is homologated through the Report foreseen in Article 49 of the American Convention on Human Rights, with the purpose of repairing the damages caused to the next of kin of the victims as a consequence of the effects generated by the events of the present case. The National Legal Defense Agency of the State will be the entity in charge of following the process of Law 288 of 1996. For purposes of compensation, the criteria and amounts recognized by the current case law of the Council of State.	**Partial substantial 2025**
35.	Case 13.964, Report No. 66/22, Darío Gómez Cartagena and family	Individual	**SIXTH SECTION: REPARATION MEASURES.** The State undertakes to start the process of Law 288 of 1996 "Through which instruments are established for the compensation of damage to the victims of human rights violations by virtue of the provisions of certain international human rights bodies", once this friendly settlement agreement is homologated through the Report foreseen in Article 49 of the American Convention on Human Rights, with the purpose of repairing the damages caused to the next of kin of the victims as a consequence of the effects generated by the events of the present case. The National Legal Defense Agency of the State will be the entity in charge of following the process of Law 288 of 1996. For purposes of compensation, the criteria and amounts recognized by the current case law of the Council of State.	**Partial substantial 2025**
36.	Case 13.125, Report No. 68/22, Ricardo Antonio Elías and Family	Individual	**SIXTH PART: COMPENSATION MEASURES.** The State undertakes to initiate the process of Law 288 of 1996 "Whereby instruments are established for the compensation of damages to victims of human rights violations by virtue of the provisions of certain international human rights bodies", once this friendly settlement agreement is approved through the issuance of the Report of Article 49 of the American Convention on Human Rights, with the purpose of repairing the damages caused to the relatives of Mr. Ricardo Antonio Elías Puente as a consequence of the affectations generated by the facts of the present case. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State will be the entity in charge of the processing of Law 288 of 1996. The criteria and amounts recognized by the current jurisprudence of the Council of State are to be used for compensation purposes.	**Total 2025**

37.	Petition 1391-15, Report No. 94/22, Mario Antonio Cardona Varela and others	Individual	**SIXTH PART: REPARATION MEASURES.** The State undertakes to initiate the processing of Law 288 of 1996 "By means of which instruments are established for the compensation of non-pecuniary and material damages to the victims of human rights violations by virtue of the provisions of certain international organs of Human Rights", once this friendly settlement agreement is approved through the issuance of the Report of Article 49 of the American Convention on Human Rights, with the purpose of repairing the damages caused to the next of kin of the victims resulting from the damages generated by the facts of this case. The National Agency for Legal Defense of the State will be the entity in charge of carrying out the process of Law 288 of 1996. For compensation purposes, the criteria and amounts recognized by the current jurisprudence of the Council of State will be used.	**Partial substantial 2025**
38.	Case 14.312, Report No. 170/22, Juan Carlos de la Calle Jiménez and Javier de la Calle Jiménez	Individual	**SEVENTH PART: COMPENSATION MEASURES.** The State undertakes to initiate the processing of Law 288 of 1996 "Whereby instruments are established for the compensation of damages to victims of human rights violations by virtue of the provisions of certain international human rights bodies", once this friendly settlement agreement is homologated through the Report foreseen in Article 49 of the American Convention on Human Rights, with the purpose of repairing the damages caused to the victims' next of kin as a consequence of the effects generated by the facts of the present case. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall be the entity in charge of assuming the processing of Law 288 of 1996.	**Total 2025**
39.	Case 14.093, Report No. 285/22, Ernesto Ramírez Berrios	Individual	**SEVENTH PART: COMPENSATION MEASURES.** The State agrees to initiate the procedure established by the Law 288 of 1996 "Whereby instruments are established to compensate for harm done to the victims of human rights violations by virtue of the provisions of specific human rights organizations," once this friendly settlement agreement is approved through the issuance of the Article 49 Report of the American Convention on Human Rights, for the purpose of repairing the damages caused to the family members of the victims as a result of effects generated by the events in the present case. The National Agency for Legal Defense of the State shall be the entity responsible for undertaking the procedure established by Law 288 of 1996. For purposes of compensation, the criteria and amounts recognized by the current jurisprudence of the Council of State will be applied.	**Partial substantial 2025**
40.	Case 13.226, Report No. 286/22, Dora Inés Meneses Gómez et al.	Individual	**Sixth Part: Health and Rehabilitation Measures.** The Ministry of Health and Social Protection will implement health rehabilitation measures consisting of medical, psychological, and psychosocial care via the General System of Social Security in Health (SGSSS) and the Psychosocial Care and Comprehensive Health Program for Victims (PAPSIVI). Adequate, timely and priority treatment will be guaranteed to people needing it and for as long as necessary once they consent to receive it. When providing the psychological treatment and psycho-social support, the specific circumstances and needs of each person must be taken into consideration so that they are offered collective, family, and individual care, as agreed with each of them and following an individual assessment. For access to comprehensive healthcare, access in timely and quality conditions to the required medications and treatments (which include physical and mental health) is guaranteed to the beneficiaries of the measures following the provisions that govern the SGSSS. At the same time, the beneficiaries must be provided with priority and differentiated care in view of their status as victims. These measures are to be implemented starting from the signing of the friendly settlement agreement.	**Total 2025**

41.	Case 13.710, Report No. 109/23, Julián Alberto Toro Ortiz and family	Individual	**PART SEVEN: COMPENSATION MEASURES.** The State undertakes to initiate the process of Law 288 of 1996 "Whereby instruments are established for the compensation of damages to victims of human rights violations in accordance with the provisions of certain international human rights bodies," once the present friendly settlement agreement is approved through the issuance of the Article 49 Report of the American Convention on Human Rights, with the purpose of repairing the damages caused to the victims' relatives as a result of this case. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State will be the entity in charge of the processing of Law 288 of 1996. For the purposes of compensation, the criteria and amounts recognized by the current jurisprudence of the Council of State shall apply.	**Total 2025**
42.	Case 14.577, Report No. 110/23, Teobaldo Enrique Martínez Fuentes and family	Individual	**PART SEVEN: COMPENSATION MEASURES.** The State undertakes to initiate the procedure under Law 288 of 1996 "Whereby instruments are established for the compensation of damages to the victims of human rights violations by virtue of the provisions of certain international human rights bodies". The procedure will be initiated once the present friendly settlement agreement is homologated through the issuance of the Article 49 Report of the American Convention, with the purpose of repairing the damages caused to the relatives of the victims as a consequence of the effects generated by the facts of the present case. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall be the entity in charge of assuming the procedure provided by Law 288 of 1996. For the purposes of redressing and verifying the harm caused, the criteria and amounts recognized by the current jurisprudence of the Council of State shall be used.	**Partial substantial 2025**
43.	Case 13.840, Report No. 111/23, Edwin Hernán Ciro and family	Individual	**ii. Working Group Meetings with the Ministry of Housing, Urban, and Territorial Affairs:** The Colombian State, through the Ministry of Housing, Urban, and Territorial Affairs, will hold three (3) working group meetings with the beneficiaries of the Friendly Settlement Agreement, if they so wish, in order to present the institutional offer established by the Colombian State for access to housing programs, including the requirements and the form of access to that offer. […]	**Total 2025**
44.		Individual	**PART SIX: COMPENSATION MEASURES.** The State undertakes to initiate the processing of Law 288 of 1996 "establishing instruments for the compensation of damages to victims of human rights violations as provided by certain international human rights bodies." The process will begin once this friendly settlement agreement is approved through the adoption of a report under Article 49 of the American Convention in order to provide reparation for the injuries to victims' relatives resulting from the violations caused by the deeds committed in this case. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State will be the entity in charge of the processing of Law 288 of 1996. For the purposes of compensation for damages and its verification, the criteria and amounts recognized by the current jurisprudence of the Council of State will be used.	**Partial substantial 2025**
45.	Case 14.070, Report No. 112/23, José Omar Torres Barbosa	Individual	**ii. Workshops with the Ministry of Housing, City, and Territory:** Through the Ministry of Housing, City, and Territory, the Colombian State shall promote three (3) workshops with the beneficiaries of the friendly settlement agreement, should they want them, for the purpose of presenting the institutional offer established by the Colombian State for access to housing programs, including the requirements and how to access this offer. […]	**Total 2025**

46.	Case 14.719, Report No. 116/23, Geovanni Aguirre Soto	Structural	**ii) Trainings:** The National Police will provide ample and sufficient training to the men and women of the institution through the inclusion of the friendly settlement agreement in the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law courses developed by the Police Education Directorate, in order to prevent events such as those narrated from recurring.	**Total 2025**
47.	Case 12.908, Report No. 208/23, Jorge Adolfo Freytter Romero and others	Structural	**1. Pedagogical initiative of historical memory called "Jorge Freytter Competition":** Which will seek to make visible and recognize in the district educational institutions of the city of Barranquilla, the harm to the university and student movements (teachers, students and workers), derived from the Colombian internal armed conflict. The specific objectives of this measure will be: • Promote the construction of Historical Memory processes in eight (8) district educational institutions, through pedagogical actions that provide methodological and conceptual perspectives necessary to develop remembrance initiatives in educational institutions. • Promote youth participation through pedagogical training and empowerment of this population. • Transform imaginaries and social practices of violence, through art spaces that contribute to the dignity of the victims, with special emphasis on the case of Mr. Jorge Adolfo Freytter Romero. This competition will be carried out in three (3) phases, which will be led by the National Center of Historical Memory. The winning educational initiative will be chosen by the relatives of Mr. Jorge Adolfo Freytter and the prize to be awarded will consist in the delivery of an endowment worth $3,000,000 million COP to the winning district institution.	**Partial substantial 2025**
48.	Case 13.780, Report 209/23, Hugo Ferney Londoño and Family	Individual	**SEVENTH PART: COMPENSATION MEASURES.** The State undertakes to initiate the process of Law 288 of 1996 "Whereby instruments are established for the compensation of damages to victims of human rights violations in accordance with the provisions of certain international human rights bodies", once this friendly settlement agreement is approved through the issuance of the Report of Article 49 of the American Convention, in order to repair the damages caused to the family members of the victims as a result of the effects generated by the facts of this case. […]	**Total 2025**
49.	Case 14.145, Report 210/23, Eleazar Vargas Ardila and family members	Individual	**SIXTH PART: FINANCIAL AID FOR EDUCATION. II. Edinson Vargas Ardila.** The Colombian State, through the Ministry of National Education and the Colombian Institute of Educational Credit and Technical Studies Abroad ICETEX, will grant financial aid to Edinson Vargas Ardila, in order to finance a postgraduate level academic program in a Higher Education Institution in a virtual format. In order to implement the measure in a foreign Higher Education Institution (HEI), the beneficiary must be admitted to a recognized HEI in the country where the formal postgraduate education program will take place. The limit of the educational grant in a foreign Higher Education Institution will be as follows: Enrollment in Higher Education Institutions in postgraduate programs will be up to one hundred twenty-eight (128) SMMLV per person in total and, additionally, a support for sustainment of one (1) SMMLV. In all cases, the support will be on a semester basis. It is important to point out that it is the sole responsibility of the person benefiting from the measure to maintain the student status in the Higher Education Institution he has chosen. If the status of student is lost due to poor academic performance or disciplinary	**Partial substantial 2025**

			misconduct, or any other fault attributable to the student, the State's measure will be deemed to have been fulfilled. […]	
50.	Case 13.971, Report No. 271/23, Merardo Iván Vahos Arcila and family	Individual	**SIXTH PART: JUSTICE MEASURES.** The Office of the Attorney General of the Nation, within the framework of its competencies, will continue to carry out with due diligence the judicial actions that will allow the investigation to move forward and the possible identification and individualization of those responsible for the facts. Based on these developments, the Attorney General's Office and the petitioners will hold a meeting every six months to report on the progress made in the justice system. The semi-annual meeting to be held will be convened directly by the Attorney General's Office.	**Partial 2025**
51.		Individual	**SEVENTH PART: COMPENSATION MEASURES.** The State undertakes to initiate the process of Law 288 of 1996 "Whereby instruments are established for the compensation of damages to victims of human rights violations pursuant to the provisions of certain international human rights bodies". This shall be initiated once the present friendly settlement agreement is homologated through the issuance of the Report of Article 49 of the American Convention, with the purpose of repairing the damages caused to the beneficiaries included in the third clause of the present agreement as a consequence of the affectations generated by the facts of the present case. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall be the entity in charge of the proceedings under Law 288 of 1996. For the purposes of the indemnification of damages and their verification, the criteria and amounts recognized by the current jurisprudence of the Council of State shall be used.	**Total 2025**
52.	Case 14.906, Report No. 273/23, Eladia Méndez Bautista	Individual	**II. Survivor's pension:** Pursuant to the provisions of Article 47 of Law 100 of 1993, the Colombian Pension Administrator - Colpensiones shall recognize for life in favor of Mrs. Eladia Mendez Bautista, identified with citizenship card No. […], a survivor's pension at a percentage of 100% in her capacity as the spouse of Mr. Luis Alberto León. Likewise, Mrs. Eladia Mendez Bautista shall be granted a retroactive pension that shall be calculated as of April 3, 2015 and shall be paid until the date on which the Inter-American Commission issues the Friendly Settlement Report homologating the Friendly Settlement Agreement signed between the Colombian State and the representative of the victims. Thus, once the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State informs the Colombian Pension Administrator - Colpensiones about the publication of the Report of Article 49 of the American Convention, the latter will take the respective steps to issue the Administrative Act that recognizes the concepts stated in favor of Mrs. Eladia Mendez Bautista and will proceed to the respective notification to the beneficiary. This measure shall be in charge of Colombian Pension Administrator - Colpensiones and shall be implemented in a term no longer than four (4) months once the Friendly Settlement Agreement is approved by the Inter-American Commission.	**Total 2025**
53.	Case 14.887, Report No. 274/23, Blanca Ruth Sánchez de Franco and family	Individual	**SIXTH PART: HEALTH AND REHABILITATION MEASURES.** The Ministry of Health and Social Protection, in exercise of the powers described in Decree Law 4107 of 2011, shall coordinate, the health rehabilitation measures constituting medical, psychological and psychosocial care through the General Social Security Health System and its members, as well as the Psychosocial Care and Comprehensive Health Program for Victims - PAPSIVI, so as to	**Total 2025**

			ensure adequate, timely and priority treatment and for as long as necessary (according to medical criteria), in accordance with the legal provisions on the matter. […]	
54.		Individual	**SEVENTH PART: COMPENSATION MEASURES.** The State undertakes to initiate the process of Law 288 of 1996 "Whereby instruments are established for the compensation of damages to victims of human rights violations pursuant to the provisions of certain international human rights bodies". The procedure will begin once this Friendly Settlement Agreement is homologated through the issuance of the Report of Article 49 of the American Convention, with the purpose of repairing the damages caused to the beneficiaries included in the third clause of this agreement as a consequence of the affectations generated by the facts of the present case. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall be the entity in charge of the proceedings under Law 288 of 1996. For the purposes of the indemnification of damages and their verification, the criteria and amounts recognized by the current jurisprudence of the Council of State shall be used.	**Partial substantial 2025**
55.	Case 13.711, Report No. 32/24, Levis Elcener Centeno Cuero and family	Individual	**II. Economic Assistance:** The Colombian State, through the Ministry of National Education and the Colombian Institute for Educational Credit and Technical Studies Abroad (ICETEX: Instituto Colombiano de Crédito Educativo y Estudios Técnicos en el Exterior), shall grant one (1) economic assistance package to Mr. Juan Elio Centeno, Mr. Levis Elcener Centeno Cuero's brother, with the objective of financing one (1) academic program with a professional technical or technological level, at the university or graduate level, in an institution of higher education in Colombia recognized by the Ministry of Education. The economic assistance will cover the value of tuition for the semesters of the academic program for a value, per semester, of up to eleven (11) times the minimum monthly salary and a stipend, per semester, of two (2) times the minimum monthly salary if the institution of higher learning is in the municipality in which the beneficiaries of the measure reside, or four (4) times the minimum monthly salary if the institution of higher learning is outside the municipality of residence. […] The assistance should begin to be used within no more than five (5) years counted from the date on which the Friendly Settlement Agreement is approved by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; otherwise, it will be considered that the State has complied by having made it available.	**Partial 2025**
56.		Structural	**III. Publication of the Article 49 report:** The Colombian State shall publish the relevant sections of the Friendly Settlement Agreement once it is approved by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, at the website of the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State, for six (6) months.	**Total 2025**
57.		Individual	**6. Measures of compensation.** The State undertakes to begin the process of Law 288 of 1996, "By which instruments are established for compensating the damages suffered by the victims of human rights violations based on the decisions of certain international Human Rights bodies." It will begin once this friendly settlement agreement is approved by the issuance of the Report pursuant to Article 49 of the American Convention, for the purpose of making reparation for the damages caused the victim's next-of-kin as a result of the negative impacts brought about by the facts of the instant case, in keeping with the recognition of responsibility effectuated in this document. With the aim of avoiding the possibility of dual or excessive compensation, the sums that the State has paid, if any are in order, shall be discounted from the	**Partial 2025**

			payment of the compensation. The Ministry of National Defense shall be the institution in charge of implementing the process pursuant to Law 288 of 1996.	
58.		Individual	**8. Justice clause.** The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall ask the Office of the Procurator General of the Nation to study the viability of filing a Motion for Review (Acción de Revisión) in response to the proceedings concerning the events of June 6, 2002 in the sector of Las Mesetas, municipality of Jamundí, Valle del Cauca, in which Mr. Levis Elcener Centeno Cuero lost his life."	**Total 2025**
59.	Case 12.843, Report No. 33/24, Luis and Leonardo Caisales Dogenesama	Structural	**III. Measure with an Ethnic Focus:** The Ministry of Culture, as the executing entity, will implement a measure of satisfaction with an ethnic focus aimed at the women of the Embera Chamí Community of the municipality of Pueblo Rico in the Department of Risaralda, with the objective of strengthening and redefining the role of Indigenous women and highlighting their contributions to the community. To carry out this measure, the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State will request that the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit transfer the necessary resources for its implementation. Once these resources have been transferred, the Ministry of Culture will conduct a consultation to develop the ethnically-focused measure jointly with the women victims from the community in the territory, covering food, transportation, hotel, and other logistical costs needed to ensure their successful participation.	**Partial substantial 2025**
60.		Structural	**IV. Publication of the Article 49 Report:** The Colombian State will publish the pertinent sections of the friendly settlement report, once it has been approved by the Inter-American Commission, on the website of the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State for a period of six months.	**Total 2025**
61.		Individual	**6. Health and rehabilitation measures.** The Ministry of Health and Social Protection, exercising the powers described in Decree Law 4107 of 2011, will coordinate the measures for health rehabilitation consisting of medical, psychological, and psychosocial care through the General System of Social Security in Health and its members, as well as the Psychosocial and Integral Health Care Program for Victims - PAPSIVI, in order to ensure adequate, timely, and priority treatment for as long as necessary (according to medical criteria), in accordance with the relevant legal provisions. The particular circumstances and needs of each person should be considered in the provision of psychological treatment and psychosocial care, so that family and individual treatment is offered according to what is agreed with each person and after an individual assessment, based on respect for autonomy and willingness in access to treatment. In terms of access to comprehensive health care, the beneficiaries of the measures are guaranteed timely and quality access to the medicines and treatments required (including physical and mental health), in accordance with the provisions governing the SGSSS, and they will have priority and differential care based on their status as victims. These measures will be implemented as of the signing of the friendly settlement agreement.	**Partial 2025**
62.		Individual	**7. Measures of justice.** Once this friendly settlement agreement is approved by the Inter-American Commission, the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State will send an official letter to the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation for it to study the feasibility of filing an action for review, taking into account the criminal investigation underway before the 109th Specialized Prosecutor's Office for Human Rights Violations in Medellín, file CUI	**Total 2025**

			11001606606420010007703, which was received with the termination of the proceedings in the Military Criminal Court.	
63.		Individual	**8. Compensation measures.** The State agrees to begin implementing proceedings under Law 288 of 1996 "Establishing instruments for the compensation of damages to victims of human rights violations in accordance with the provisions of certain international human rights bodies," once this friendly settlement agreement is approved through the issuance of the respective report under Article 49 of the American Convention on Human Rights, in order to provide redress for the damages caused to the family of the victims as a result of the harm arising from the facts of this case. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State will be the entity in charge of the proceedings under Law 288 of 1996. For compensation purposes, the criteria and amounts recognized by the current case law of the Consejo de Estado [the highest administrative court in Colombia] will be used. The persons who will benefit from this measure are those expressly listed in the "beneficiaries" tables in the third section.	**Partial 2025**
64.	Case 13.892, Report No. 159/24, Denys del Carmen Olivera de Montes and family	Structural	**1. Keep a copy of the case file corresponding to the Friendly Settlement Agreement with reference to Case C.13.892 Denys del Carmen Olivera de Montes and family,** sent by the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State with the following delivery conditions: a. The case file is an integral digital copy of the Friendly Settlement Agreement with reference to Case C-13.892 Denys del Carmen Olivera de Montes and family. b. The file shall contain clear information as to how it is constituted, i.e., size, number of pages, megabytes or gigabytes, as applicable. c. The submitting entity verifies that the information provided is open to the public. d. The submitting entity states that the personal data contained in the information provided was collected in accordance with the Colombian personal data privacy requirements of Law 1581 of 2012. Likewise, the Human Rights Archive Directorate of the National Center of Historical Remembrance is required to comply with Law 1581 of 2012 on the protection of Personal Data (Habeas Data) in Colombia, regulated by Decree 1377 of 2013. e. In the event of containing confidential data protected by law, together with the information delivered, the sender and holder of the information shall deliver the report granting confidentiality and expressly stating the legal basis for classifying the information as such, as well as the number of years the information is reserved. f. A record of the data collection must be prepared that certifies the entry of the case file to the Human Rights Archive of the CNMH.	**Partial substantial 2025**
65.		Structural	**2. The file must be preserved, guarded, and kept in digital media** within an information system corresponding to the virtual platform of the Human Rights Archive to guarantee its access and disclosure for the general public and victims in particular, in order to contribute to guaranteeing the rights of truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition. 2.1. The information classified as public will be made available immediately to the Virtual Archive, while information of a confidential or classified nature will be restricted. Access to the latter will be granted once the restrictions expire; immediately for family members in accordance with the current legislation; or anonymously to other users, also in accordance with the current legislation in Colombia on access to information. 2.2. To this end, the submitting entity authorizes the Human Rights Archive Directorate of the National Center of Historical Memory to	**Partial substantial 2025**

			use the information for the preparation of various artworks and communicational and educational pieces without it thereby acquiring any ownership rights or other benefits. Users who use the source must explicitly reference it in their documents, products, and communications.	
66.		Structural	**III. Remembrance.** The Colombian State, through the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State and the National Center of Historical Remembrance, will conduct three (3) roundtable discussions with the representative of the victims, with the objective of jointly developing a record of the steps that led to this agreement. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall be responsible for performing this measure.	**Total 2025**
67.		Individual	**6. Health measure.** The Ministry of Health and Social Protection will implement health rehabilitation measures consisting of medical, psychological, and psychosocial care through the General Social Security Health System (SGSSS) and the Psychosocial and Integral Health Care Program for Victims (PAPSIVI). Adequate, timely, and priority treatment will be guaranteed to those persons who require and request it, and for as long as necessary. The psychological treatment and psychosocial care provided must take into account the particular circumstances and needs of each person, so that family and individual treatment is provided, as agreed with each person and after an individual assessment. For access to comprehensive health care, the beneficiaries of the measures are guaranteed timely and quality access to the medicines and treatments required (including physical and mental health care), in accordance with the provisions governing the SGSSS, in addition to receiving priority and specialized care based on their status as victims. The aforementioned care will give special attention to the situation of Mrs. Bernarda Berena Montes Olivera and ensure that continuous, timely, and high quality mental health care is available to her. These measures will be implemented upon the signature of the friendly settlement agreement.	**Partial 2025**
68.		Structural	**7. Guarantees of no repetition.** The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall inform the family members, through their representative, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the trainings on human rights related to the judicial functions, conducted to the Ministry of National Defense and the Prosecutor's Office during the years 2023 and 2024	**Total 2025**
69.		Individual	**8. Financial compensation.** The State shall proceed with the application of Law 288 of 1996, with the purpose of compensating the non-material and material damages that may be proven in favor of the. victims recognized in clause three of this friendly settlement agreement. For these purposes, the criteria and amounts recognized by the existing national case law shall be applied. In the event that any victim has been compensated through the administrative courts and/or has been a beneficiary of administrative reparations, the amounts that have been recognized therein shall be discounted from the financial compensation granted in accordance with the procedure provided herein in order to avoid double or excessive compensation. Likewise, for the purpose of the compensation of damages, the evidence used shall be in accordance with relevant procedural norms of Colombia.	**Partial 2025**
70.		Structural	**9. Publication of the Article 49 Report.** The Colombian State shall publish the relevant sections of the friendly settlement report, once	**Total 2025**

			it is approved by the Inter-American Commission, on the website of the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State, for a period of six (6) months.	
71.	Case 13.602, Report No. 160/24, Nelson Enrique Giraldo Ramírez and family	Structural	**II. Publication of the Article 49 report.** The Colombian State shall publish the Report on Friendly Settlement in accordance with Article 49 of the ACHR, for a period of six (6) months, once it is approved by the InterAmerican Commission, on the website of the National Agency for Legal Defense of the State. The National Agency for Legal Defense of the State will be responsible for coordinating this measure.	**Total 2025**
72.		Individual	**7. Measures of compensation.** The State agrees to begin the process of Law 288 of 1996, "By which instruments are established for compensating the harm suffered by the victims of human rights violations by virtue of the rulings of certain international human rights bodies." It will begin once this friendly settlement agreement is approved by the issuance of the Report pursuant to Article 49 of the American Convention on Human Rights, for the purpose of repairing the harm caused to the beneficiaries included in the third clause of this agreement, as a result of the negative impacts brought about by the facts of the instant case. The National Agency for Legal Defense of the State shall be the institution in charge of implementing the procedure pursuant to Law 288 of 1996. For the purposes of compensating the harm and verifying the compensation, the criteria and amounts recognized by the current case-law of the Council of State shall provide guidance. Therefore, the beneficiaries of this measure shall be: [...]	**Partial 2025**
73.	Case 13.974, Report No. 161/24, Claudia Baracaldo Bejarano and family	Structural	**5. II. Publication of the Article 49 Report.** The Colombian State shall publish the relevant sections of the friendly settlement agreement once it has been approved by the Inter-American Commission, on the website of the National Agency for Legal Defense of the State, for a period of six (6) months.	**Total 2025**
74.		Individual	**5. III. Financial Aid for Education.** The Colombian State, through the Ministry of National Education and the Colombian Institute for Educational Credit and Technical Studies Abroad (ICETEX: Instituto Colombiano de Crédito Educativo y Estudios Técnicos en el Exterior), shall provide financial aid to Ms. Claudia Baracaldo and to each of her children, John Freddy Buitrago Baracaldo and Juan David Perdomo Baracaldo, with the purpose of financing an academic program at the technical, professional, technological, university, or graduate level at an institution of higher learning in Colombia recognized by the Ministry of Education, inperson, distance, or virtual format. The financial aid shall cover the cost of tuition for the semesters of an academic program at the technical, professional, technological, university, or graduate level for a sum, per semester, of up to eleven (11) times the legal minimum wages (SMMLV), covering the number of semesters stipulated in the curriculum registered in the National System of Information on Higher Education (SNIES). In addition, an allowance shall be transferred in the amount of two (2) times the legal minimum wages (SMMLV) per semester if the institution of higher learning is in the municipality of residence of the beneficiary or the beneficiaries, or four (4) times the legal minimum wages (SMMLV) if the institution of higher learning is outside the municipality of residence of the beneficiaries. [...] The financial aid shall begin to be used within a term of no more than seven (7) years from the signing of this agreement. Otherwise	**Partial 2025**

			the efforts of the State to comply with this clause shall deemed it fulfilled.. […] The request for resources for the fulfillment of the measure shall be made by the National Agency for Legal Defense of the State, once the beneficiaries make the respective request.	
75.		Individual	**6. Health and rehabilitation measures.** The Ministry of Health and Social Protection shall implement the measures of rehabilitation comprising medical, psychological, and psychosocial health care through the National Social Security Health System (SGSSS: Sistema General de Seguridad Social en Salud) and the Program of Psychosocial and Comprehensive Health Care for Victims (PAPSIVI: Programa de Atención Psicosocial y Salud Integral para las Víctimas). To that end, through the liaisons provided for this purpose by the corresponding EPS, adequate, timely, and priority treatment will be guaranteed to those persons who require it, after expressing their interest, and for as long as necessary. When providing psychological treatment and psychosocial care, the particular circumstances and needs of each person must be considered, such that they are provided with family and individual treatment, as agreed with each one of them, and after an individual assessment. […] This measure of reparation will be implemented in the terms indicated for persons who are in the national territory, from the signing of this agreement.	**Partial 2025**
76.		Structural	**7.I. Visit of the Office of the General Prosecutor of the Nation to the Departmental office for Amazonas.** The Office of the General Prosecutor of the Nation, through the Office of the Gender Group, will conduct one (1) visit to the Departmental Office for Amazonas, where it will carry out the following activities: drive and advance in the investigation of cases; a service fair aimed at the community where information on the meaning of gender-based violence, the different ways it may occur, what are the available support channels of care in the event that one is a victim or knows of a case, and which agencies to turn to in order to guarantee and protect the rights of those who are victims, is discussed; an interinstitutional meeting with the participation of different governmental entities such as the Office of the Mayor, Office of the Local Ombudsperson (Personería), Family Commissariat, Secretariat for Health, Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, and the National Police, addressing good practices of the different pathways of care concerning each role and the barriers observed in the territory for access to justice and the services for care of victims. The forementioned with the purpose of strengthening the expertise of prosecutors and inter-institutional cooperation. Prior to the visit, the representatives will be informed of the date and will receive a detailed explanation of the activities to be carried out. After the visit, a detailed report of the visit will be submitted explaining the findings on sexual violence reported at that agency.	**Partial 2025**
77.		Structural	**7.II. Dissemination of Resolution 01774 of 2016.** The National Agency for Legal Defense of the State will produce an audiovisual piece to explain Resolution 01774 of 2016 of the Office of the General Prosecutor of the Nation, "Whereby the Protocol for Investigation of Sexual Violence is adopted and measures are established for its implementation and evaluation." This piece will be sent by email to the departmental offices for Amazonas of the following institutions: Office of the General Prosecutor of the Nation, the Office of the Mayor, Office of the Local Ombudsperson, Family Police Stations, Secretariat of Health, Colombian Institute for Family Welfare, and the National Police.	**Partial 2025**

			In addition, it shall be sent by email to the organizations of women, teachers, and human rights defenders as agreed with the representatives of the victims.	
78.		Structural	**7.III. Dissemination of an assistance route for public-sector teachers who have been victims of threats.** The National Agency for Legal Defense of the State will produce an audiovisual presentation explaining Decree 1075 2015 (subsection 2 – Transfer due to being threatened) and Ministerial Directive 02 of 2019. The audiovisual presentation shall be sent by email to the official institutions of the department of Amazonas so as to be shared with the teachers. The educational institutions will preserve their autonomy as to whether they wish to disseminate the audiovisual material sent. In addition, it will be sent by email to the organizations of women, teachers, and human rights defenders to be agreed upon with the representatives of the victims.	**Partial 2025**
79.		Structural	**7.IV. Publication of a book.** The Colombian State agrees to publish, layout, and print one thousand (1,000) copies of the book that Ms. Claudia Baracaldo Bejarano will write, telling her story, and to hold an event to launch the book. The book will state that the author of the text is Ms. Claudia Baracaldo Bejarano. In addition, the Colombian State will include a clause exempting it from responsibility. It will be noted for the record that all the statements made in the book are the sole responsibility of Ms. Claudia Baracaldo Bejarano. The editing, layout, printing, publication, and delivery of the copies will be coordinated with the victim and her representatives. The Ministry of Interior will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of this measure. The National Agency for Legal Defense of the State will request the resources from the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit.	**Partial 2025**
80.		Individual	**8. Measures of compensation.** The State shall proceed with the application of Law 288 of 1996 for the purpose of compensating the non-material and material harm that may be proven in favor of the victims recognized in clause three of this friendly settlement agreement. For these purposes, the criteria and amounts recognized by the current national case-law shall be applied. In the event that any victim has been compensated through the administrative courts and/or has been a beneficiary of administrative reparations, the amounts that have been recognized therein shall be discounted from the financial compensation granted in accordance with the procedure provided herein in order to avoid double or excessive compensation. Likewise, for the purpose of the compensation of damages, the evidence used shall be in accordance with the relevant procedural norms of Colombia.	**Partial 2025**
81.	Case 12.842, Report No. 163/24, Brainer Alexander Oquendo Santana	Structural	**5. II. Publication of the Article 49 Report.** The Colombian State shall publish the Friendly Settlement Report pursuant to Article 49 of the American Convention after the Agreement is approved by the Inter-American Commission, on the website of the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State, for a period of six (6) months. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall be in charge of this measure.	**Total 2025**
82.		Individual	**6. Measures of justice.** Once the Friendly Settlement Agreement has been signed, the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall request the Special Jurisdiction for Peace to study the feasibility of including the instant case among the illustrative cases that will be investigated in the phase of the national investigation of the Chamber of Acknowledgement of Truth, of Responsibility and of Determination of Facts and Conduct, pursuant to the	**Total 2025**

			prioritization and selection criteria used by this Jurisdiction in the framework of Order OPV 305 of July 14, 2023. The aforementioned order presented the internal prioritization of the phase of national investigation of macro-case 03, which included cases that are before the Inter-American Human Rights system. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State will be in charge of this measure. This measure shall be implemented once this Entity submits the appropriate request to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, without compromising the decision to be adopted by this Jurisdiction.	
83.		Individual	**7. Measures of compensation.** The State undertakes to begin the process under Law 288 of 1996 "establishing instruments for the compensation for damages to the victims of human rights violations by virtue of rulings of certain international human rights bodies;" once the instant friendly settlement agreement has been approved and the Report pursuant to Article 49 of the American Convention has been issued. The aforementioned in order to provide reparation for the non-pecuniary damages caused to Brainer Alexander Oquendo Santana, and his family (his parents and siblings), as a consequence of the violations committed through the crimes of the instant case, taking into account the objective, reasonable and effective criteria of the Colombian administrative claims jurisdiction. The National Defense Ministry shall be in charge of the processing of Law 288 of 1996.	**Partial 2025**
84.	Case 14.802, Report No. 164/24, José Alirio Cañas Morales and family	Structural	**5. II. Publication of the Article 49 Report.** Once this agreement is approved by the Inter-American Commission, the Colombian State will publish the report under Article 49 of the ACHR, on the website of the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State for a period of six months.	**Total 2025**
85.		Individual	**7. Compensation measures.** The State undertakes to enforce Law 288 of 1996, to provide redress for the damages that may be proven to the victims recognized in the THIRD PART: Beneficiaries of this friendly settlement agreement. Regarding compensations, the criteria and amounts to be applied shall be those provided for by the jurisprudence in force. In the event of a victim who has been compensated through the contentious-administrative jurisdiction and/or is the beneficiary of administrative reparations, any amount recognized shall be deducted from the monetary compensation granted in accordance with the procedure provided herein to avoid duplicate or excessive compensation. Also, for the purpose of compensations, any evidence that is susceptible to have value under to Colombian procedural rules will be considered.	**Partial 2025**
86.	Case 13.606, Report No. 92/25, Raiza Isabela Salazar	Structural	**I. Ceremony for Recognition of Responsibility:** The Colombian State shall carry out a Public Ceremony for Recognition of Responsibility, in person, in the city of Cali (Valle de Cauca), with the participation of Raiza Isabela Salazar, her mother, and her representatives. The ceremony shall be carried out in keeping with the recognition of responsibility noted in this Agreement. This measure shall be entrusted to the National Agency for Legal Defense of the State. The National Agency for Legal Defense of the State undertakes to: • Disseminate one (1) graphic piece with the information prior to the Ceremony on social networks (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn) at the website of the National Agency for Legal Defense of the State. • Broadcast the Ceremony live on the "YouTube" channel of the National Agency for Legal Defense of the State.	**Total 2025**

			• Publish the video of the Ceremony on the YouTube channel of the Agency and disseminate it on the Entity's social networks so that it can be shared. • Issue a press release after the Ceremony to be sent to different media outlets. In addition, the press release shall be published in social networks and the Agency's website with a link to the video on the YouTube platform.	
87.		Structural	**III. Memory:** The Ministry of Culture undertakes to provide technical and financial support to the Santamaría Fundación in the amount of FIFTY MILLION PESOS ($50,000,000) for it to: (i) Construct a mobile work of art to lift up the memory and dignity of the trans population, as a collective subject of rights and special protection;(ii) Contract one (1) photographer who will conduct one (1) photo session with trans women, with their consent, which will be placed on the mobile;16 (iii) Contract the production of fifty (50) physical information brochures that contain an image of Raiza Isabela Salazar and that make reference to the Friendly Settlement Agreement signed; (iv) Contract one (1) trans artistic expression that reflects and recognizes the struggle for dignity and the call to support the rights of trans persons, which shall be presented at the close of the Public Ceremony for Recognition of Responsibility. This measure shall be understood to have been carried out with the issuance of the administrative act that orders implementation of the obligation hereby taken on, the forwarding of the resources to the Santamaría Fundación, and the delivery of the technical and artistic recommendations for the contracting of the goods and services financed.	**Total 2025**
88.	Case 14.541, Report No. 93/25, José Enrique Caldas and relatives	Individual	**I. Act of Delivery of a Commemorative Plaque:** Carry out an Act of Delivery of a Commemorative Plaque in Case 14.541 José Enrique Caldas and family members, on June 26, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., at the facilities of the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State. That plaque shall contain the recognition of international responsibility in the terms established in the Friendly Settlement Agreement.	**Total 2025**
89.	Case 14.304, Report No. 94/25, Jhon Fredy Lopera Jaramillo and Family	Structural	**I. Acknowledgment of Responsibility Act:** The Colombian State shall carry out an Act of Acknowledgement of Public Responsibility, with the participation of the victims and their representative. The ceremony shall be conducted in person and in accordance with the acknowledgment of responsibility set forth in the present Agreement. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall be responsible for applying this measure, for which consultations shall be conducted with the family members and the representative, to establish the details of the ceremony.	**Total 2025**
90.		Structural	**III. Production of a documentary:** The Colombian state will produce a documentary about the life of Jhon Fredy Lopera Jaramillo that exalts his memory and dignity. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State will be responsible for implementing this measure, following consultations with the family members and the representative regarding the content of the documentary.	**Total 2025**
91.	Case 13.778, Report No. 96/25, Jorge Alirio Pulgarín Duque, Juan Amado Pulgarín	Structural	**I. Act of Acknowledgment of International Responsibility:** The Colombian State shall carry out a Public Act of Acknowledgment of International Responsibility, with the participation of the victims and their representative. This ceremony shall be in person and consistent with the acknowledgment of responsibility set forth in the present Agreement. This measure will be the responsibility of the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State, for which reason a consultation	**Total 2025**

	Duque and Family		process will be carried out with the family members and the representative, in order to establish the details of the ceremony	
92.		Structural	**II. Audiovisual record in a documentary language on the life of Jorge Alirio Pulgarin Duque and Juan Amado Pulgarin Duque:** The Colombian State shall prepare a documentary on the life of Jorge Alirio Pulgarin Duque and Juan Amado Pulgarin Duque, where their memory, honor, and dignity are exalted. The documentary shall include a section prepared and presented by the representative of the victims, which will specify whether in the aforementioned operation in which Jorge Alirio Pulgarin Duque and Juan Amado Pulgarin Duque were killed, the rules of International Humanitarian Law were respected, based on a study of the existing procedural evidence produced in the proceedings that was opened for the aforementioned facts. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this measure. To that end, a consultation process will be carried out with the family members and the representative, to establish the details of the audiovisual record.	**Total 2025**
93.	Case 14.939, Report No. 195/25, Edgardo Surmay Soto, Leandro José Surmay Terán and Relatives	Individual	**I. Private Act of Acknowledging International Responsibility:** The Colombian State shall conduct a Private Event Acknowledging International Responsibility with the participation of the relatives and representative of Mr. Edgardo Surmay Soto and the youth Leandro José Surmay Terán. The event shall be conducted in accordance with the acknowledgement of responsibility indicated in this agreement. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall be in charge of this measure.	**Total 2025**
94.	Case 13.318, Report No. 196/25, Rubén Darío Ocampo Henao and Héctor Corrales Ocampo	Structural	**I. Public act in acknowledgement of international responsibility:** The Colombian State will carry out a Public Act of Acknowledgement of International Responsibility with the participation of the representatives and relatives of Rubén Darío Ocampo and Héctor Corrales Ocampo. The act will be carried out in accordance with the acknowledgment of responsibility set forth in this Agreement. The Agency for State Legal Defense will be in charge of this measure	**Total 2025**
95.	Case 14.332, Report No. 197/25, José Antonio Cardona Márquez and Family	Individual	**I. Private ceremony to acknowledge international responsibility:** The Colombian State will hold a private ceremony to acknowledge international responsibility, with the participation of the victims and their representatives. The event will be held in person and will be carried out in accordance with the acknowledgment of responsibility set forth in this agreement. This measure will be the responsibility of the National Agency for Legal Defense of the State, which will undertake a consultation process with the families and their representatives to determine the details of the ceremony.	**Total 2025**
96.	Case 13.697, Report No. 198/25, Ana Isabel Florez Teheran et al.	Individual	**I. Act of Acknowledgement of Responsibility:** The Colombian State will hold a virtual Act of Acknowledgement of Responsibility, which will be officiated by the Director General or the Director of International Legal Defense of the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State will be responsible for this measure and will engage in consultations with the relatives and representatives of the victims in order to ensure the measure has the intended restorative effect.	**Total 2025**
97.		Individual	**II. Manufacturing of three commemorative plaques:** The Colombian State will craft three commemorative plaques to be	**Total 2025**

			presented to the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State and to the relatives and representatives of the victims, in memory of: (i) Mrs. Ana Isabel Florez Teheran and her children Adalberto Julio Florez, Beatriz Julio Florez, Mónica Julio Florez, and Eduardo Julio Florez; (ii) Mr. Ides Antonio López Pérez; and (iii) Mr. José Agustín Olivares Pérez. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State will be responsible for this measure and will engage in consultations with the relatives and representatives to ensure it is implemented.	
98.	Case 11.990 B, Report No. 271/25, Jhon Jairo Cabarique	Structural	**PART NINE: GUARANTEES OF NON REPETITION.** The Presidential Council for Human Rights, through the Technical Secretariat of the Intersectoral Commission for the Prevention of Recruitment, Use and Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents (CIPRUNNA), shall supervise implementation of the protection and prevention roadmap in the department of Arauca and the municipality of Saravena. The above with the purpose of adopting it as municipal and departmental public policy, to increase the ability of territorial authorities and national level entities to respond to imminent and individualized threats to the rights of children and adolescents, so as to be protect them against any form of recruitment, use, sexual violence, and stigmatization. This prevention and protection roadmap should be adopted as municipal and departmental public policy and as a guideline for action by local authorities, national level entities, society, the community, and the family, in addition to being applied in a variety of inter-agency coordination scenarios. […]	**Partial 2025**
99.	Case 15.172, Report No. 272/25, Gloria Lara and children	Structural	**I. Act of Acknowledgment of Responsibility:** The Colombian State will hold a public Act of Acknowledgement of Responsibility, with the participation of the victims and their representative. The act will be held in person and will be carried out in accordance with the acknowledgment of responsibility set forth in this Agreement. This measure will be carried out by the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State, which will therefore conduct a process of consultation with the family members and the representative, in order to establish the details of the act.	**Total 2025**
100.	Case 15.058, Report No. 273/25, Jesús Nazareno Rivera García y otros	Structural	**I. Act of Acknowledgment of Responsibility:** The Colombian State will carry out a Public Act of Acknowledgement of Responsibility, which will take place in person in the city of Bogotá and will be presided over by the General Director or the Director of International Legal Defense of the State Legal Defense Agency. The act shall be attended by victims and their representatives and shall be carried out in accordance with the acknowledgement of responsibility set forth in this Agreement. The Agency for State Legal Defense will be in charge of this measure.	**Total 2025**
101.	Case 13.681, Report No. 274/25, Luis Mariano Pertuz Lara and family	Individual	**I. Act of Acknowledgment of International Responsibility:** The Colombian State shall carry out an Act of Acknowledgment of International Responsibility, which shall be presided over by the Director General or the Director of International Legal Defense of the National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State. The act shall be consistent with the acknowledgment of responsibility set forth in this Agreement. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall be responsible for applying this measure, for which consultations shall be conducted with the representatives of the victims, in order to achieve effective reparation.	**Total 2025**
102.		Individual	**II. Delivery of a Commemorative Plaque:** The Colombian State will present a plaque in memory of Mr. Luis Mariano Pertuz Lara, to the family members and their representatives, within the	**Total 2025**

			framework of the Act of Acknowledgment of International Responsibility. The National Agency for the Legal Defense of the State shall be responsible for the performance of this measure of satisfaction.	
103.	Petition 679-19, Report No. 275/25, Ricardo Manuel Banquet León and family	Structural	**I. Act of Acknowledgment of Responsibility:** The Colombian State will hold a Public Act of Acknowledgement of Responsibility in person in Bogotá, presided over by the General Director or the Director of International Legal Defense of the State Legal Defense Agency. Victims and their representatives will attend, and the act will follow the acknowledgement of responsibility outlined in this Agreement. The Agency for State Legal Defense will be in charge of this measure.	**Total 2025**
<u>Colombia:</u> Number of measures where progress was achieved: 74 (44 individual, 30 structural) Total compliance: 40 Partial substantial compliance: 14 Partial compliance: 20				
No.	**Matter**	**Impact**	**Clause or measure**	**Level of compliance achieved**
GUATEMALA				
104.	Case 12.737, Report No. 114/21, Carlos Raúl Morales Catalán	Individual	**e) Justice:** The State of Guatemala, in accordance with the mandate of COPREDEH, commits itself to promote the necessary actions before the institutions of the justice sector for the execution of the sentence of damages and prejudices dictated by the First Instance Criminal, Drug Trafficking and Crimes against the Environment Sentencing Court, against Mr. SANTIAGO QUIDIELLO VALENZUELA and LAURA PATRICIA TORÓN TORRES DE LUNA, which are currently being processed in the Third Court of First Instance of the Civil Branch, as well as, among others, the corresponding public criminal actions for the misappropriation of assets, material and ideological falsehood that are being instructed within the criminal proceeding being followed by the Public Ministry, in the Special Prosecutor's Office for Fraud Crimes, file No. MP001-2006-76999 and in the Special Prosecutor's Office for Fraud Crimes, file No. MP001-2006-76999, among others. MP001-2006-76999 and before the Fourth Court of First Instance of the Criminal Branch and Crimes against the Environment, which the petitioner has promoted, and to promote any other measure to achieve effective compliance with the sentence, within a period of one year. For this purpose, COPREDEH will constitute an operational promotion committee through bimonthly worktables, with the State actors in charge of such legal actions, to record the progress made in the resolution of the case.	**Total 2025**
105.	Petition 2350-23, Report No. 97/25, Roberto Arzú García Granados and David Esteban Pineda Barrios	Structural	**31.** The State of Guatemala undertakes to make a public apology acknowledging the violation of citizens ROBERTO ARZU GARCÍA GRANADOS and DAVID ESTEBAN PINEDA BARRIOS's civil and political rights. This will be done through an OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC PRESS CONFERENCE, with the participation of a representative of the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights and a representative of the Attorney General's Office, the victims, their respective representatives, and the media. The press conference will be held within a maximum of 10 business days following the signing of this agreement […].	**Total 2025**
106.		Structural	**36.** Regarding the first measure of satisfaction, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will consider "total compliance" to have been achieved with respect to holding an official and public	**Total 2025**

			press conference in which public apologies will be offered in acknowledgement of the violations of the victims' civil and political rights as soon as the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights sends the IACHR a report with photographs and participant lists that prove the aforementioned press conference was held.	
<u>Guatemala:</u> Number of measures where progress was achieved: 3 (1 individual, 2 structural) Total compliance: 3 Partial substantial compliance: N/A Partial compliance: N/A				
No.	**Matter**	**Impact**	**Clause or measure**	**Level of compliance achieved**
HONDURAS				
107.	Case 11.545, Report No. 204/21, Martha María Saire	Individual	**Third:** In accordance with the working meeting of May 31, 2019, held before the IACHR, the parties agreed to implement a Comprehensive Care Plan, thus, they had the consultancy of Dr. Hilda Beatriz Miranda Galarza, for which the parties have agreed to create an Accompaniment Committee to follow up on the guidelines and recommendations of the specialist's Results Report, in accordance with the agreement between the parties. Said Committee should focus on the central axles of conducting the updated mental health evaluation; the generation of Martha Saire's capacity development plan according to said evaluation and with a cross-cutting focus on gender and disability; the periodic training of the personnel in charge of the care of Martha Saire and the establishment of a support device, with her participation, to guarantee her autonomy in decision-making in light of the principles of respect for dignity, autonomy, independence, self determination and social inclusion, the same central axles for monitoring the implementation of the FSA by the IACHR.	**Partial substantial 2025**
<u>Honduras:</u> Number of measures where progress was achieved: 1 (1 individual) Total compliance: N/A Partial substantial compliance: 1 Partial compliance: N/A				
No.	**Matter**	**Impact**	**Clause or measure**	**Level of compliance achieved**
MEXICO				
108.	Case 13.007, Report No. 171/22, José Alfredo Jiménez Mota and Family	Individual	**A. INVESTIGATION.** "THE MEXICAN STATE" recognizes that the investigations are carried out in accordance with the obligations derived from the ACHR, Mexican law and in accordance with generally recognized principles, through the Special Prosecutor's Office for Attention to Crimes Committed against Freedom of Expression (FEADLE), of "THE FGR", in which there is a specific investigation plan which takes into account the considerations expressed by the victims in order to strengthen the existing lines of investigation, in which direct communication channels are guaranteed with "THE VICTIMS" and their legally accredited representatives within the investigation. **B. EFFECTIVE SEARCH.** "THE MEXICAN STATE", through the CNB, commits to elaborate and implement a Search Plan to find the whereabouts of Alfredo Jiménez Mota, in collaboration with the Attorney General's Office and the CEAV, within the scope of their respective attributions.	**Partial substantial 2025**

109.		Individual	**IV.1 IN HEALTH MATTERS.** "THE MEXICANSTATE", in coordination with the competent federal and/or state institutions, shall provide the measures intended to restore the health and dignity of "THE VICTIMS" in accordance with the following: "THE MEXICAN STATE", undertakes to grant each one of "THE VICTIMS" adequate and free medical and psychological care, as well as the medicines found in the national compendium of health supplies, through the design of a health route which considers the place of residence of "THE VICTIMS", direct links and the accessibility of the services, through the public institutions of the "MEXICAN STATE".	**Total 2025**
110.	Case 14.073, Report No. 162/24, Zenón Alberto Medina López and family members	Individual	**7. Health measures.** […] The "MEXICAN STATE" undertakes to provide each of the "THE VICTIMS" with adequate, preferential and cost-free medical and psychological care, and specialized care as required. Medical care shall be provided through the public institutions of the "MEXICAN STATE" and in the event that the medical or psychological service required by "THE VICTIMS" needs to be provided in facilities outside their place of residence, the "MEXICAN STATE" shall pay the costs of any travel needed and per diem expenses, provided that the facilities are within the Mexican territory and these services cannot be provided in their place of residence. Medical care shall be extended to the provision of medicines, analyses, necessary studies, and all supplies required, even when the closest public institutions to the place of residence does not have them, thereby ensuring that the "MEXICAN STATE" guarantees complete care through the "CEAV." The "MEXICAN STATE" shall not be obligated to provide medical or psychological care to "THE VICTIMS" if they decide to temporarily or permanently change their residence outside the national territory. Notwithstanding the fact that the medical care may be resumed in the event that they return to Mexican territory.	**Partial substantial 2025**
111.		Individual	**8.1 Act of acknowledgment of international responsibility and apology.** The "MEXICAN STATE" shall hold a private ceremony for the acknowledgment of international responsibility and apology, led by the Undersecretary of Human Rights, Population, and Migration, representing the "MINISTRY OF INTERIOR", and a representative of the "MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS" (SRE). In addition to the private ceremony for the acknowledgment of international responsibility and apology, a written document, signed by the Head of the "UDDH" expressing the acknowledgment of international responsibility and apology, shall be delivered to "THE VICTIMS." The content of the act and its dissemination shall be established by "THE PARTIES", through the pertinent Appendix that shall be incorporated to this "AGREEMENT". The content of the written document detailed in the previous paragraph shall be established as part of said Appendix.	**Total 2025**
112.		Individual	**8.2. Publication.** The "MEXICAN STATE" shall publish on one occasion the Friendly Settlement Report adopting the "AGREEMENT" in the Official Gazette of the Federation. The characteristics, content, duration of the working group, and the specific objectives to be reviewed will be agreed upon by "THE PARTIES" and established in the pertinent Appendix of the "AGREEMENT."	**Total 2025**
Mexico: **Number of measures where progress was achieved: 5 (5 individual)** **Total compliance: 3** **Partial substantial compliance: 2** **Partial compliance: N/A**				

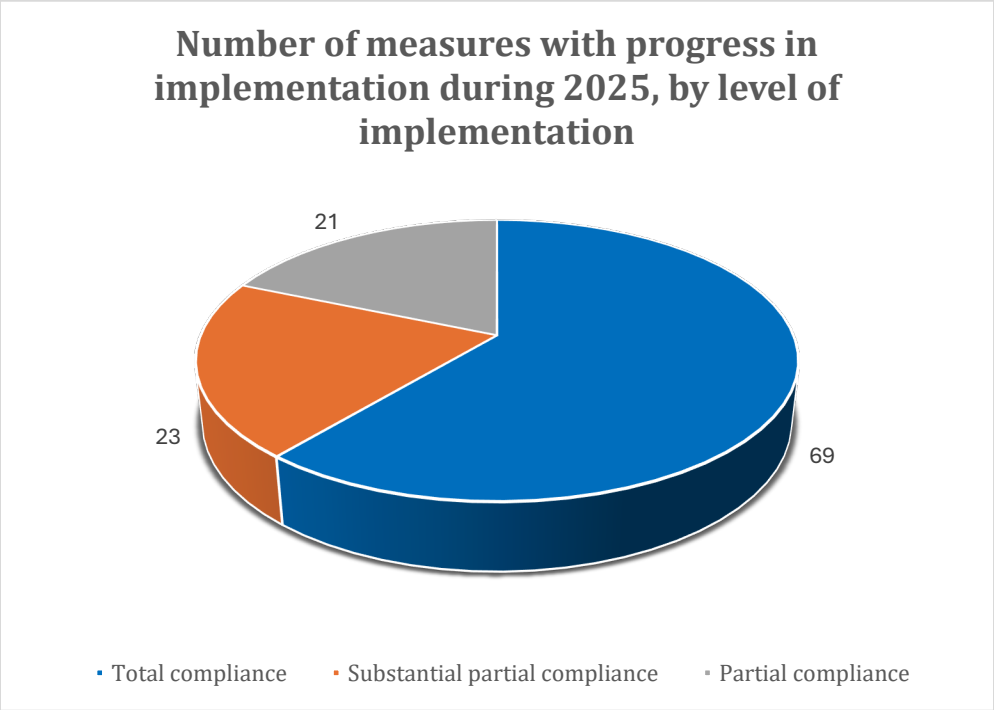
No.	Matter	Impact	Clause or measure	Level of compliance achieved
PANAMA				
113.	Case 13.017 C, Report No. 91/19, Relatives of the victims of the military dictatorship	Structural	**5. Timeline for execution.** Once the actuarial studies indicated in part three of this agreement have been reviewed, the State commits to comply with paying the pecuniary reparations to each of the beneficiaries of COFADECHI within a period of time that is both brief and fair for the relatives of the victims. Likewise, the State commits to comply with its other obligations under this friendly settlement agreement within this same period of time.	**Partial 2025**
Panama: **Number of measures where progress was achieved: 1 (1 structural)** **Total compliance: N/A** **Partial substantial compliance: N/A** **Partial compliance: 1**				

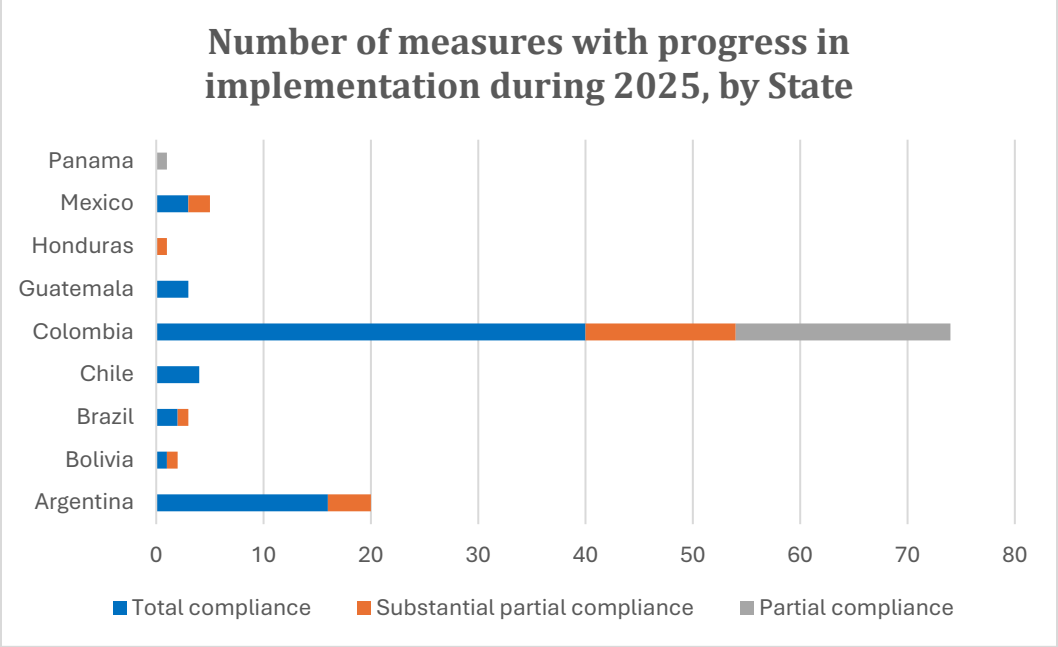
Number of measures where progress was achieved	**113**
Total number of measures where total compliance was achieved	**69**
Total number of measures where partial substantial compliance was achieved	**23**
Total number of measures where partial compliance was achieved	**21**
Total number of structural measures where progress was achieved	**38**
Total number of individual measures where progress was achieved	**75**

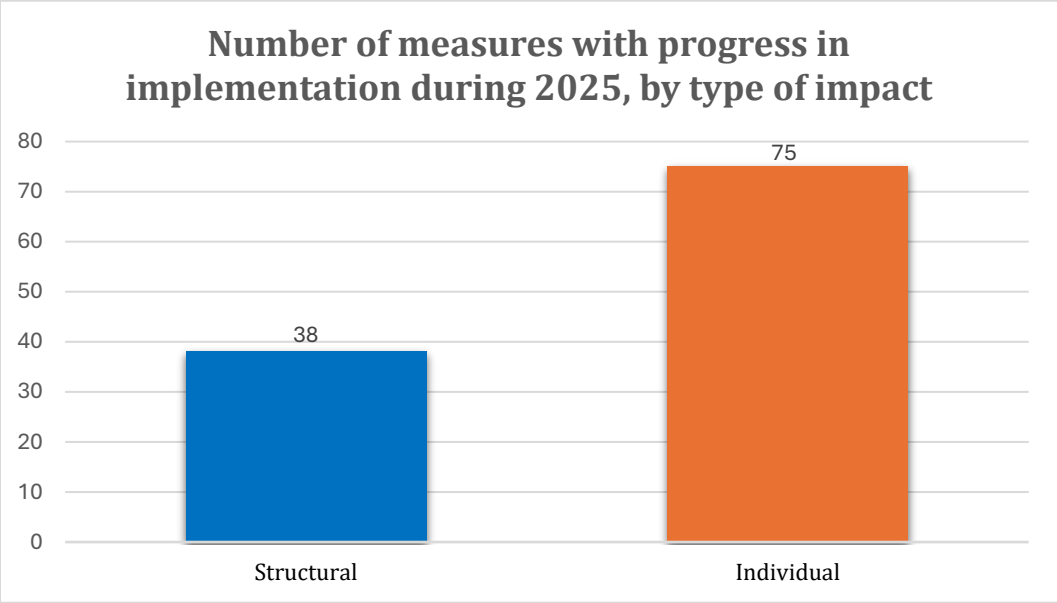
119. The Commission values the efforts of the states of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama and welcomes the progress they have made with implementing the clauses in the friendly settlement agreements that contain commitments to victims and their next of kin and on their compliance with the settlement agreements approved by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission reiterates that said compliance is vital for legitimization of the friendly settlement mechanism and for forging trust in the agreements and in the good faith of States wishing to comply with their international commitments. At the same time, the Commission wishes to take this opportunity to urge all States using the friendly settlement mechanism to complete compliance with measures currently being implemented, so that the IACHR can certify total compliance with the friendly settlement agreements and stop monitoring them.

c. Charts on progress with friendly settlement agreements

120. Based on the above, following is a graphic description of progress observed with the implementation of friendly settlement agreements in 2025:


Number of measures with progress in implementation during 2025, by level of implementation
21
23
69
Total compliance
Substantial partial compliance
Partial compliance


Number of measures with progress in implementation during 2025, by State
Panama
Mexico
Honduras
Guatemala
Colombia
Chile
Brazil
Bolivia
Argentina
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
Total compliance
Substantial partial compliance
Partial compliance



d. New friendly settlement agreements signed by the parties

121. In 2025, a total of 25 new friendly settlement agreements were signed. They are listed next, in chronological order by the date they were signed. These agreements will be subject to analysis and monitoring by the Commission prior to deciding on their eventual approval, pursuant to their attributions under Article 40 of the Rules of Procedure:

No.	Matter	Name	Country	Date of signature YY/MO/DD
1	1221-07	Feliciano Vera González	PY	2024.10.08[26]
2	13.778	Jorge Alirio Pulgarín, Juan Amado Pulgarín and family	CO	2024.10.18[27]
3	15.517	Mellisa Kavitadevi Seenacherry	SU	2024.12.13[28]
4	12.325	Comunidad de San José de Apartadó	CO	2024.12.18[29]
5	13.600	B.A.B.M., O.G.A.J. y R.C.M.P.	GU	2025.01.22
6	P-2350-23 y P-2351-23	Roberto Arzu Garcia Granados y David Esteban Pineda Barrios	GU	2025.01.22
7	13.697	Ana Isabel Florez Teheran and others	CO	2025.02.18
8	15.058	Jesús Nazareno Rivera García	CO	2025.03.21
9	P-679-19	Ricardo Manuel Blanquet	CO	2025.03.21
10	P-1217-16	María Cristina Picón Widow of Viola, María Fernanda Viola, Humberto Antonio Viola	AR	2025.02.10
11	14.488	Jessica Liliana Ramírez Gaviria	CO	2025.04.22
12	15.004	Mercedes Montaña and family	CO	2025.04.22

[26] This FSA is reported this year because the Commission received the information after the elaboration of its 2024 Annual Report.
[27] Ibidem.
[28] Ibidem.
[29] Ibidem.

13	13.318	Rubén Dario Ocampo and others	CO	2025.04.10
14	14.332	Jose Antonio Cardona	CO	2025.04.23
15	14.939	Edgardo Surmay	CO	2025.04.23
16	14.631	Julio Daniel Chaparro Hurtado, Jorge Enrique Torres Navas and families	CO	2025.04.23
17	13.681	Luis Mariano Pertuz Lara and family	CO	2025.04.10
18	P-1198-23	Augusto Jordán Rodas Andrade	GU	2025.06.26
19	15.001	Ramón Arguello Ortiz	CO	2025.06.26
20	14.539	M.M.Y.D., D.A.N.Y. and relatives	CO	2025.07.11
21	15.377	Renán Oswaldo Vindel Castellón	HO	2025.08.07
22	P-2925-19	S. R. R. and family	CH	2025.07.09
23	11.775	Gregorio Alfonso Alvarado	MX	2025.08.26
24	15.171	Martha Lucía González Rodríguez, Alvaro Gonzalez Santana	CO	2025.11.25
25	14.885	Jairo Rocha	CO	2025.12.05

122. The Commission commends the States of for their openness to engage with dialogue with the various alleged victims and their representatives to find, together, formulas of reparation, provided that they are in accordance with human rights standards, take into account the needs and interests of the parties, and are capable of being addressed through the friendly settlement mechanism, which will be assessed at the appropriate time.

e. New friendly settlement monitoring processes

123. The Commission announces with satisfaction that, in 2025, **19** reports approving friendly settlements were published, for which these matters came to be monitored, for the first time, in the follow up mechanism of the Annual Report of the IACHR. They are listed next, in alphabetical order by the state concerned and chronological order based on the date the Commission's decisions were issued:

Report No.	Petition/Case	Country
92/25	13.606 Raiza Isabela Salazar	Colombia
93/25	14.541 José Enrique Caldas and relatives	Colombia
94/25	14.304 Jhon Fredy Lopera Jaramillo and family	Colombia
95/25	14.768 Juana Belfer	Argentina
96/25	13.778 Jorge Alirio Pulgarín Duque, Juan Amado Pulgarín Duque and family	Colombia
97/25	P-2350-23 y P-2351-23 Arzu y Pineda	Guatemala
98/25	13.600 B.A.B.M., O.G.A.J. y R.C.M.P.	Guatemala
115/25	13.139, Javier Charque Choque	Bolivia
195/25	14.939 Edgardo Surmay Soto y Leandro José Surmay Terán	Colombia
196/25	13.318 Rubén Darío Ocampo Henao Y Héctor Corrales Ocampo	Colombia
197/25	14.332 José Antonio Cardona Márquez and family	Colombia
198/25	13.697 Ana Isabel Flórez Teherán	Colombia
270/25	P-1198-23 Augusto Jordán Rodas Andrade	Guatemala
271/25	11.990 B, John Jairo Cavarique	Colombia

272/25	15.172 Gloria Lara and children (Héctor Manuel Echeverri Lara and others)	Colombia
273/25	15.058 Jesús Nazareno Rivera	Colombia
274/25	13.681 Luis Mariano Pertuz	Colombia
275/25	P-679-19 Ricardo Manuel Banquet and others	Colombia
276/25	13.661 Giorgio Vera Fernández	Chile

124. Consequently, the Commission commends the states of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia and Guatemala, and urges them to continue taking actions to comply with those friendly settlement agreements that remain under follow up stage, for the next Annual Report in 2026. For more information on the content of these agreements and the levels of implementation achieved, visit to the IACHR Friendly Settlement Reports website.

3. Activities carried out to promote friendly settlements in 2025

a. Activities to foster the negotiation and implementation of FSAs

125. As regards the line of work that involves actively facilitating the negotiation of and compliance with friendly settlement agreements, in 2025 the Commission held **11** working meetings to foster the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements in different matters from Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Mexico. Moreover, the Commission facilitated **21** technical meetings to foster friendly settlement efforts and/or preparatory meetings over the year, in various matters from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama. Accordingly, in 2025 a total of **32** dialogues tables were facilitated with the parties to advance in friendly settlements.

126. Throughout 2025 the Commission held **7** periodic meetings to review the portfolios of negotiation and monitoring of friendly settlements with Argentina (1); Bolivia (1); Chile (1); Colombia (2); Guatemala (1) and Mexico (1).

127. In 2025, the Commission issued **11** press releases on friendly settlements[30] and maintained the practice of making visible the progress in the homologation and total compliance of friendly settlement agreements to encourage the authorities in charge of the execution of those measures to follow through on the commitments assumed by the States in friendly settlement agreements.

128. In 2025, the IACHR cleared up **48** matters under the friendly settlement mechanism through **19** homologations, **23** instances of ending negotiations at the request of the parties**, 1** matter decided *motu proprio* under Resolution 3/20, 1 archive of a matter in the merits stage undergoing friendly settlement negotiations and **4** matters archived in the monitoring phase due to inactivity, loss of contact with victims or at the request of the petitioner. With regard to the foregoing, it should be noted that the Commission examined the following matters in the friendly settlement follow-up stage, the analysis of which is detailed in the corresponding country sheet, and on that basis proceeds to archive them at this time:

Petition/Case	Name	Country
Case 12.536	Raquel Natalia Lagunas y Sergio Antonio Sorbellini	Argentina
Petition 535-17	Luis Gerardo Bermúdez	Colombia
Case 13.226	Dora Inés Meneses Gómez and others	Colombia
Case 12.631	Karina Montenegro and others	Ecuador

[30] In this regard, see Press Releases from the IACHR on Friendly Solutions in 2025. Available at: OAS :: IACHR :: Friendly Settlement :: Press Releases related to friendly settlements.

129. The Commission also provided technical advice to the parties in **1** matter subjected to the friendly settlement mechanism involving Colombia providing information on general guidelines for drafting FSAs aimed at establishing compliance measurement indicators that facilitate their full implementation.

130. Lastly, the Commission participated in **10** ceremonies for signing and/or acknowledgements of responsibility in compliance with various friendly settlement agreements regarding Colombia[31] and Mexico including:

No.	Name	Country	Date MM/DD/YY
1.	Zenón Alberto Medina López and relatives	MX	3/26/2025
2.	Jessica Liliana Ramírez Gaviria	CO	4/22/2025
3.	Mercedes Montaña and family	CO	4/22/2025
4.	Rubén Dario Ocampo and others	CO	4/22/2025
5.	Jesús Nazareno and family and Ricardo Manuel Banquet	CO	4/22/2025
6.	Jose Antonio Cardona	CO	4/23/2025
7.	Edgardo Surmay	CO	4/23/2025
8.	Julio Daniel Chaparro Hurtado, Jorge Enrique Torres Navas and families	CO	4/23/2025
9.	Luis Mariano Pertuz and Ana Isabel Flórez Teherán	CO	4/23/2025
10.	Jessica Liliana Ramírez Gaviria	CO	10/16/2025

131. The Commission appreciates and welcomes the good will of the States of Colombia and Mexico in implementing these important measures of redress—in face-to-face, virtual and hybrid modalities—and for disseminating them via various media and networks.

b. Activities to promote the sharing and dissemination of best practices in friendly solutions and to develop tools to facilitate access to information regarding the friendly settlement procedure for users of the Inter-American Human Rights System (IAHRS)

132. Relating to the IACHR's line of action on the promotion and dissemination of good practices in friendly settlements, it is worth noting that, in 2025, different training activities were carried out, as well as the dissemination of good practices regarding friendly solution.

133. From April 22 to 26, 2025, the Commission conducted a working visit to Colombia, led by the Country Rapporteur Commissioner. The primary objective was to promote the implementation of comprehensive reparations within the framework of friendly settlement petitions and cases, as well as in other transition cases. Additionally, promotional activities regarding the mechanism of precautionary measures were carried out. In this context, Commissioner Caballero and the technical team of the IACHR Executive Secretariat participated in significant events, including the signing of friendly settlement agreements and acknowledgments of responsibility. Working meetings were also organized to monitor the implementation of friendly settlement agreements approved by the IACHR.

[31] See, Press Release No. 83, IACHR concludes working visit to Colombia on friendly settlements and precautionary measures, published on April 29th, 2025.

134. In particular, on April 24th, the technical team of the IACHR Executive Secretariat held the IX Training Workshop for officials on procedural aspects of friendly settlements. This training space significantly strengthened the technical capacities of Colombian officials responsible for implementing friendly settlement agreements, directly contributing to the country's progress in restorative justice. Using a theoretical-practical approach, the workshop facilitated understanding of the IACHR's role, the legal and procedural requirements of the mechanism, and the specific challenges encountered during the negotiation and implementation stages. It also promoted inter-institutional dialogue and collective analysis of best practices. This event, attended by more than 80 people, reinforced coordination among government entities, consolidated essential knowledge for the timely management of reparation commitments, and improved the technical quality of teams responsible for leading friendly settlement processes across the country.

135. Also, on September 4, 2025, the technical team of the Section of Friendly Settlements of the IACHR participated in the thirteenth edition of the "Héctor Fix Zamudio" Academic Program at UNAM, through a session dedicated to the friendly settlement procedure (FSP). This contributed qualitatively to strengthening specialized knowledge and improving students' practical skills regarding the functioning of the IACHR, particularly the Friendly Settlements Mechanism. The class allowed for an in-depth exploration of procedural matters, the normative evolution of the mechanism—including the application of Resolution 3/20—and an analysis of reparation measures used in Inter-American practice, supported by concrete examples from friendly settlement reports. Through a systematic presentation and the use of methodological tools inspired by collaborative conflict resolution, the activity helped clarify the quasi-judicial role of the IACHR in facilitating agreements, differentiating the components of reparations, and identifying current challenges in negotiating and implementing Friendly Settlement Agreements (FSAs). Overall, this academic contribution strengthened the comprehensive training of 42 students in the educational program by providing essential technical insights to understand the IACHR's alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, reinforcing the connection between theory and practice, and promoting a more strategic view of access to justice and comprehensive reparation within the Inter-American framework.

136. Furthermore, the Commission conducted several promotional activities in Guatemala from November 3 to 5, 2025[32], as part of the expansion efforts of the friendly settlement mechanism. On November 4, the country's Rapporteur Commissioner, Andrea Pochak, convened a high-level meeting with authorities involved in consensus-building processes and the implementation of friendly agreements. The objectives of this meeting included strengthening dialogue and technical cooperation, fostering friendly settlement processes within the country, and promoting more efficient, coordinated, and results-oriented management for the benefit of victims of human rights violations. During this session, the Commissioner reaffirmed the IACHR's commitment to support the State in revitalizing the use of friendly settlements in accordance with the guidelines established in Resolution 3/20 and to advance the development of a modern, sustainable, and victim-centered reparations policy.

137. On the other hand, during the same visit, the technical team of the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR held two training activities: one for civil society organizations and another for government officials of Guatemala. The III Training workshop for civil society on procedural aspects of friendly settlements carried out on November 4th gathered about 30 petitioners and organization representatives to deepen their understanding of procedural and practical aspects, including a negotiation simulation emphasizing active participation of victims. This training enhanced organizations' and victims' ability to engage strategically and informedly in the friendly settlement mechanism, improving their knowledge of procedural aspects, reparation standards, and negotiation dynamics. It reduced asymmetries between civil society and the State, promoted empowered victim participation, and strengthened networks for advocacy and dialogue. Additionally, it clarified reparation expectations, improved the technical quality of proposals and negotiations, and fostered sustainable agreements aligned with Inter-American standards.

[32] See, IACHR, Press Release No. 227, IACHR completes promotional activities about friendly settlements in Guatemala, November 12, 2025.

138. Finally, on November 5, 2025, the IX Training workshop for officials on procedural aspects of friendly settlements was held, strengthening the technical and procedural capacities of 79 authorities responsible for implementing friendly resolution processes in Guatemala. The workshop used a theoretical-practical approach to the regulatory frameworks, previous experiences, and current challenges in processing FSAs. The activity clarified the institutional roles of the State and the IACHR, enhanced understanding of the content, stages, and standards applicable to FSPs, and fostered a collective analysis of the obstacles that cause procedural delays, promoting tailored responses and greater consistency in case management. Through a practical negotiation simulation and a final reflection on best practices, the workshop fostered dialogue skills, collaborative strategies, and the ability to identify appropriate and feasible reparative measures.

4. Status of compliance with reports on friendly settlement agreements, approved pursuant to article 49 of the American Convention on Human Rights

139. In compliance with its conventional and statutory attributes, and in accordance with article 48 of the Rules of Procedure, the IACHR makes the follow-up to its own decisions regarding friendly settlements. This Commission practice began in 2000 and from this moment onwards, information has been requested annually from parties of different petitions and cases to follow-up on friendly settlement reports published in light of article 49 of the American Convention and update the status of compliance of each of the matters under the supervision of the IACHR. Additionally, the IACHR receives information at hearings or working meetings held during the year, and which is also taken into consideration for the analysis of the state of compliance with friendly settlement proceedings as appropriate in each case.

140. For the elaboration of this Chapter, the Commission requested information to the users of the follow up of friendly settlement tool and analyzed in this report the information submitted by the parties until September 15, 2025[33]. Any information received thereafter did not make it into the Chapter could be taken into consideration for the 2026 Annual Report. The parties were duly advised of this information in the context of the requests for information for the preparation of this Chapter of the Annual Report. It should also be noted that the Commission took into account on exceptional basis information received after the closing date in those cases, where working meetings were held in the framework of the working meeting days as well as during the Period of Sessions that generated subsequent actions carried out based on the work lines developed in those meetings or in those matters in which the parties sent partial information within the term provided and after the period they added complementary or clarifying information.

141. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights continues to make efforts to communicate more clearly the progress made toward implementing friendly settlement agreements. To that end, the Commission prepared detailed compliance monitoring sheets on each active case, identifying both the individual and structural impacts in each case. In the table listed below the link to the record analysis of compliance with each one of the friendly settlement agreements that are currently under follow up stage can be accessed, and the level of general compliance of each case can be observed along with the percentage of execution of the agreements. This allows the parties to see the level of implementation of the agreement beyond the most categories of compliance, partial and pending. Finally, in this opportunity the Commission maintained the categories of analysis of the information supplied by the parties,[34] as well as the categories for the

[33] In accordance with Section 6 concerning Challenges and Setbacks in the implementation of friendly settlement agreements and considering the change in the Commission's composition effective as of December 31, 2025, the Commission found it necessary to obtain information earlier for the analysis of the Annual Report, which was previously due by October 15 annually. Notwithstanding this, due to the change in methodology, information received after that date was incorporated if available within each file during analysis, including documentation received in October and November 2025.

[34] Below are the categories of information analysis:

• **Relevant information provided:** the information provided is relevant, updated and extensive on measures adopted related to compliance with at least one of the clauses of the friendly settlement agreement, within the period specified by the IACHR.

• **Information provided that is not relevant:** the information was provided within the period specified by the IACHR but does not refer to the measures adopted regarding compliance with at least one of the clauses of the friendly settlement agreement pending compliance, is outdated, or is repetitive to the information presented in previous years without presenting new information.

individualized analysis of the clauses of the friendly settlement [35] and the categories of the general analysis of the fulfillment of the friendly settlement agreements traditionally used. [36]

142. In light of the above, the commission observes that the status of compliance with friendly settlement agreements in 2025, is as follows:

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
1. Case 11.307, Report No. 103/01, María Merciadri de Morini (Argentina) [39]	Link to monitoring sheets on matters related to reports of friendly settlement agreements of Argentina that are subject to monitoring (only available in Spanish)	X			100%	Closed
2. Case 11.804, Report No. 91/03, Juan Angel Greco (Argentina)			X		63%	Active
3. Case 12.080, Report No. 102/05, Sergio Schiavini and María Teresa			X		50%	Closed

• **Information not provided:** information on measures adopted to comply with clauses of the friendly settlement agreement was not provided; The IACHR is expressly informed that the information will not be presented; or extension(s) to provide information were requested and, in the end, the information was not provided.

[35] The individual compliance status categories of its friendly settlement agreement clauses are listed below:

• **Total compliance:** a FSA clause in which the State has begun and satisfactorily completed the measure for compliance.

• **Partial Substantial compliance:** a FSA clause in which the State has adopted relevant measures for compliance and has provided evidence thereof, but the Commission finds that the measures for compliance thereof have still not been completed.

• **Partial compliance:** a FSA clause in which the State has adopted some measures for compliance, but it still must adopt additional measures.

• **Compliance pending:** a FSA clause in which the State has not adopted any measure to comply with the measure; or the steps taken have still not produced concrete results; or the measure(s) adopted is/are not relevant to the situation under examination.

• **Non-compliance:** a FSA clause in which, due to the State's conduct, it is not possible for the State to comply, or the State has expressly advised that it will not comply with the measure.

[36] The Commission decided to maintain the traditionally used categories of comprehensive examination of petitions and cases, which are:

• **Total compliance:** those cases in which the State has fully complied with all of the FSA clauses published by the IACHR. The Commission considers as complied with all the clauses of the FSA in which the State has started and satisfactorily completed the measures for compliance of all the clauses of the agreement.

• **Partial compliance:** those cases in which the State has partially complied with the FSA clauses published by the IACHR, either by having complied with only one or some of the FSA clauses, or through incomplete compliance with all of the FSA clauses; those cases in which the State has fully complied with all of the FSA clauses published by the IACHR except for one of them, with which it has been unable to comply.

• **Compliance pending:** those cases in which the IACHR considers that there has been no compliance with the FSA clauses published by it, because no steps were taken to that end; or the steps taken have still not produced concrete results; because the State has expressly indicated that it will not comply with the FSA clauses published by the IACHR; or the State has not reported to the IACHR and the Commission has no information from other sources to suggest otherwise.

[37] The cases in which there is a repetition of the matter number followed by a letter refer to negotiation processes in which the figure of the disaggregation was applied due to the existence of different beneficiaries of separate FSA; to address different claims according to the interests of the victims and/or petitioners, or because of the loss of contact and/or lack of will of any of the victims and/or petitioners to advance through the friendly settlement procedure, among other scenarios.

[38] The percentage of compliance was calculated taking into consideration the total number of measures established in each agreement as a 100%, and the number of clauses that have been totally complied with.

[39] See IACHR, Annual Report 2008, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 38-40.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
Schnack (Argentina) [40]						
4. Case 12.298, Report No. 81/08, Fernando Giovanelli (Argentina) [41]			X		60%	Closed
5. Case 12.159, Report No. 79/09, Gabriel Egisto Santillan Reigas (Argentina) [42]		X			100%	Closed
6. Case 11.758, Report No. 15/10, Rodolfo Correa Belisle (Argentina) [43]		X			100%	Closed
7. Case 11.796, Report No. 16/10, Mario Humberto Gómez Yardez (Argentina) [44]		X			100%	Closed
8. Case 12.536, Report No. 17/10, Raquel Natalia Lagunas and Sergio Antonio Sorbellini (Argentina)			X		80%	Closed 2025
9. Petition 242-03, Report No. 160/10, Inocencia Luca Pegoraro (Argentina) [45]		X			100%	Closed

[40] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements

[41] See IACHR, Annual Report 2019, Chapter II, Section G. Friendly Settlements. At the petitioner's request, the Commission decided, in accordance with Article 42 and 48 of its Regulations, to cease monitoring compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measures and legislative reforms enshrined in the friendly settlement agreement.

[42] See IACHR, *Annual Report 2022*, Chapter II, Section C. Advances and regressions on negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available in: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2022/Chapters/4-IA2022_Cap_2_EN.pdf.

[43] See IACHR, Annual Report 2015, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, para. 114.

[44] See IACHR, Annual Report 2011, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 159-164.

[45] See IACHR, Annual Report 2021, Chapter II, Section F. Negotiation, and implementation of friendly settlement agreements. Available in: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2021/Chapters/IA2021cap2-en.pdf.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
10. Petition 4554-02, Report No. 161/10, Valerio Castillo Báez (Argentina) [46]		X			100%	Closed
11. Petition 2829-02, Report No. 11/19, Inocencio Rodríguez (Argentina) [47]		X			100%	Closed
12. Case 11.708, Report No. 20/11, Anibal Acosta and L. Hirsch (Argentina) [48]		X			100%	Closed
13. Case 11.833, Report No. 21/11, Ricardo Monterisi (Argentina) [49]		X			100%	Closed
14. Case 12.532, Report No. 84/11, Penitentiaries of Mendoza (Argentina)			X		73%	Active
15. Case 12.306, Report No. 85/11, Juan Carlos de la Torre (Argentina)			X		33%	Active
16. Case 11.670, Report No. 168/11, Menéndez and Caride (Argentina) [50]		X			100%	Closed
17. Case 12.182, Report No. 109/13, Florentino Rojas (Argentina) [51]		X			100%	Closed

[46] See IACHR, Annual Report 2013, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 165 – 175.
[47] See IACHR, Annual Report 2016, Chapter II, Section D: Status of Compliance with Recommendations and Friendly Settlements in individual cases, paras. 194-205.
[48] See, IACHR, Annual Report 2014, Chapter II, Section D: States of Compliance with the Recommendations of the IACHR, paras. 173-181.
[49] See IACHR, Annual Report 2012, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 180-183.
[50] See IACHR, Annual Report 2013, Chapter II, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 225-252.
[51] See IACHR, *Annual Report 2022*, Chapter II, Section C. Advances and regressions on negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available in: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2022/Chapters/4-IA2022_Cap_2_EN.pdf.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
18. Petition 21-05, Report No. 101/14, Ignacio Cardozo et al. (Argentina)			X		20%	Active
19. Case 12.710, Report No. 102/14, Marcos Gilberto Chaves and Sandra Beatriz Chaves (Argentina) [52]		X			100%	Closed
20. Case 12.854, Report No. 36/17, Ricardo Javier Kaplun (Argentina)			X		60%	Active
21. Case 13.011, Report No. 197/20, Graciela Ramos Rocha, and family (Argentina) [53]		X			100%	Closed
22. Petition 245-03, Report No. 39/21, Walter Mauro Yañez (Argentina) [54]		X			100%	Closed
23. Case 13.595, Report No. 207/21, Amanda Graciela Encaje and Family (Argentina)			X		71%	Active
24. Case 12.289, Report No. 168/2022, Guillermo Santiago Zaldivar (Argentina)			X		50%	Active
25. Petition 1256-05, Report No. 305/22, Ivana Rosales (Argentina)			X		58%	Active

[52] See IACHR, Annual Report 2018, Chapter II, Section G. "Status of Compliance with the Recommendations Issued by the IACHR in Merits Reports and Friendly Settlement Agreements Approved by the IACHR."

[53] See IACHR, Annual Report 2021, Chapter II, Section F. Negotiation, and implementation of friendly settlement agreements. Available in: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2021/Chapters/IA2021cap2-en.pdf.

[54] See IACHR, Report No. 39/21, Petition 245-03. Friendly Settlement. Walter Mauro Yañez. Argentina. March 19, 2021.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
26. Case 13.869, Report No. 349/22, Silvia Mónica Severini (Argentina) [55]		X			100%	Closed
27. Case 14.669, Report No. 350/22, Mariano Bejarano (Argentina) [56]		X			100%	Closed
28. Case 13.888, Report No. 85/23, Diego Pablo Paredes, (Argentina)		X			100%	Closed 2025
29. Case 14,770, Report No. 211/23, Alicia María Jardel (Argentina) [57]		X			100%	Closed
30. Case 14,781, Report No. 212/2023, Luis Carlos Abregu, (Argentina) [58]		X			100%	Closed
31. Case 14,714, Report No. 215/23, Francisco Naishtat, (Argentina) [59]		X			100%	Closed
32. Case 13,804, Report No. 216/23, Carlos Ballivian Jiménez, (Argentina)			X		25%	Active

[55] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[56] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[57] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[58] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[59] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
33. Case 14,778, Report No. 217/23, Graciela Edit Abecasis, (Argentina)		X			100%	Closed 2025
34. Case 14,536, Report No. 219/23, Eduardo Molina Zequeira, (Argentina)			X		25%	Active
35. Case 13,020, Report No. 220/23, Carlos Fraticelli, (Argentina) [60]		X			100%	Closed
36. Petition 268-10, Report No. 266/23, Maria del Carmen Senem de Buzzi, (Argentina)			X		75%	Active
37. Case 14,769, Report No. 267/23, Claudia and Ana María Kleinman, (Argentina)		X			100%	Closed 2025
38. Case 14,771, Report No. 268/23, Lilia Etcheverry and family, (Argentina)			X		33%	Active
39. Case 13,581, Report No. 269/23, José Luis D'Andrea Mohr, (Argentina)			X		50%	Active
40. Case 14.835, Report No. 27/24, Lilia Ana Villagra, (Argentina)		X			100%	Closed 2025
41. Case 14.836, Report No. 28/24, Lydia Cristina Vieyra, (Argentina)		X			100%	Closed 2025

[60] See IACHR, Report No. 220/23, Case 13.020. Friendly Settlement. Carlos Andrés Fraticelli. Argentina. October 22, 2023.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
42. Case 14.940, Report No. 29/24, Horacio Ricardo Neuman, (Argentina)		X			100%	Closed 2025
43. Case 14.739, Report No. 30/24, Mary Beatriz Guerra Peña, (Argentina)			X		25%	Active
44. Case 13.696, Report No. 31/24, Octavio Romero y Gabriel Gersbach, (Argentina)			X		33%	Active
45. Case 14.768, Report No. 95/25, Juana Belfer (Argentina)			X		25%	Active
46. Case 12.475, Report No. 97/05, Alfredo Díaz Bustos (Bolivia) [61]	Link to monitoring sheets on matters related to reports of friendly settlement agreements of Bolivia that are subject to monitoring	X			100%	Closed
47. Case 12.516, Report No. 98/05, Raúl Zavala Málaga and Jorge Pacheco Rondón (Bolivia) [62]		X			100%	Closed
48. Petition 269-05, Report No. 82/07, Miguel Angel Moncada Osorio and James David Rocha Terraza (Bolivia) [63]		X			100%	Closed

[61] See IACHR, Annual Report 2018, Chapter II, Section G. "Status of Compliance with the Recommendations Issued by the IACHR in Merits Reports and Friendly Settlement Agreements Approved by the IACHR."
[62] See IACHR, Annual Report 2009, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 109-114.
[63] See IACHR, Annual Report 2009, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 115-119.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
49. Petition 788-06, Report No. 70/07, Víctor Hugo Arce Chávez (Bolivia) [64]		X			100%	Closed
50. Case 12.350, Report No. 103/14, M.Z. (Bolivia) [65]		X			100%	Closed
51. Case 11,426, Report No. 270/23, Marcela Porco (Bolivia) [66]		X			100%	Closed
52. Case 13.139, Report No. 115/25, Javier Charque Choque (Bolivia)			X		33%	Active
53. Case 11.289, Report No. 95/03, José Pereira (Brazil)	Link to monitoring sheets on matters related to reports of friendly settlement agreements of Brazil that are subject to monitoring	X			91%	Closed 2025
54. Cases 12.426 and 12.427, Report No. 43/06, Raniê Silva Cruz, Eduardo Rocha da Silva and Raimundo Nonato Conceição Filho (Brazil) [67]		X			100%	Closed
55. Case 12.674, Report No. 111/20, Marcio Lapoente Da Silveira (Brazil)		X			100%	Closed 2025
56. Case 12.277, Report No. 136/21, Fazenda Ubá (Brazil)			X		44%	Active
57. Case 12,673, Report No. 114/23, Jose Dutra Da Costa (Brazil)			X		50%	Active

[64] See IACHR, Annual Report 2009, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 120-124.
[65] See IACHR, Friendly Settlement Report No. 103-14, Case 12.350, (M.Z. Bolivia), dated November 7, 2014. See IACHR, Annual Report 2015, Chapter II, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 290.
[66] See IACHR, Report No. 270/23, Case 11.426. Friendly Settlement. [Marcela Alejandra Porco. Bolivia. November 30, 2023.
[67] See IACHR, Annual Report 2008, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 162-175.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
58. Case 11.715, Report No. 32/02, Juan Manuel Contreras San Martín et al. (Chile) [68]	Link to monitoring sheets on matters related to reports of friendly settlement agreements of Chile that are subject to monitoring (only available in Spanish)	X			100%	Closed
59. Case 12.046, Report No. 33/02, Mónica Carabantes Galleguillos (Chile) [69]		X			100%	Closed
60. Petition 4617/02, Report No. 30/04, Mercedes Julia Huenteao Beroiza et al. (Chile) [70]			X		92%	Closed
61. Case 12.337, Report No. 80/09, Marcela Andrea Valdés Díaz (Chile) [71]		X			100%	Closed
62. Petition 490-03, Report No. 81/09 "X" (Chile) [72]		X			100%	Closed
63. Case 12.281, Report No. 162/10, Gilda Rosario Pizarro et al. (Chile) [73]		X			100%	Closed
64. Case 12.195, Report No. 163/10, Mario Alberto Jara Oñate (Chile) [74]		X			100%	Closed
65. Case 12.232, Report No. 86/11, María Soledad Cisternas (Chile) [75]		X			100%	Closed

[68] See IACHR, Annual Report 2007, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 187-190.
[69]. See IACHR, Annual Report 2007, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 191-194.
[70] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.
[71] See IACHR, Annual Report 2010, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 298-302.
[72] See IACHR, Annual Report 2010, Chapter II, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 303-306.
[73] See IACHR, Annual Report 2011, Chapter II, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 337-345.
[74] See IACHR, Annual Report 2011, Chapter II, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 346-354.
[75] See IACHR, Annual Report 2012, Chap II, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 408-412.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
66. Petition 687-11, Report No. 138/19, Gabriela Blas Blas and her daughter C.B.B. (Chile) [76]		X			100%	Closed
67. Case 12.190; Report No. 37/19, Jose Luis Tapia, and Other Members of the Carabineros (Chile) [77]		X			100%	Closed
68. Case12.233, Report No. 137/19, Víctor Amestica Moreno and Others (Chile) [78]		X			100%	Closed
69. Petition 1275-04 A, Report No. 23/20, Juan Luis Rivera Matus (Chile) [79]		X			100%	Closed
70. Case 13.661, Report No. 276/25, Giorgio Vera Fernández (Chile) [80]		X			100%	Closed 2025
71. Case 11.141, Report No. 105/05, Massacre of Villatina (Colombia) [81]	Link to monitoring sheets on matters related to reports of friendly settlement agreements of Colombia that are subject to	X			100%	Closed
72. Case 10.205, Report No. 53/06, Germán Enrique Guerra Achuri (Colombia) [82]		X			100%	Closed

[76] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[77] See IACHR, IACHR, Report No. 37/19, Case 12.190. Friendly Settlement. José Luis Tapia and Other Members of the Carabineros. Chile. April 16, 2019.

[78] See IACHR, Annual Report 2019, Chapter II, Section G. Friendly Settlements.

[79] See IACHR. Annual Report 2020. Chapter II. Section F. Negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available on: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap2-en.pdf.

[80] IACHR, Report No. 276/25, Case 13.661, Friendly Settlement, Giorgio Vera Fernández, Chile, December 10th, 2025.

[81] See IACHR. Annual Report 2020. Chapter II. Section F. Negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available on: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap2-en.pdf.

[82] See IACHR, Annual Report 2010, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 329-333.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
73. Petition 477-05, Report No. 82/08 X and relatives (Colombia) [83]	monitoring (only available in Spanish)	X			100%	Closed
74. Petition 401-05, Report No. 83/08 Jorge Antonio Barbosa Tarazona *et al.* (Colombia) [84]		X			100%	Closed
75. Case 12.376, Report No. 59/14, Alba Lucía, Rodríguez (Colombia)			X		57%	Active
76. Case 12.756, Report No. 10/15, Massacre El Aracatazzo Bar (Colombia) [85]		X			100%	Closed
77. Petition 108-00, Report No. 38/15, Massacre of Segovia (28 family groups) (Colombia) [86]		X			100%	Closed
78. Petition 577-06, Report No. 82/15, Gloria González, and family (Colombia)			X		83%	Active
79. Case 11.538, Report No. 43/16, Herson Javier Caro (Colombia) [87]		X			100%	Closed

[83] See IACHR, Annual Report 2010, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 339-344.
[84] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.
[85] See IACHR, *Annual Report 2022*, Chapter II, Section C. Advances and regressions on negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available in: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2022/Chapters/4-IA2022_Cap_2_EN.pdf.
[86] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.
[87] See IACHR, *Annual Report 2022*, Chapter II, Section C. Advances and regressions on negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available in: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2022/Chapters/4-IA2022_Cap_2_EN.pdf.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
80. Case 12.541, Report No. 67/16, Omar Zuñiga Vásquez and Amira Isabel Vásquez de Zuñiga (Colombia)			X		33%	Active
81. Case 11.007, Report No. 68/16, Massacre of Trujillo (Colombia)			X		62%	Active
82. Case 12.712, Report No. 135/17, Rubén Darío Arroyave (Colombia) [88]		X			100%	Closed
83. Case 12.714, Report No. 136/17, Belen Altavista Massacre (Colombia)			X		80%	Active
84. Case 12.941, Report No. 92/18, Nicolasa, and Family (Colombia)			X		43%	Active
85. Petition 799-06, Report No. 93/18, Isidoro León Ramírez, et al. (Colombia) [89]		X			100%	Closed
86. Case 11.990 A, Report No. 34/19, Oscar Orlando Bueno Bonnet et al. (Colombia)			X		44%	Active

[88] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[89] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
87. Case 11.144, Report No. 109/19, Gerson Jairzinho González Arroyo (Colombia)			X		66%	Active
88. Case 13.776, Report No. 1/20, German Eduardo Giraldo, and family (Colombia)			X		67%	Active
89. Case 13.728, Report No. 21/20, Amira Guzmán Alonso (Colombia) [90]		X			100%	Closed
90. Case 12.909, Report No. 22/20, Gerardo Bedoya Borrero (Colombia)			X		90%	Active
91. Case 13.370, Report No. 8/20, Luis Horacio Patiño and family (Colombia) [91]		X			100%	Closed
92. Petition 595-09, Report No. 84/20, Jorge Alberto Montes Gallego, and family (Colombia) [92]		X			100%	Closed
93. Case 13.319. Report No. 213/20, William Fernández Becerra, and family (Colombia)			X		27%	Active

[90] See IACHR, *Annual Report 2022*, Chapter II, Section C. Advances and regressions on negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available in: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2022/Chapters/4-IA2022_Cap_2_EN.pdf.

[91] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[92] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
94. Case 13.421, Report No. 333/20, Geminiano Gil Martinez and family (Colombia) [93]		X			100%	Closed
95. Case 13.642, Report No. 41/21, Edgar José Sánchez Duarte, and Family (Colombia) [94]		X			100%	Closed
96. Case 13.171, Report No. 115/21, Luis Argemiro Gómez Atehortua (Colombia)			X		80%	Active
97. Case 13.571, Report 336/21, Carlos Mario Muñoz Gómez, (Colombia)			X		75%	Active
98. Case 13.758, Report 337/21, Franklin Bustamante Restrepo (Colombia) [95]		X			100%	Closed
99. Case 14.291, Report No. 58/22, Captain N (Colombia)			X		50%	Active
100. Petition53 5-17, Report No. 59/22, Luis Gerardo Bermudez (Colombia)			X		75%	Closed 2025

[93] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.
[94] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.
[95] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
101. Petition51 4-11, Report No. 60/22, Luis Hernando Morera Garzón (Colombia)			X		60%	Active
102. Case 13.775, Report No. 63/22, Gabriel Angel Gómez Martínez and Family (Colombia) [96]		X			100%	Closed
103. Case 13.654, Informe No. 64/22, Juan Simón Cantillo Raigoza and Family (Colombia)			X		50%	Active
104. Case 14.306, Report No. 65/22, José Ramón Ochoa Salazar, and Family (Colombia)			X		60%	Active
105. Case 13.964, Report No. 66/22, Darío Gómez Cartagena, and Family (Colombia)			X		67%	Active
106. Case 13.436, Report No. 67/22, José Oleaguer Correa Castrillón (Colombia) [97]		X			100%	Closed
107. Case 13.125, Report No. 68/22, Ricardo Antonio Elías and Family (Colombia)		X			100%	Closed 2025

[96] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[97] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
108. Petition13 91-15, Report No. 94/22, Mario Antonio Cardona et al. (Colombia)			X		67%	Active
109. Petition16 17-12, Report No. 169/22, Domingo José Rivas Coronado (Colombia)			X		86%	Active
110. Case 14.312, Report No. 170/22, Juan Carlos De La Calle Jiménez y Javier De La Calle Jiménez (Colombia)		X			100%	Closed 2025
111. Case 14.093, Report No. 285/22, Ernesto Ramírez Berrios (Colombia)			X		83%	Active
112. Case 13.226, Report No. 286/22, Dora Inés Meneses Gómez et al. (Colombia)			X		40%	Closed 2025
113. Case 13,710, Report No. 109/23, Julián Alberto Toro Ortiz and family, (Colombia)			X		50%	Active
114. Case 14,577, Report No. 110/23, Teobaldo Enrique Martínez Fuentes and family, (Colombia)			X		75%	Active
115. Case 13,840, Report No. 111/23, Edwin Hernán Ciro and family, (Colombia)			X		67%	Active

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
116. Case 14,070, Report No. 112/23, José Omar Torres Barbosa, (Colombia)			X		33%	Active
117. Petition 1478-12, Report No. 113/23, José Manuel Bello Nieves, (Colombia)			X		50%	Active
118. Case 13,232, Report No. 115/23, Omar Ernesto Vázquez Agudelo, (Colombia)			X		75%	Active
119. Case 14,719, Report No. 116/23, Geovanni Aguirre Soto, (Colombia)			X		66%	Active
120. Case 12,908, Report No. 208/23, Jorge Freytter Romero, (Colombia)			X		30%	Active
121. Case 13,780, Report No. 209/23, Hugo Ferney León Londoño, (Colombia)			X		75%	Active
122. Case 14,145, Report No. 210/23, Eleazar Vargas Ardila and Relatives, (Colombia)			X		33%	Active
123. Case 12,490, Report No. 218/23, Asmeth Yamith Salazar, (Colombia)			X		80%	Active

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
124. Case 14,003, Report No. 221/23, Maria Regina Ocampo, (Colombia)			X		50%	Active
125. Case 13,971, Report No. 271/23, Merardo Ivan Vahos Arcila and Familia, (Colombia)			X		75%	Active
126. Case 14,808, Report No. 272/23, Diego Felipe Becerra Lizarazo and Family, (Colombia)			X		50%	Active
127. Case 14,906, Report No. 273/23, Eladia Mendez Bautista, (Colombia)			X		75%	Active
128. Case 14,887, Report No. 274/23, Blanca Ruth Sanchez de Franco y Familia, (Colombia)			X		75%	Active
129. Case 13.711, Report No. 32/24, Levis Elcener Centeno Cuero, and family, (Colombia)			X		60%	Active
130. Case 12.843, Report No. 33/24, Luis y Leonardo Caisales Dogenesama, (Colombia)			X		43%	Active

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
131. Case 13.892, Report No. 159/24, Denys Del Carmen Olivera De Montes and family, (Colombia)			X		50%	Active
132. Case 13.602, Report No. 160/24, Nelson Enrique Giraldo Ramírez and family, (Colombia)			X		50%	Active
133. Case 13.974, Report No. 161/24, Claudia Baracaldo Bejarano et al., (Colombia)			X		20%	Active
134. Case 12.842, Report No. 163/24, Brainer Alexander Oquendo Santana, and family, (Colombia)			X		75%	Active
135. Case 14.802, Report No. 164/24, José Alirio Cañas Morales and family, (Colombia)			X		50%	Active
136. Case 13.606, Report No. 92/25, Raiza Isabela Salazar (Colombia)			X		33%	Active
137. Case 14.541, Report No. 93/25, José Enrique Caldas and family (Colombia)			X		33%	Active

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
138. Case 14.304, Report No. 94/25, Jhon Fredy Lopera Jaramillo and family (Colombia)			X		33%	Active
139. Case 13.778, Report No. 96/25, Jorge Alirio Pulgarín Duque, Juan Amado Pulgarín Duque and family (Colombia)			X		33%	Active
140. Case 14.939, Report No. 195/25, Edgardo Surmay Soto and Leonardo José Surmay Terán (Colombia)			X		17%	Active
141. Case 13.318, Report No. 196/25, Rubén Darío Ocampo Henao and Héctor Corrales Ocampo (Colombia)			X		25%	Active
142. Case 14.332, Report No. 197/25, José Antonio Cardona Márquez and family (Colombia)			X		14%	Active
143. Case 13.697, Report No. 198/25, Ana Isabel Flórez Teherán (Colombia)			X		33%	Active
144. Case 11.990B, Report No. 271/25, Jhon Jairo Cabarique (Colombia)			X		0%	Active

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
145. Case 15.172, Report No. 272/25, Gloria Lara and sons (Héctor Manuel Echeverri Lara and others) (Colombia)			X		17%	Active
146. Case 15.058, Report No. 273/25, Jesús Nazareno Rivera and others (Colombia)			X		33%	Active
147. Case 13.681, Report 274/25, Luis Mariano Pertuz (Colombia)			X		40%	Active
148. Petition 679-19, Report No. 275/25, Ricardo Manuel Banquet and others (Colombia)			X		25%	Active
149. Case 12.942, Report No. 71/19, Emilia Morales Campos (Costa Rica) [98]	N/A	X			100%	Closed
150. Case 11.421, Report No. 93/00, Edison Patricio Quishpe Alcivar (Ecuador) [99]	Link to monitoring sheets on matters related to reports of		X		67%	Closed

[98] See IACHR, IACHR, Report No. 71/19, Case 12.942 Friendly Settlement. Emilia Morales Campos. Costa Rica May 15, 2019.

[99] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
151. Case 11.439, Report No. 94/00, Byron Roberto Cañaveral (Ecuador) [100]	friendly settlement agreements of Ecuador that are subject to monitoring (only available in Spanish)		X		67%	Closed
152. Case 11.445, Report No. 95/00, Angelo Javier Ruales Paredes (Ecuador) [101]		X			100%	Closed
153. Case 11.466, Report No. 96/00, Manuel Inocencio Lalvay Guzman (Ecuador) [102]			X		75%	Closed
154. Case 11.584, Report No. 97/00, Carlos Juela Molina (Ecuador) [103]			X		67%	Closed
155. Case 11.783, Report No. 98/00, Marcia Irene Clavijo Tapia, (Ecuador) [104]			X		67%	Closed

[100] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[101] See IACHR, Annual Report 2008, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 283-286.

[102] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[103] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[104] See IACHR, 2019 Annual Report, Chapter II, Section G. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
156. Case 11.868, Report No. 99/00, Carlos Santiago, and Pedro Andrés Restrepo Arismendy (Ecuador) [105]			X		67%	Closed
157. Case 11.991, Report No. 100/00, Kelvin Vicente Torres Cueva (Ecuador) [106]			X		67%	Closed
158. Case 11.478, Report No. 19/01, Juan Climaco Cuellar et al. (Ecuador)			X		50%	Active
159. Case 11.512, Report No. 20/01, Lida Angela Riera Rodríguez (Ecuador) [107]			X		50%	Closed
160. Case 11.605, Report No. 21/01, René Gonzalo Cruz Pazmiño (Ecuador) [108]			X		50%	Closed

[105] See IACHR. Annual Report 2020. Chapter II. Section F. Negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available on: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap2-en.pdf Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[106] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[107] See IACHR, Annual Report 2018, Chapter II, Section G. "Status of Compliance with the Recommendations Issued by the IACHR in Merits Reports and Friendly Settlement Agreements Approved by the IACHR." At the request of the petitioner, the Commission decided, in accordance with Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, to conclude its monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and to close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State did not comply with the justice measure set forth in the friendly settlement agreement.

[108] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
161. Case 11.779, Report No. 22/01, José Patricio Reascos (Ecuador) [109]			X		50%	Closed
162. Case 11.441, Report No. 104/01, Rodrigo Elicio Muñoz Arcos et al. (Ecuador) [110]			X		50%	Closed
163. Case 11.443, Report No. 105/01, Washington Ayora Rodríguez (Ecuador) [111]			X		50%	Closed
164. Case 11.450, Report No. 106/01, Marco Vinicio Almeida Calispa (Ecuador) [112]			X		50%	Closed
165. Case 11.542, Report No. 107/01, Angel Reiniero Vega Jiménez (Ecuador) [113]			X		50%	Closed

[109] See IACHR, Annual Report 2018, Chapter II, Section G. "Status of Compliance with the Recommendations Issued by the IACHR in Merits Reports and Friendly Settlement Agreements Approved by the IACHR." At the request of the petitioner, the Commission decided, in accordance with Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, to conclude its monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and to close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State did not comply with the justice measure set forth in the friendly settlement agreement.

[110] See IACHR, 2019 Annual Report, Chapter II, Section G. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[111] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[112] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[113] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
166. Case 11.574, Report No. 108/01, Wilberto Samuel Manzano (Ecuador) [114]			X		50%	Closed
167. Case 11.632, Report No. 109/01, Vidal Segura Hurtado (Ecuador) [115]			X		50%	Closed
168. Case 12.007, Report No. 110/01, Pompeyo Carlos Andrade Benítez (Ecuador) [116]			X		50%	Closed
169. Case 11.515, Report No. 63/03, Bolívar Franco Camacho Arboleda (Ecuador) [117]			X		50%	Closed
170. Case 12.188, Report No. 64/03, Joffre José Valencia Mero, Priscila Fierro, Zoreida Valencia Sánchez, Rocío Valencia Sánchez (Ecuador) [118]			X		50%	Closed

[114] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[115] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[116] See IACHR, Annual Report 2021, Chapter II, Section F. Negotiation, and implementation of friendly settlement agreements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement. Available in: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2021/Chapters/IA2021cap2-en.pdf.

[117] See IACHR, Annual Report 2018, Chapter II, Section G. "Status of Compliance with the Recommendations Issued by the IACHR in Merits Reports and Friendly Settlement Agreements Approved by the IACHR." At the request of the petitioner, the Commission decided, in accordance with Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, to conclude its monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and to close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State did not comply with the justice measure set forth in the friendly settlement agreement.

[118] See IACHR, Annual Report 2018, Chapter II, Section G. "Status of Compliance with the Recommendations Issued by the IACHR in Merits Reports and Friendly Settlement Agreements Approved by the IACHR." At the request of the petitioner, the Commission decided, in accordance with Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, to conclude its monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
171. Case 12.394, Report No. 65/03, Joaquín Hernández Alvarado, Marlon Loor Argote and Hugo Lara Pinos (Ecuador) [119]			X		50%	Closed
172. Case 12.205, Report No. 44/06, José René Castro Galarza (Ecuador) [120]			X		50%	Closed
173. Case 12.207, Report No. 45/06, Lizandro Ramiro Montero Masache (Ecuador) [121]			X		50%	Closed
174. Case 12.238, Report No. 46/06, Myriam Larrea Pintado (Ecuador) [122]			X		60%	Closed

agreement and to close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State did not comply with the justice measure set forth in the friendly settlement agreement.

[119] See IACHR. Annual Report 2020. Chapter II. Section F. Negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available on: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap2-en.pdf. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[120] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements

[121] See IACHR, Annual Report 2018, Chapter II, Section G. "Status of Compliance with the Recommendations Issued by the IACHR in Merits Reports and Friendly Settlement Agreements Approved by the IACHR." At the request of the petitioner, the Commission decided, in accordance with Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, to conclude its monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and to close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State did not comply with the justice measure set forth in the friendly settlement agreement.

[122] See IACHR. Annual Report 2020. Chapter II. Section F. Negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available on: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap2-en.pdf. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
175. Case 12.558, Report No. 47/06, Fausto Mendoza Giler and Diogenes Mendoza Bravo (Ecuador) [123]			X		50%	Closed
176. Petition 533-05, Report No. 122/12, Julio Rubén Robles Eras (Ecuador) [124]			X		67%	Closed
177. Case 12.631, Report No. 61/13, Karina Montenegro et al. (Ecuador)			X		88%	Closed 2025
178. Case 12.957, Report No. 167/18, Luis Bolívar Hernández Peñaherrera (Ecuador) [125]		X			100%	Closed
179. Case 11.626 A, Report No. 81/20, Fredy Oreste Cañola Valencia (Ecuador) [126]			X		67%	Closed
180. Case 11.626 B, Report No. 82/20, Luis Enrique Cañola Valencia (Ecuador) [127]			X		67%	Closed

[123] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[124] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[125] See IACHR, Annual Report 2021, Chapter II, Section F. Negotiation, and implementation of friendly settlement agreements. Available in: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2021/Chapters/IA2021cap2-en.pdf.

[126] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[127] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
181. Case 11.626 C, Report No. 83/20, Santo Enrique Cañola González (Ecuador) [128]			X		67%	Closed
182. Case 11.312, Report No. 66/03, Emilio Tec Pop (Guatemala) [129]	Link to monitoring sheets on matters related to reports of friendly settlement agreements of Guatemala that are subject to monitoring (only available in Spanish)		X		67%	Closed
183. Case 11.766, Report No. 67/03, Irma Flaquer (Guatemala)			X		92%	Active
184. Case 11.197, Report No. 68/03, Community of San Vicente de los Cimientos (Guatemala)			X		71%	Active
185. Case 9.168, Report No. 29/04, Jorge Alberto Rosal Paz (Guatemala)			X		80%	Active
186. Petition 133-04, Report No. 99/05, José Miguel Mérida Escobar (Guatemala) [130]			X		89%	Closed
187. Case 11.422, Report No. 1/12, Mario Alioto López Sánchez (Guatemala) [131]		X			100%	Closed

agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[128] See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section F. Friendly Settlements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided, at the request of the petitioning party, to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State failed to comply with the justice measure embodied in the friendly settlement agreement.

[129] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[130] See IACHR, Annual Report 2021, Chapter II, Section F. Negotiation, and implementation of friendly settlement agreements. Pursuant to Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided to end monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and close the matter. Available in: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2021/Chapters/IA2021cap2-en.pdf

[131] See IACHR, *Annual Report 2022*, Chapter II, Section C. Advances and regressions on negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available in: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2022/Chapters/4-IA2022_Cap_2_EN.pdf.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
188. Case 12,546, Report No. 30/12, Juan Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán (Guatemala) [132]			X		88%	Closed
189. Case 12.591, Report No. 123/12, Angelica Jeronimo Juárez (Guatemala) [133]		X			100%	Closed
190. Petition 279-03, Report No. 39/15. Fredy Rolando Hernández Rodríguez et al. (Guatemala) [134]		X			100%	Closed
191. Case 12.732, Report No. 86/20, Richard Conrad Solórzano Contreras (Guatemala) [135]			X		50%	Closed
192. Case 10.441 A, Report No. 214/20, Silvia María Azurdia Utrera and Others (Guatemala) [136]			X		80%	Closed
193. Case 10.441 B, Report No. 215/20, Carlos Humberto Cabrera Rivera (Guatemala) [137]			X		80%	Closed
194. Case 12.737, Report No. 114/21, Carlos Raúl			X		83%	Closed 2025

[132] See IACHR. Annual Report 2020. Chapter II. Section F. Negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available on: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap2-en.pdf.

[133] See IACHR, Annual Report 2013, Chapter II, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 879-885.

[134] See IACHR. Annual Report 2020. Chapter II. Section F. Negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available on: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap2-en.pdf.

[135] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[136] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[137] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
Morales Catalan (Guatemala)						
195. Petition 1287-19, Report No. 61/22, Roberto Molina Barreto, Zury Mayte Ríos Sosa and MWR (Guatemala) [138]		X			100%	Closed
196. Petitions 2350-23, Report No. 97/25, Roberto Arzu García Granados and David Esteban Pineda Barrios (Guatemala)			X		50%	Active
197. Case 13.600, Report No. 98/25, B.A.B.M., O.G.A.J. and R.C.M.P. (Guatemala)				X	0%	Active
198. Petition 1198-23, Report No. 270/25, Augusto Jordán Rodas Andrade (Guatemala)				X	0%	Active
199. Case 11.805, Report No. 124/12, Carlos Enrique Jaco (Honduras) [139]	Link to monitoring sheets on matters related to reports of friendly settlement agreements (Honduras). (only available in Spanish)	X			100%	Closed
200. Case 12.547, Report No. 62/13, Rigoberto Cacho Reyes (Honduras) [140]		X			100%	Closed
201. Case 12.961 C, Report No. 101/19, Marcial Coello		X			100%	Closed

[138] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.
[139] See IACHR, Friendly Settlement Report No. 124/12, Case 11.805 (Carlos Enrique Jaco), dated November 12, 2012.
[140] See IACHR, Annual Report 2014, Chapter II, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 956-960.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
Medina, and Others (Honduras) [141]						
202. Case 12.961 D, Report No. 104/19, Jorge Enrique Valladares Argueñal and Others (Honduras) [142]		X			100%	Closed
203. Case 12.961 A, Report No. 105/19, Bolívar Salgado Welban and Others (Honduras) [143]		X			100%	Closed
204. Case 12.961 F, Report 20/20, Miguel Angel Chinchilla Erazo, and others (Honduras) [144]		X			100%	Closed
205. Case 12.891, Report No. 212/20, Adan Guillermo López Lone et al. (Honduras)			X		68%	Active
206. Case 12.972, Report No. 334/20, Marcelo Ramón Aguilera Aguilar (Honduras) [145]		X			100%	Closed
207. Case 11.562, Report No. 40/21, Dixie Miguel Urbina Rosales (Honduras)			X		67%	Active

[141] See IACHR, Report No.101/19, Case 12.961 C. Friendly Settlement. Marcial Coello Medina and Others., Honduras. July 13, 2019.

[142] See IACHR, Report No.104/19, Case 12.961 D. Friendly Settlement. Jorge Enrique Valladares Argueñal and Others, Honduras. July 13, 2019.

[143] See IACHR, Report No. 105/19, Case 12.961 A. Friendly Settlement. Bolívar Salgado Welban and Others. Honduras. July 28, 2019.

[144] See IACHR. Annual Report 2020. Chapter II. Section F. Negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available on: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap2-en.pdf.

[145] See IACHR. Annual Report 2020. Chapter II. Section F. Negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available on: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap2-en.pdf.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
208. Case 12.961E, Report No. 42/21, Ecar Fernando Zavala Valladares and Others (Honduras) [146]		X			100%	Closed
209. Case 11.545, Report No. 204/21, Martha María Saire (Honduras)			X		80%	Active
210. Case 12.961J, Report No. 205/21, Faustino Garcia Cárdenas and Other (Honduras) [147]		X			100%	Closed
211. Case 12.960, Report No. 269/21, Ronald Jared Martínez (Honduras) [148]		X			100%	Closed
212. Case 12.960 H, Report No. 287/22, Juan González, and others. (Honduras) [149]		X			100%	Closed
213. Case 12.960 I, Report No. 288/22, Transito Edgardo Arriaga López and others. (Honduras) [150]		X			100%	Closed
214. Case 11.807, Report No. 69/03, José Guadarrama (Mexico) [151]	Link to monitoring sheets on matters related to	X			100%	Closed

[146] See IACHR, Report No. 42/21, Case 12.961 E. Friendly Settlement. Ecar Fernando Zavala Valladares, Honduras. March 20, 2021.

[147] See IACHR, Report No. 205/21, Case 12.961 J. Friendly Settlement. Faustino Garcia Cárdenas and other. Honduras. Honduras. September 4, 2021.

[148] See IACHR, Report No. 269/21, Case 12.960. Friendly Settlement. Ronald Jared Martínez et al. Honduras. October 5, 2021.

[149] See IACHR, Report No. 287/22, Case 12.961 H. Friendly Settlement. Juan Gonzalez and Others. Honduras, November 8, 2022.

[150] See IACHR, Report No. 288/22, Case 12.961 I. Friendly Settlement. Transito Edgardo Arriaga López and Others. Honduras, November 8, 2022.

[151] See IACHR, Annual Report 2007, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 552-560.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
215. Petition 388-01, Report 101/05 Alejandro Ortiz Ramírez (Mexico) [152]	reports of friendly settlement agreements of Mexico that are subject to monitoring (only available in Spanish)	X			100%	Closed
216. Petition 161-02, Report No. 21/07, Paulina del Carmen Ramírez Jacinto (Mexico) [153]		X			100%	Closed
217. Case 11.822, Report No. 24/09, Reyes Penagos Martínez et al. (Mexico) [154]		X			100%	Closed
218. Case 12.642, Report No. 90/10, José Iván Correa Arevalo (Mexico) [155]		X			100%	Closed
219. Case 12.660, Report No. 91/10, Ricardo Ucán Seca (Mexico) [156]		X			100%	Closed
220. Case 12.623, Report No. 164/10, Luis Rey García (Mexico) [157]		X			100%	Closed
221. Petition 318-05, Report No. 68/12, Geronimo Gomez Lopez (Mexico) [158]		X			100%	Closed
222. Case 12.769, Report No. 65/14, Irineo Martínez Torres and Other (Mexico) [159]		X			100%	Closed

[152] See IACHR, Annual Report 2007, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 561-562.
[153] See IACHR, Annual Report 2012, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 833-844.
[154] See IACHR, *Annual Report 2022*, Chapter II, Section C. Advances and regressions on negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available in: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2022/Chapters/4-IA2022_Cap_2_EN.pdf.
[155] See IACHR, Annual Report 2019, Chapter II, Section G. Friendly Settlements.
[156] See IACHR, Annual Report 2012, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 876-881.
[157] See IACHR, Annual Report 2011, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 982-987.
[158] See IACHR, Friendly Settlement Report No. 68/12, Petition 318-05, (Geronimo Gómez López vs. Mexico), dated July 17, 2012.
[159] See IACHR, Annual Report 2018, Chapter II, Section G. "Status of Compliance with the Recommendations Issued by the IACHR in Merits Reports and Friendly Settlement Agreements Approved by the IACHR."

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
223. Case 12.813, Report No. 81/15, Blanca Olivia Contreras Vital et al. (Mexico) [160]		X			100%	Closed
224. Petition 1171-09, Report No. 15/16, Ananias Laparra, and relatives (Mexico)			X		72%	Active
225. Case 12.847, Report No. 16/16, Vicenta Sanchez Valdivieso (Mexico) [161]		X			100%	Closed
226. Case 12.627, Report No. 92/17, Maria Nicolasa Garcia Reynoso (Mexico) [162]		X			100%	Closed
227. Petition 1014-06, Report No. 35/19, Antonio Jacinto Lopez (Mexico)			X		80%	Active
228. Case 13.408, Report No. 43/19, Alberto Patishtán Gómez (Mexico) [163]		X			100%	Closed
229. Case 12.986, Report No. 106/19, José Antonio Bolaños Juárez (Mexico) [164]		X			100%	Closed
230. Case 12.915, Report No. 2/20, Angel		X			100%	Closed

[160] See IACHR, Annual Report 2019, Chapter II, Section G. Friendly Settlements.

[161] See IACHR, Annual Report 2021, Chapter II, Section F. Negotiation, and implementation of friendly settlement agreements. Available in: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2021/Chapters/IA2021cap2-en.pdf.

[162] See IACHR, Annual Report 2021, Chapter II, Section F. Negotiation, and implementation of friendly settlement agreements. Available in: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2021/Chapters/IA2021cap2-en.pdf.

[163] See IACHR, Report No. 106/19, Case 12.986. Friendly Settlement. José Antonio Bolaños Juárez. Mexico. July 28, 2019.

[164] See IACHR. Annual Report 2020. Chapter II. Section F. Negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available on: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap2-en.pdf.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
Díaz Cruz et al. (Mexico) [165]						
231. Petition 735-07, Report No. 110/20, Ismael Mondragon Molina (Mexico) [166]		X			100%	Closed
232. Case 11.824, Report No. 216/20, Sabino Diaz Osorio and Rodrigo Gomez Zamorano, (Mexico) [167]		X			100%	Closed
233. Case 12.610, Report No. 208/21, Faustino Jiménez Álvarez (Mexico)			X		88%	Active
234. Case 13.007, Report No. 171/22, José Alfredo Jiménez Mota, and Family. (Mexico)			X		86%	Active
235. Case 11,734, Report No. 213/23, Modesto Patolzin Moicen, (Mexico)			X		80%	Active
236. Case 11,733, Report No. 214/23, Víctor Pineda Henestrosa, (Mexico)			X		50%	Active
237. Case 14.073, Report No. 162/24, Zenon Alberto Medina López and family, (Mexico)			X		57%	Active

[165] See IACHR, Annual Report 2021, Chapter II, Section F. Negotiation, and implementation of friendly settlement agreements. Available in: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2021/Chapters/IA2021cap2-en.pdf.

[166] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[167] See IACHR. Annual Report 2020. Chapter II. Section F. Negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available on: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap2-en.pdf.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
238. Case 12.848, Report No. 42/16, Mrs. N, (Panama) [168]	Link to monitoring sheets on matters related to reports of friendly settlement agreements (Panama)	X			100%	Closed
239. Case 13.017 C, Report No. 91/19, Relatives of Victims of the Military Dictatorship in Panama, October 1968 to December 1989 (Panama)			X		25%	Active
240. Case 13.017 A, Report No. 102/19, Relatives of Victims of the Military Dictatorship in Panama, October 1968 to December 1989 (Panama)			X		0%	Active
241. Case 12.358, Report No. 24/13, Octavio Rubén González Acosta (Paraguay) [169]	Link to monitoring sheets on matters related to reports of friendly settlement agreements of Paraguay that are subject to monitoring (only available in Spanish)		X		86%	Closed
242. Petition 1097-06, Report No. 25/13, Miriam Beatriz Riquelme Ramírez (Paraguay) [170]		X			100%	Closed
243. Case 12.699, Report No. 130/18, Pedro Antonio Centurion (Paraguay) [171]		X			100%	Closed

[168] See IACHR, Report No. 42/16, Case 12,848. Friendly Settlement. Mrs. N. Panama. September 25, 2016.

[169] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[170] See IACHR, Annual Report 2014, Chapter II, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 1101-1105.

[171] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
244. Case 12.374, Report No. 85/20, Jorge Enrique Patiño Palacios (Paraguay) [172]		X			100%	Closed
245. Petition 747-05, Report No. 256/20, Y´akâ Marangatú Indigenous community of the Mbya People (Paraguay)			X		50%	Active
246. Case 12.330, Report No. 206/21, Marcelino Gómez and Other (Paraguay)			X		94%	Active
247. Case 12.035; Report No. 75/02(bis), Pablo Ignacio Livia Robles (Peru) [173]	Link to monitoring sheets on matters related to reports of friendly settlement agreement of Peru that are subject to monitoring (only available in Spanish)	X			100%	Closed
248. Case 11.149, Report No. 70/03 Augusto Alejandro Zuñiga Paz (Peru) [174]		X			100%	Closed
249. Case 12.191, Report No. 71/03, María Mamerita Mestanza (Peru)			X		75%	Active
250. Case 12.078, Report No. 31/04, Ricardo Semoza Di Carlo (Peru) [175]		X			100%	Closed

[172] See IACHR, Annual Report 2021, Chapter II, Section F. Negotiation, and implementation of friendly settlement agreements. Available in: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2021/Chapters/IA2021cap2-en.pdf.

[173] See IACHR, Annual Report 2005, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 332-335.

[174] See IACHR, Annual Report 2005, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 336 and 337.

[175] See IACHR, Annual Report 2019, Chapter II, Section G. Friendly Settlements.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
251. Petition 185-02, Report No. 107/05, Roger Herminio Salas Gamboa (Peru) [176]		X			100%	Closed
252. Case 12.033, Report No. 49/06, Romulo Torres Ventocilla (Peru) [177]		X			100%	Closed
253. Petition 711-01 et al., Report No. 50/06, Miguel Grimaldo Castañeda Sánchez et al.; Petition 33-03 et al., Report No. 109/06, Héctor Nuñez Julia et al. (Peru); Petition 732-01 et al., Report 20/07 Eulogio Miguel Melgarejo et al. (Peru); Petition 758-01, Report No. 71/07, Hernán Atilio Aguirre Moreno et al. (Peru) [178]			X		75%	Closed
254. Petition 494-04, Report No. 20/08, Romeo Edgardo Vargas Romero (Peru) [179]		X			100%	Closed
255. Petitions 71-06 et al., Report No. 22/11, Gloria José Yaquetto Paredes et al. (Peru)			X		80%	Active

[176] See IACHR, Annual Report 2013, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 1094 and 1107.

[177] See IACHR, Annual Report 2007, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 613-616.

[178] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[179] See IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter II, Section C, Progress and setbacks in the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
256. Case 12.041, Report No. 69/14, M.M. (Peru) [180]		X			100%	Closed
257. Petition 288-08, Report No. 6916, Jesús Salvador Ferreyra González (Peru) [181]		X			100%	Closed
258. Petition 1339-07, Report No. 70/16, Tito Guido Gallegos Gallegos, (Peru) [182]		X			100%	Closed
259. Case 12.383, Report No. 137/17, Nestor Alejandro Albornoz Eyzaguirre (Peru) [183]		X			100%	Closed
260. Petition 1516-08, Report No. 130/18, Juan Figueroa Acosta (Peru) [184]		X			100%	Closed
261. Case 12.095, Report No. 3/20, Mariela Barreto (Peru)			X		75%	Active
262. Case 12.174, Report No. 12/31, Israel Geraldo Paredes Acosta (Dominican Republic) [185]	N/A	X			100%	Closed

[180] See IACHR, Friendly Settlement Report No. 69/14, Case 12.041 (M.M. vs. Peru), dated July 25, 2014.

[181] See IACHR, Annual Report 2018, Chapter II, Section G. "Status of Compliance with the Recommendations Issued by the IACHR in Merits Reports and Friendly Settlement Agreements Approved by the IACHR."

[182] See IACHR, Annual Report 2018, Chapter II, Section G. "Status of Compliance with the Recommendations Issued by the IACHR in Merits Reports and Friendly Settlement Agreements Approved by the IACHR."

[183] See IACHR, Annual Report 2018, Chapter II, Section G. "Status of Compliance with the Recommendations Issued by the IACHR in Merits Reports and Friendly Settlement Agreements Approved by the IACHR."

[184] See IACHR. Annual Report 2020. Chapter II. Section F. Negotiation and Implementation of Friendly Settlement Agreements. Available on: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap2-en.pdf.

[185] See IACHR, Friendly Settlement Report No. 31/12, Case 12,174 (Israel Gerardo Paredes Acosta vs. Dominican Republic), dated March 20, 2012.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
263. Petition 228-07, Report No. 18/10, Carlos Dogliani (Uruguay) [186]	N/A	X			100%	Closed
264. Petition 1224-07, Report No. 103/19, David Rabinovich (Uruguay) [187]		X			100%	Closed
265. Petition 1376-19, Report No. 183/22, Silvia Angelica Flores Mosquera (Uruguay) [188]		X			100%	Closed
266. Case 12.555, Report No. 110/06, Sebastián Echaniz Alcorta and Juan Víctor Galarza Mendiola (Venezuela) [189]	Link to monitoring sheets on matters related to reports of friendly settlement agreements of Venezuela that are subject to monitoring			X	0%	Closed
267. Case 11.706, Report No. 32/12, Yanomami Indigenous people of Haximú (Venezuela)			X		60%	Active
268. Case 12.473, Report No. 63/13, Jesús Manuel Cárdenas et al. (Venezuela) [190]			X		25%	Closed

[186] See IACHR, Annual Report 2012, Chapter III, Section D: Status of Compliance with IACHR Recommendations, paras. 1033-1039.

[187] See IACHR, Report No. 103/19, Petition 1224-07. Friendly Settlement. David Rabinovich. Uruguay. July 16, 2019.

[188] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

[189] See IACHR, Annual Report 2018, Chapter II, Section G. "Status of Compliance with the Recommendations Issued by the IACHR in Merits Reports and Friendly Settlement Agreements Approved by the IACHR." The Commission notes the lack of progress in compliance with the friendly settlement agreement since its approval. Therefore, on January 8, 2019, the IACHR decided, in accordance with Articles 42 and 48 of its Rules of Procedure, to conclude its monitoring of compliance with the friendly settlement agreement and to close the matter. The IACHR considers that the State did not comply with any of the measures set forth in the friendly settlement agreement and therefore compliance with it is pending.

[190] See IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter II, Section C, Advances and challenges on negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements.

CASE/PETITION [37]	MONITORING SHEET	FULL COMPLIANCE	PARTIAL COMPLIANCE	PENDING COMPLIANCE	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE [38]	STATUS OF COMPLIANCE
Total FSAs published = 268 **Total FSAs in Active Monitoring Phase = 101**		**Full compliance = 121**	**Partial compliance = 144**	**Pending compliance = 3**		**Active matters: 101** **Closed matters: 167**

5. Good practices in implementing Friendly Settlement Agreements observed in 2025

143. In this opportunity, the Commission was informed that in 2025, Colombia, through the National Agency for Legal Defense of the State [*ANDJE in Spanish*] developed a series of four video podcasts titled "Beyond the File: Compliance with Recommendations and Friendly Solutions with a Gender Perspective." This series explores Inter-American standards from a gender perspective and shares experiences of implementing reparation measures in cases resolved through friendly settlements, such as Case 13.974 Claudia Baracaldo Bejarano. The series highlights inter-institutional dialogue and was created in an educational, respectful, accessible format with participation from victims, representatives, social organizations, and state professionals. The Commission considers this a good practice for strengthening public education on the mechanism and promoting equality and non-discrimination.

144. Likewise, the Commission positively notes that the State established a monthly dissemination schedule to ensure broad and sustained outreach of the content. The episodes were published between October and December 2025 on the digital platforms of ANDJE, allowing them to reach diverse audiences throughout Colombia and abroad. The Commission considers that this type of digital strategy strengthens transparency, promotes citizen engagement with the friendly settlement mechanism, and contributes to building public memory of progress in implementing measures adopted by Colombia.

145. On the other hand, the Commission recognizes the launch of the second Bulletin, "Friendly Solutions and Compliance with Recommendations in Colombia: a mechanism for reconciliation," published on the ANDJE's specialized website, as a good practice. This communication tool provides updated information on progress in implementing high-impact measures. It also represents a significant effort in active transparency and public education about the role of the friendly settlement mechanism in comprehensive reparation and social reconciliation. The Commission particularly values the annual continuity of this bulletin, as it helps establish a robust institutional archive that systematizes advances and challenges in the execution of international commitments made by Colombia.

146. Similarly, the Commission welcomes, as a good practice, coordination between the ANDJE and the Victims Unit to develop a joint psychosocial support strategy before, during, and after the Acts of Acknowledgment of Responsibility. This inter-institutional coordination arises from the identification of complex emotional needs that victims may experience in these spaces and aims to ensure that reparative acts have a transformative and safe impact on families. The strategy included training State officials in emotional containment, self-care tools, and differential approaches, as well as the definition of joint work lines for future acts. The Commission particularly notes the development of the booklet "Psychosocial Support for Victims Recognized Before the IACHR," made available to the public through the State's website, as a practical tool to strengthen the dignity and differential treatment of victims.

147. Additionally, the Commission highlights that Colombia continues to strengthen the Friendly Settlements and Recommendations Compliance website, which provides clear, accessible, and up-to-date information to the public. The expansion of content in 2025—including the historical record of acts of signing and/or acknowledgment of responsibility, bulletins, the psychosocial booklet, and soon, the series of video

podcasts—contributes to maximizing the public visibility of progress in reparation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition. The Commission considers that this site is becoming an innovative tool in the region for sharing best practices, facilitating citizen and institutional follow-up, and promoting a culture of transparency around the friendly resolution mechanism.

148. Finally, the Commission recalls that, in its 2024 Annual Report, it expressed concern about the actions of Prosecutor's Office 135 Judicial II for Administrative Matters in Bogotá in *Case 14,093, Ernesto Ramírez Berríos*, for having filed an appeal against the approval of the friendly settlement agreement advanced under Law 288 of 1996. On that occasion, the Commission warned that the arguments presented—related to alleged incompetence of the ANDJE, the absence of a prior written and explicit decision that authorized the economic compensation process, and the alleged lack of motivation of the Ministerial Committee's opinion—ignored the commitments made in the friendly settlement agreement approved through Report No. 285/22. It also warned about the legal and trust effects that such actions could generate both in this case and in other similar processes, recalling Colombia's positive track record in the use of Law 288 of 1996 as a regional best practice for implementing economic compensation measures within the framework of friendly settlement agreements.

149. On this regard, this year, the Commission was informed of the decision issued by the Administrative Litigation Chamber, Third Section, Subsection A of the Council of State, which confirmed the approval of the Extrajudicial Settlement Agreement entered into to comply with the economic compensation measure provided for in the friendly settlement agreement of said *Case Ramirez Berrios*. The Commission notes that this decision definitively resolved the questions raised by the Attorney General's Office 135 Judicial II, by expressly recognizing that the National Agency for Legal Defense of the State has the authority to represent the Colombian State within the Inter-American Human Rights System and to carry out the compensation procedures in accordance with Law 288 of 1996; that Report No. 285/22 constitutes the prior, written, and explicit decision required to activate the procedure; and that the favorable opinion of the Committee of Ministers is a valid and effective administrative act. The Commission emphasizes that this decision represents a significant advance and a good institutional practice, as it establishes a robust precedent that strengthens the legal certainty of the friendly settlement mechanism, reaffirms the coherence of the State's policy in this area, and helps prevent future obstacles in the implementation of agreements. This results in greater confidence among victims in the process and in the consolidation of the use of alternative dispute resolution methods in contexts of serious human rights violations.

150. Furthermore, the Commission was informed that on October 17, 2025, the Plurinational State of Bolivia published the "Booklet of Friendly Settlements approved by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights," a technical tool that systematizes the agreements signed between 2005 and 2025, as well as the reparations measures implemented in each case. The document serves as an accessible and specialized resource for public officials, state institutions, and civil society organizations, and reflects a sustained effort by the Bolivian State to strengthen transparency, standardize institutional criteria, and promote a culture of respect for Inter-American standards regarding reparations and friendly settlements.

151. This booklet contains a thematic classification of reparation measures, covering satisfaction measures, guarantees of non-repetition, justice measures, restitution, and economic reparations, as well as the applicable domestic regulations. This product facilitates operational understanding of the mechanism and enables identification of State progress in legislative reforms, institutional strengthening, awareness-raising actions, and measures to prevent human rights violations. The Commission values this systematization as a good regional practice, as it provides technical clarity and promotes the professionalization of the state teams involved in friendly settlement processes.

152. Additionally, the Commission recognizes the Presentation Event of the Booklet, arranged in a conversational format at the Manuel Morales Dávila Auditorium of the Attorney General's Office, as a good practice. The event included interventions from government authorities and civil society, as well as the dissemination of audiovisual materials from the IACHR on the friendly settlement mechanism. The event was conceived as a space for training and awareness-raising for officials and institutional actors, with the goal of

disseminating the legal foundations, impacts, and accumulated experience in Bolivia regarding the use of the mechanism, as well as promoting transparency and access to information about the approved agreements.

153. In this event, the Commission had an institutional presence through the projection of a pre-recorded video by the President and Country Rapporteur, Commissioner José Luis Caballero Ochoa, who highlighted the value of the friendly settlement mechanism as a cooperative means for victim reparations, acknowledgment of state responsibility, and the adoption of structural measures with transformative impact. The Commission particularly welcomed that the booklet includes technical content that facilitates the training of officials, the standardization of criteria, and the dissemination of good practices in gender issues, sexual violence, torture prevention, and the protection of detained persons, highlighting the progress made in cases such as M.Z., Marcela Alejandra Porco, and Javier Charque Choque. With this, the Commission reaffirms that this publication constitutes a regional best practice that strengthens cooperation between the State, victims, and the Inter-American System.

154. Finally, the Commission notes that the initiative is part of a broader process of institutionalizing the friendly settlement mechanism in Bolivia, supported by the work of the State's Council on Friendly Settlements on Human Rights Matters [*Consejo Estatal de Soluciones Amistosas en Materia de Derechos Humanos, CESADH in Spanish*] and the Office of the Attorney General. Publication of the booklet, along with its public dissemination, helps to strengthen a more robust operational framework by facilitating the practical application of the mechanism and improving coordination among the responsible government institutions for the implementation of agreements. The Commission considers that this effort reflects a renewed commitment by the Bolivian State to comprehensive reparation, the prevention of human rights violations, and the strengthening of national capacities to implement friendly settlements effectively and sustainably.

6. Challenges and setbacks in implementing Friendly Settlement Agreements observed in 2025

155. The Commission has identified the persistent lack of inter-institutional coordination as one of the main challenges in some States in the region. The Commission has noted the lack of consultations that must be held prior to the expression of interest by the State to initiate a friendly settlement process, with the entities that are responsible for the negotiation and implementation of friendly settlement agreements. The Commission has also noted the lack of efforts by States to design transition mechanisms for outgoing and incoming authorities in the context of changes of administration. In this regard, during the current year, the Commission noted a significant delay in the time taken by several States to provide a response on the viability of the victims' requests within the framework of the FSA negotiations, despite the fact that these matters had already been transferred to the negotiation portfolio, and on which the round of consultations on the technical viability of the negotiation and confirmation of the willingness of the authorities involved should have been carried out before deciding to initiate the process of dialogue. This has resulted in an unnecessary drain on the technical and material resources of both the State and the victims of human rights violations, who have placed their trust in the friendly settlement mechanism and are awaiting a resolution within this framework.

156. The Commission again regrets the lack of progress in the implementation of the friendly settlement agreement signed in the Case 13.017A (Relatives of Victims of the Military Dictatorship, October 1968-December 1989), respecting Panama, despite that six years have elapsed since its approval. In this regard, the Commission once again urges the State of Panama to make efforts to implement these measures, reminding it that, as subjects of international law, States have the obligation to comply with the decisions of the bodies of the Inter-American system.

157. On the other hand, regarding follow-up of the friendly settlement agreement reached in *Case 14.145 Eleazar Vargas Ardila* with respect to Colombia, the Commission observes with concern that, although the conciliation agreement was signed on March 17, 2025, and duly forwarded by the Attorney General's Office to the Administrative Court of Cundinamarca for approval, the judicial process has faced significant obstacles. It notes that on June 11, 2025, the Court approved only the amounts for moral and direct damages, but denied recognition of lost profits, finding that the measure created an alleged duplication with the educational aid

granted in the friendly settlement agreement. The Commission warns that this interpretation has led to appeals by all intervening parties, due to concerns that such a decision could set a precedent that undermines the coherence, effectiveness, and legal certainty necessary for the future implementation of friendly settlement agreements in Colombia.

158. The Commission deeply regrets that the decision adopted by the Administrative Court seems to overlook the historical and well-established practice of the Colombian State in using the friendly settlement mechanism, particularly regarding the coexistence —never exclusion— between economic compensations processed under Law 288 of 1996 and social rehabilitation measures, such as educational aid offered in numerous friendly settlement agreements over more than a decade. The Commission recalls that both components serve different purposes within comprehensive reparation: while educational aid aims to restore life projects and provide opportunities for personal development, lost profits are intended to compensate for specific damages resulting from the violation of human rights. In this context, excluding the recognition of lost profits due to the existence of a social rehabilitation measure is incompatible with Inter-American standards, the consistent practice of States in the region regarding the utilization of this mechanism, and the commitment undertaken by the State during the negotiation of the agreement.

159. For these reasons, the Commission considers it essential that the Administrative Tribunal has access to the background, the comparative information, and the accumulated experience from other friendly settlement agreements signed by Colombia, so that its legal analysis is conducted with full knowledge of the scope and coherence that have characterized the use of this mechanism in the country. The Commission urges the Colombian State to take the necessary actions to ensure that the appeals filed are resolved as quickly as possible and in accordance with the purpose and spirit of the agreement, guaranteeing that the victims receive full reparation. Likewise, it reiterates that building trust between the State and the petitioners depends on full and good-faith compliance with the commitments made, making it essential to avoid interpretations that could cause setbacks or negatively affect the effectiveness of the friendly settlement mechanism.

160. On the other hand, the Commission notes with satisfaction that in recent years, the friendly settlement mechanism has solidified its role as a constructive and widely used avenue for the cooperative resolution of disputes within the Inter-American System. This sustained growth is reflected in a steady increase in approved agreements and in cases progressing toward negotiation and follow-up. The mechanism's dynamism has created new opportunities to strengthen the technical support provided by the Commission and has also highlighted the need to continue optimizing its monitoring methodologies to adequately reflect the progress made by States in fulfilling their commitments to comprehensively repair victims. This process of improvement should enhance the mechanism's positive impact and ensure that its future development remains aligned with the best practices of the Inter-American system.

161. To provide a comprehensive view of this evolution, the Commission presents below a consolidated table of the mechanism's main management indicators from 2018 to 2025. The information shows a progressive increase in both the number of approved agreements and the number of active cases in negotiation and follow up stage, as well as a natural expansion of the universe of measures under supervision. This quantitative growth reflects users' confidence in the mechanism and the importance of the work carried out by States and petitioners to move toward compliance. It also helps identify areas where it is strategic to strengthen tools, methodologies, and work processes that facilitate more efficient, systematic, and results-oriented support, promoting the full implementation of agreements:

Year	Total approvals per year	Total closures per year	Total active cases in F/up Stage [191]	Annual increase of FSA measures	Total historical registered measures	Total cases approved	Total historical closed cases	Total cases under negotiation [192]	Total active cases
2018	6	12	67	36	819	121	56	102	169
2019	14	14	73	148	967	141	68	76	149
2020	25	28	71	175	1142	166	95	86	157
2021	15	13	73	126	1268	181	108	100	173
2022	23	9	87	154	1422	204	117	91	178
2023	32	18	101	262	1684	236	135	84	185
2024	13	16	98	147	1831	249	151	103	201
2025	**19**	**16**	**101**	**197**	**2028**	**268**	**166**	**99**	**200**

162. In alignment with this ongoing improvement strategy, during 2025, the Commission implemented a series of measures to optimize and facilitate the continuation of follow-up processes for friendly agreement, as well as to encourage the participation of involved parties in submitting information. These measures included simplifying technical sheets, expediting the information request schedule and submission deadlines, adopting more succinct forms for receiving inputs—comprising specific questions regarding the information the Commission requires to make its assessments—and exploring technological tools that streamline the systematization of received data. These initiatives have enabled sustained follow-up and fostered a more transparent and prompt flow of information, without compromising the guarantees or standards pertinent to the monitoring of agreements.

163. In this context, the Commission emphasizes the importance of promoting a collaborative dialogue among States, victims, their representatives, and other users of the mechanism, to advance toward sustainable, transparent, and results-oriented follow-up methodologies that enable the achievement of verifiable outcomes. This will allow for aligning expectations, strengthening the quality of the information presented, and encouraging the parties to jointly explore approaches that facilitate compliance and case closure. The Commission reaffirms its commitment to continue improving its procedures and to work with States and with civil society organizations to effectively implement agreements, thereby consolidating the mechanism as a strategic tool for rights protection and friendly dispute resolution in the region.

164. The Commission also emphasizes that many of the clauses subject to supervision through this monitoring process are too broad and require the parties to hold a mutual dialog and keep minutes or memoranda of understanding to determine the content and definition of what was agreed upon, establishing components for clear measurement and roadmaps for short-term work to complete execution. The Commission makes itself available to users of the friendly settlement mechanisms to facilitate dialogue focused on securing that consensus.

165. Lastly, the Commission reminds that it is fundamental for States to move forward in establishing administrative, legislative, or other mechanisms to streamline the processes to negotiate and implement friendly settlement agreements and guarantee that the commitments made are fully executed.

D. Cases before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

166. During 2025, the Commission continued to exercise its conventional and regulatory mandates before the Inter-American Court, which included the following areas: (i) submission of contentious cases; (ii) appearance and participation in public and private hearings; (iii) comments on requests for advisory opinions

[191] The Friendly Settlement Follow up Stage, that corresponds to the procedural moment after the homologation of the Friendly Settlement Agreements. See Handbook on the Friendly Settlement Mechanism in the Petition and Case System, pages 17 and 18.

[192] It refers to the cluster of matters at the negotiation stage prior to the homologation of the agreements. See, Handbook on the Friendly Settlement Mechanism in the Petition and Case System, pages 10 to 19.

submitted by States; and (iv) submission of written observations on State reports in cases under supervision of compliance with judgments.

167. In addition, as of September 1, 2022, the Court began to notify its judgments publicly. In the acts of notification of the judgment, the Court reads the central points and operative provisions of the corresponding ruling. During 2025, the Commission participated in 18 acts of reading of judgments.

168. The activities and results obtained during the current year are described below.

1. Submission of contentious cases

169. The referral of cases to the Inter-American Court is based, in accordance with Article 45 of the Rules of Procedure, on the criterion of obtaining justice, which is determined on the basis of the status of compliance with the r`7ecommendations issued and other criteria established in that article[193], including the position of the petitioning party.

170. In accordance with Article 51 of the American Convention and Article 45 of the Rules of Procedure, during 2025 the Commission submitted 33 cases to the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court. In those cases, when evaluating the request for additional extensions, the Commission observed that, although in some cases there had been efforts by the State, no substantial progress had been made in complying with the recommendations. Therefore, taking into account the need for justice and reparation for the victims, it decided to proceed with the referral.

171. The referral of these cases allows the Inter-American Court to rule on the responsibility of the States and issue the corresponding reparations in favor of the victims. In addition, the Court will have the opportunity to develop or deepen its jurisprudence in relation to the aspects of Inter-American public order raised by these cases, as well as on the scope of the rights recognized in the American Convention on Human Rights and other Inter-American instruments, with an impact that transcends the interests of the parties involved.

172. The Commission has 84 active cases that have been referred to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In proceedings before the Court, the IACHR participates in all matters, in accordance with the provisions of the American Convention and the Rules of Procedure of the Court. Among other actions, the Commission submits its observations regarding possible preliminary objections and acknowledgments of responsibility; offers expert evidence when Inter-American public order is significantly affected; and submits its oral and written observations regarding the parties' arguments, as well as regarding any evidence that may be presented subsequently. The IACHR also participates in hearings in cases in which the Court summons it.

173. The public order aspects of the cases submitted to the Inter-American Court in 2025 include: (i) compatibility of the institutionalization of persons with disabilities in mental health centers with the rights recognized in the American Convention, and state obligations to guarantee their reintegration into the community on conditions of equality and autonomy; (ii) equality, non-discrimination, and effective access to justice for women with disabilities, especially in the investigation and punishment of cases of sexual violence, in accordance with Inter-American standards; (iii) obligations regarding the rights of pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women deprived of liberty, as well as children born to or living with mothers in prison; iv) the rights of Afro-descendant tribal peoples, including the state's duty to guarantee their participation in public and legislative decisions that affect them, and to establish mechanisms for self-identification and reliable data for culturally relevant policies; v) equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, protection of family ties and the filiation rights of same-sex couples, and the State's obligation to apply the principle of the best interests of the child in cases of assisted reproduction; vi) duty of due diligence in the investigation of violent deaths of adolescents; vii) guarantees applicable to the selection and appointment procedures for

[193] Such complementary criteria are: a. the petitioner's position; b. the nature and seriousness of the violation; c. the need to develop or clarify the jurisprudence of the system; and d. the possible effect of the decision on the legal systems of the member states.

judges based on the principles of equality and non-discrimination, independence, and impartiality; and viii) state obligations regarding investigation and enhanced due diligence in cases of disappearances of human rights defenders.

174. It should be noted that, with regard to the number of cases sent to the Court this year, as stated above, the Commission found that several of the cases in the transition stage met the requirements for granting an extension under the terms of Article 46 of the Rules of Procedure; therefore, at the time, it did not consider it necessary to send the case to the Inter-American Court. Additionally, the Commission notes that it decided not to refer eight cases to the Inter-American Court and to proceed with their publication, as it did not consider that there was a need for justice in such cases that would warrant referral to the Inter-American Court, primarily under Article 45 of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR and Article 51.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights, given the substantial progress made on the recommendations in the merits report.

175. The cases that were submitted to the Inter-American Court are described below, including a breakdown by date of submission and by country.

Case No.	Name	Country	Date of submission
13.063	Marcelo Néstor Pancia	Argentina	January 14, 2025
12.815	Simeón Miguel Caballero Denegri and Andrea Victoria Denegri Espinoza	Peru	January 20, 2025
13.049	H.O.V.T. et al.	Guatemala	April 4, 2025
12.928	Marcelo Fabian Nievas	Argentina	April 18, 2025
13.754	Edivaldo Barbosa de Andrade et al.	Brazil	May 10, 2025
13.524	Persons not involved in criminal cases admitted to Federico Mora Hospital	Guatemala	May 21, 2025
11.602	Workers laid off from PETROPERU	Peru	June 6, 2025
13.938	Katya Natalia Miranda Jiménez and family	El Salvador	June 6, 2025
13.068	Adrián Hernando Brunettini	Argentina	August 1, 2025
13.932	José Vicente, Clara Vilma, and Juana Noemí Rivas	El Salvador	August 7, 2025
12.905	Pablo Rafael Galván	Argentina	August 9, 2025
13.337	Álvaro Agustín Mejía, Juan del Cid Morales, and Erik Donaire Constanza Bran	El Salvador	August 14, 2025
13.017-B	Priest Jesús Héctor Gallego Herrera and his family members	Panama	August 27, 2025

13.859	Ernesto Yoliztly Lejderman, Bernardo, Mario Lejderman Konujowska, and María del Rosario Ávalos Castañeda	Chile	August 27, 2025
13.730	G.C.A.M. and son	Ecuador	August 29, 2025
13.196	María Carlota Lema Chango	Ecuador	September 2, 2025
13.406	Jimmy Freddy Torres Villalva and Family	Chile	September 9, 2025
13.858	Gustavo Guillermo Ramirez Calderon and Family	Chile	September 24, 2025
14.487	Chilean Afro-descendant tribal people and their members	Chile	September 26, 2025
12.802	Saul Filormo Cañar Pauta and family members	Ecuador	September 27, 2025
14.576	Alexandra Benado Vergara, Alejandra Gallo Poblete, and others	Chile	October 2, 2025
14.050	Franklin José Brito Rodríguez and family	Venezuela	October 2, 2025
12.787	Natividad de Jesús Ramírez and family	El Salvador	October 6, 2025
13.311	Orlando José Fernández Medina	Venezuela	October 8, 2025
13.448	Hugo Loris Mantovani	Argentina	October 17, 2025
12.859	Jurandir Ferreira de Lima	Brazil	October 18, 2025
13.821	Members of Voluntad Popular	Venezuela	October 25, 2025
13.167	Pedro Baque Tuárez	Ecuador	October 27, 2025
13.577	Kevin Claudio Sebastián Peralta Farias and Carina Farias	Argentina	October 28, 2025
14.364	Ana Vilma Diaz and others	Guatemala	November 3, 2025
12.764	Juan Carlos Jaguaco Asimbaya	Ecuador	November 19, 2025
14.282	César Noé Castillo Castillo y Familiares	Nicaragua	December 10, 2025
13.072	Luis Antonio Herrera Corsi	Argentina	December 10, 2025

1. Marcelo Néstor Pancia v. Argentina[194]

176. The case concerns Argentina's international responsibility for violating Marcelo Néstor Pancia's rights to a fair trial, to appeal his conviction, and to personal liberty.

177. Mr. Pancia was arrested on February 3, 1997, by members of the Córdoba Provincial Police on a public road as part of a police investigation initiated in response to a report of a stolen motor vehicle. On the same day, the judge in charge of the Sixth Investigating Court of the Province of Córdoba issued an arrest warrant against Mr. Pancia on the grounds that there were "sufficient reasons to suspect" his involvement in the crime of aggravated robbery with the use of a firearm. On February 7, the Investigating Judge ordered the opening of criminal proceedings, and on February 10, Mr. Pancia's preliminary statement was taken in the presence of his defense attorney. On March 11, the judge issued a preventive detention order against Mr. Pancia in accordance with the provisions of Article 281, paragraph 1, of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Province of Córdoba, considering him to be an alleged co-perpetrator of the crime of aggravated robbery involving the use of a firearm.

178. On June 3, 1997, the investigating judge decided to refer the case to trial, which was assigned to the Fifth Criminal Court of Córdoba. On June 10, Mr. Pancia submitted a brief revoking the appointment of his defense attorney, Dr. Juárez, and appointing Dr. Graciela del Lourdes Díaz as his replacement. However, on February 25, 1998, Ms. Diaz resigned from her position, and on March 10, 1998, legal advisor Battistelli appeared in the case file and accepted the defense of the accused Pancia.

179. On April 15, 1998, the oral hearing was held before the Fifth Criminal Chamber of the City of Córdoba. On that occasion, the defense attorneys for the defendants requested that the proceedings be conducted as a summary trial, as regulated in Article 415 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Province of Córdoba, and the prosecutor agreed to request a sentence of no more than five years and six months in prison. At the same hearing, Mr. Pancia confessed his participation in the alleged crime, and his legal counsel "agreed with the prosecutor's assessment of the evidence and the legal classification of the crime, stating that the unlawful deprivation of liberty was absorbed by the robbery and requesting, therefore, that the minimum sentence be applied".

180. On April 23, 1998, the Fifth Chamber issued its guilty verdict, declaring Mr. Néstor Marcelo Pancia a co-perpetrator of the crime of aggravated robbery with the use of a weapon and imposing a sentence of 5 years and 2 months in prison.

181. On May 4, 1998, the Fifth Chamber received an appeal in pauperis signed by Mr. Pancia. In that brief, the victim pointed out that the sentencing court had erred in the application of substantive law, since the criminal offense that should have been applied to his conduct was not aggravated robbery with the use of a firearm but simple robbery. Finally, Mr. Pancia requested that his legal counsel be granted a hearing in order to comply with the formal requirements.

182. In a legal opinion received by the court on June 2, 1998, Dr. Laura Battistelli argued that the brief submitted by her client "questions the fact established by the Court" regarding the operability of the weapon used in the criminal act and that Mr. Pancia's allegations were incorrect in light of the ballistic expert reports included in the case and that "this defense cannot endorse this type of argument for ethical reasons and out of respect for the Court [...] it is not serious for this defense to uphold the defendant's appeal."

183. On June 25, 1998, the Fifth Criminal Chamber of Córdoba decided to "reject as inadmissible" the appeal filed by Mr. Pancia. In a letter dated July 31, 1998, Mr. Pancia expressed his disagreement with the decision of the Fifth Chamber, stating that "it is not intended to reevaluate the facts or the evidence [...] but it is nonetheless true that when the court arbitrarily excludes essential or decisive evidence, it illegitimately

[194] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

disregards in its reasoning one of the elements it has a duty to assess, and the judgment will be NULL AND VOID." He also stated that he found himself in a situation of "lack of legal assistance," in violation of due process and the right to defense, because his public defender refused to sign the appeal filed in pauperis.

184. On October 8, 1998, the Criminal Chamber of the Superior Court of Justice of the Province of Córdoba decided "not to proceed" with the brief filed by Mr. Pancia because the deadlines established in procedural law for filing a complaint with that superior court for denial of the appeal had expired. In response to this decision, on October 15, 1998, Mr. Pancia filed an extraordinary federal appeal in pauperis with the Superior Court of Justice. On February 26, 1999, the Superior Court of Justice of the Province of Córdoba decided to declare the extraordinary appeal "formally inadmissible." Finally, Mr. Pancia filed a complaint directly with the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation for denial of the extraordinary federal appeal. On October 23, 2001, the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation decided to dismiss the complaint for denial of the extraordinary federal appeal filed by Mr. Pancia's public defender.

185. In its Admissibility and Merits Report No. 275/22, the Commission noted that Mr. Pancia's pretrial detention from March 11, 1997, to April 23, 1998, was based exclusively on the crime for which he was being prosecuted and not on the verification of the existence of procedural risks. Therefore, the Commission concluded that the precautionary measure of deprivation of liberty imposed on the petitioner was not sufficiently justified in terms of achieving a legitimate purpose compatible with the American Convention and, therefore, violated the right to personal liberty. Furthermore, in view of the legal framework in force at the time, the IACHR concluded that the State violated its duty to adopt domestic legal provisions. The Commission emphasized that, after the events of the present case, reforms were made to the criminal procedure system of the Province of Córdoba that brought the requirements for ordering a precautionary measure of pretrial detention into line with human rights standards on the matter.

186. With regard to the petitioner's right to exercise control over the evidentiary activity carried out in the context of the case brought against him, the Commission noted that the Ballistics Section of the Judicial Police Department prepared a ballistics report on the weapon, indicating that both the weapon and the bullets it contained were operationally fit for firing. This report was included in the court file on February 19, 1997, without any record in the file of the participation of an expert witness on behalf of Mr. Pancia in the inspection or that the investigating court or the Judicial Police itself had informed him of the conduct of said expert examination. In this regard, the Commission considered that there were omissions with regard to the expert evidence, which are of paramount importance given that Mr. Pancia's defense throughout the proceedings revolved around the inoperability of the weapon seized at the time of his arrest and, consequently, the inapplicability of the criminal offense of aggravated robbery with the use of a firearm. Therefore, the Commission concluded that the State is internationally responsible for violating the right to defense in court.

187. The Commission also analyzed issues related to the performance of Mr. Pancia's public defender. The Commission considered that the incompatibility of criteria between Mr. Pancia and his public defender and the corresponding breakdown of the relationship of trust between them should have been addressed as soon as it arose, both by Dr. Battistelli herself and, in particular, by the judges responsible for ensuring that the defendant could exercise his right to a defense at trial. In effect, the Commission understood that the public defender should have recused herself from the case upon being notified of the existence of the in pauperis appeal filed by Mr. Pancia if she did not agree with her client's decision to exercise his legal right to appeal the conviction. Similarly, the Commission considered that the judges of the Fifth Criminal Chamber and the Criminal Chamber of the Superior Court of Justice should have taken note of this divergence of opinion between the defense attorney and the defendant and taken the necessary measures to ensure that Mr. Pancia was not left without legal representation.

188. Additionally, the Commission noted that Article 2 of Provincial Law 7982 provides that free legal assistance "shall be provided by the Judiciary, through the Permanent Assistance Desk and the Body of Legal Advisors...," and that Article 6 states that "the Superior Court of Justice shall determine the secretaries and assistants with whom…" the Body of Legal Advisors "shall be staffed" and that "when Legal Advisors have not been appointed to act before a particular court, the assignment may be made by the Superior Court of

Justice." In light of these rules, the Commission agreed with the petitioners' assertion regarding the lack of functional autonomy of the Legal Advisors Corps with respect to the Judicial Branch of the Province of Córdoba. The Commission noted that this lack of autonomy is especially problematic in cases such as this one, where the person on trial questions the work of his own personal defense attorney, since the law does not provide for any other way to supervise the actions of public defenders other than through the jurisdictional control exercised by the judges themselves.

189. Based on the foregoing considerations, the IACHR concluded that the Argentine State was responsible for violating Mr. Pancia's right to an effective defense at trial.

190. Finally, the Commission considered that the regulatory restriction existing in the text of Article 468 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the manner in which the judicial authorities acted in the case implied a violation of the right to appeal the conviction and to judicial protection.

191. Based on its analysis of the facts and the law, the IACHR concluded that the Argentine State is responsible at the international level for violating the rights to personal liberty, to a defense at trial, and to appeal a conviction before a higher judge or court, as enshrined in Articles 7(1) and 7(3), 8(2)(h), and 25 of the American Convention on Human Rights, respectively, in relation to Articles 1.1 and 2 of the same instrument, in the terms described in this report. The Commission also concluded that the State violated Articles 8.2 c, e, and f) of the American Convention in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument.

2. Simeón Caballero Denegri and Andrea Victoria Denegri Espinoza v. Peru

192. The case relates to the international responsibility of the Peruvian State for the irregular actions of the Peruvian judicial authorities in the process of establishing paternity outside of marriage brought by Ms. Andrea Victoria Denegri Espinoza on behalf of her son, Simeón Miguel Caballero Denegri.

193. On August 15, 1997, Ms. Andrea Victoria Denegri, representing the child, Simeón Miguel Caballero Denegri, filed a lawsuit seeking a judicial declaration of extramarital paternity against the heirs of the alleged father, Mr. Simeón Caballero Bustamante, who had died on March 12, 1991.

194. This lawsuit was admitted by Resolution No. 02 of September 8, 1997, by the First Family Court of Lima. In the same resolution, the court ordered that "six means of evidence" be considered, among which was DNA testing to be performed on the bodies of Mr. Caballero Bustamante and Simón Miguel Caballero Denegri.

195. Ms. Denegri also filed a request for a precautionary measure seeking to prohibit the cremation or removal of the body from the cemetery so that DNA testing could be performed. On September 9, 1997, the First Family Court of Lima ruled that the request for a precautionary measure met the legal requirements and indicated that irreparable harm was imminent and therefore granted the requested precautionary measures.

196. On April 21, 1998, the Sixth Civil Family Chamber of the Superior Court of Justice of Lima heard an appeal against the decision granting the precautionary measures to Ms. Denegri Espinoza and revoked that decision on the grounds that it did not meet the requirements of Article 611 of the Code of Civil Procedure, including the requirement that the plaintiff had not satisfactorily indicated "in what manner or way the heirs of the defendant estate would be carrying out acts for the exhumation, transfer, or cremation of the deceased [...], and therefore there is no evidence of periculum in mora." In compliance with the order of the Sixth Civil Family Chamber of the Superior Court of Justice of Lima, the First Family Court of Lima issued a ruling on May 7, 1998, ordering the annulment of the ruling granting precautionary measures. On the same day, the Ministry of Health issued Directorial Resolution No. 014-98 authorizing the exhumation and cremation of the remains of Mr. Simeón Caballero Bustamante, which was carried out on May 8, 1998.

197. Due to the loss of this evidence, the First Family Court of Lima ordered ex officio that DNA tests be carried out on the child Caballero Denegri, Ms. Andrea Victoria Denegri Espinoza, and the defendants,

to be compared at a later date. However, after multiple summonses in which, despite being notified of the lawsuits, they did not appear for the test, the Court decided to dispense with it. On January 23, 2001, the First Family Court of Lima issued judgment No. 1438 in the process of extramarital judicial declaration. The court indicated that in the best interests of the child, it was necessary to rule in favor of the petition, based on the assessment of the evidence in conjunction with the procedural conduct of the parties, which was confirmed by the Specialized Family Chamber of the Superior Court of Justice of Lima.

198. The defendants appealed the ruling issued by the Specialized Family Chamber of the Superior Court of Justice of Lima to the Permanent Civil Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice, which, on December 23, 2002, issued a ruling upholding the appeal on the grounds that there was no conclusive evidence to prove paternity.

199. In its Merits Report No. 284/22, the Commission found, first, that the reasons given by the Sixth Civil Family Chamber of the Superior Court of Justice of Lima for its decision to revoke the precautionary measure granted by the First Family Court of Lima disregarded the State's obligation to always observe the best interests of the child and, consequently, to provide special protection to Simeón Miguel Caballero Denegri. The Commission considered that revoking the precautionary measure intended to protect the main evidence in the child's filiation proceedings, on the grounds that there was no proof of payment of the financial bond as a counter-guarantee, or due to a lack of more specific arguments than those already provided, did not take into account his best interests, was disproportionate to his rights, and disregarded the State's obligation to provide him with special protection.

200. In this regard, the Commission indicated that the lifting of the precautionary measure had a negative impact on Simeón Miguel Caballero Denegri's ability to clarify his identity and thus also guarantee the enjoyment of his other rights, such as the right to a name, an attribute of personality that allows the individualization of a person in society, and in this specific case, to clarify whether the surname he bore was really that of his father. The Commission also stated that this had an impact on the possibility of guaranteeing another element of the right to identity, namely the right to family and private and family life.

201. The Commission also considered that the judicial remedy to request a declaration of extramarital paternity in the present case was made materially illusory, becoming a mere formality, since, given the statement made by the child's mother that the DNA test was the only conclusive evidence she could provide, and given that the alleged father had died, the precautionary measure protecting the evidence was lifted, thereby preventing a substantive ruling on the grounds invoked in the action for declaration of extramarital paternity, thus affecting the suitability of the process.

202. Additionally, the Commission noted that the decision to lift the precautionary measure disregarded the minimum guarantees that must be respected in any proceeding where decisions are made that may affect the rights of individuals, disregarding the obligation to take into consideration the arguments of the parties and to account for them in the reasoning behind the decision, which did not occur, because despite having expressly pointed out the importance of guaranteeing such evidence and the reasons why it was at risk, reasons that were precisely those that materialized, the Sixth Civil Family Chamber of the Superior Court of Justice of Lima did not present any consideration in this regard when revoking the precautionary measure, limiting itself to stating the reasons why it was making the decision.

203. Consequently, the Commission determined that by failing to guarantee special protection measures in consideration of his status as a child in the process of judicial declaration of extramarital paternity, placing requirements such as the payment of a financial bond or the lack of further argumentation regarding the need for the precautionary measure above all else, the Peruvian State is responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees, family protection, name, judicial protection and the rights of the child.

204. Based on the findings of fact and law, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the rights of the child, the right to a name, to family protection, and to private and family life established in Articles 11.2, 17, 18, and 19 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1 of

the same instrument, to the detriment of Simeón Miguel Caballero Denegri. Similarly, the Commission determined the State's responsibility for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection, contained in Articles 8 and 25 of the American Convention in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Simeón Miguel Caballero Denegri and Andrea Victoria Denegri Espinoza.

3. H.O.V.T. et al. v. Guatemala [195]

205. The case concerns the international responsibility of the State of Guatemala for illegal and arbitrary detentions, acts of harassment, and ill-treatment committed against M.I.V.T., F.L.V.T., H.O.V.T., Walter Haroldo Caña Chiroy, and Mario Lisandro Pocón, acts of sexual harassment against Claudia Torres, and the murder of H.O.V.T.

206. H.O.V.T. was 13 years old at the time of his death. Walter Haroldo Caña Chiroy and Mario Lisandro Pocón Ramos were 27 years old. Claudia Torres, H.O.V.T.'s mother, sold various products and frequently went to sell to National Civil Police (PNC) officers at the San Pedro Sacatepéquez station. Starting in 2004, Ms. Torres reported on several occasions that she was being sexually harassed by a PNC officer named Maquiz.

207. On October 4, 2004, H.O.V.T. was arrested for alleged involvement in aggravated robbery. On October 6, 2004, the First Juvenile Court ruled in his favor on a writ of habeas corpus, and he was released the following day, having been deprived of his liberty for three days. H.O.V.T. reported in an interview with the Public Defender's Office that, during his arrest, he was beaten by the police and received death threats. In particular, he stated that the police told him to raise his hands and, after he did so, they hit him on the head with something, causing him to cry. Similarly, when he was released, they threatened to kill him. For his part, F.L.V.T., also Mrs. Torres' son, stated that he was being harassed by the PNC.

208. On November 7, 2004, M.I.V.T., Walter Caña, and Mario Pocón were arrested inside the latter's residence by police officers for allegedly being involved in the crimes of aggravated robbery, kidnapping, and illegal possession of ammunition for firearms. On November 8, 2004, the mothers of the victims filed a complaint regarding this arrest with the PNC's Office of Professional Responsibility. In particular, Mrs. Torres stated that her son had been assaulted by PNC officers "as his face was swollen, and the other two detainees had also been assaulted without receiving medical assistance".

209. On June 14, 2005, the Eighth Judge of the First Criminal Court ordered the provisional closure of the proceedings, considering that "upon analyzing the case files, the judge has concluded that there is insufficient evidence to bring the present case to trial, and therefore the present proceedings should be closed and resolved in accordance with the law".

210. On February 12, 2005, unknown individuals fired shots at H.O.V.T. while he was walking in San Pedro Sacatepéquez, causing his death. Furthermore, in 2009, Mario Pocón was murdered. According to the petitioner, he had also been previously threatened by members of the PNC. On February 14, 2010, Walter Caña was murdered after receiving multiple gunshot wounds to the skull and chest in San Pedro Sacatepéquez.

211. The petitioner filed several complaints regarding the death of H.O.V.T., which led to the initiation of criminal proceedings by Agency 1 of the San Juan Sacatepéquez Prosecutor's Office of the Public Prosecutor's Office. On March 9, 2006, Ms. Torres filed a complaint with the Criminal Investigation Service of the PNC, stating that she believed her son's death was related to the problems they had had with the PNC. Regarding this investigation, the State stated that the case had been closed because the Public Prosecutor's Office had been unable to obtain the evidence and means of conviction necessary to identify and single out those responsible for the death of H.O.V.T., despite the various steps taken.

[195] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Edgar Stuardo Ralón Orellana, a Guatemalan national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

212. Regarding the death of Mario Pocón, the State merely indicated that an investigation was launched in which a series of steps were taken. However, on April 2, 2019, the proceedings were closed because there was insufficient evidence to locate those allegedly responsible for his death. Finally, regarding the death of Walter Caña, the State indicated that, according to investigations by the PNC's Specialized Criminal Investigation Division of the Department of Crimes Against Life, the crime was presumably committed by members of the Security Committee of the Municipality of San Pedro Sacatepéquez, and the motive was possibly personal revenge. On January 15, 2019, the investigation was also closed due to insufficient evidence from the crime scene.

213. In its Merits Report No. 344/22, the Commission considered that the detention of H.O.V.T., the express and repeated death threats and threats of injury in the context of this detention, as well as the threats to his brother and parents, taken together and not having been refuted in an investigation, provided serious and sufficient evidence to conclude that state agents were involved in the death of H.O.V.T. The Commission noted that the State did not provide evidence to refute such serious allegations, nor did it offer a duly proven alternative hypothesis that would have led to the dismissal of the aforementioned evidence. Based on these considerations, the IACHR found that the State of Guatemala is responsible for the violation of the right to life of H.O.V.T. Similarly, given that the victim was a minor at the time of his death, the violation of his right to life also constituted a violation of his rights as a child.

214. The Commission also noted that the State did not deny knowledge of the alleged ill-treatment and did not provide an explanation for the victims' injuries. In this regard, to the extent that the injuries occurred while the victims were in State custody, the Commission indicated that it was incumbent upon the State to provide a satisfactory and convincing explanation of what had happened, which did not occur in the present case. For these reasons, the IACHR found that the State was responsible for violating the right to personal integrity of M.I.V.T., H.O.V.T., Mario Pocón, and Walter Caña.

215. On the other hand, with regard to the right to personal liberty, the Commission determined that the State did not prove that the arrests of H.O.V.T., M.I.V.T., Mario Pocón, and Walter Caña were made in flagrante delicto, nor is there an arrest warrant in the case file that would have authorized the legitimate restriction of their right to personal liberty. As for F.L.V.T., the IACHR noted that he reported that on several occasions the police detained him to search him and beat him for no reason, for which the State also failed to present any justification or evidence that would allow the Commission to conclude that these arrests were carried out in accordance with the guarantee of legality.

216. With regard to the arbitrariness of the detention, the IACHR considered that the methods used by the security agents were incompatible with respect for the fundamental rights recognized in the Convention, and that the detentions of the victims in this case were not only illegal but also arbitrary. In this regard, the Commission determined that the State had violated the right to personal liberty.

217. In addition, the IACHR noted that the facts remain in complete impunity, more than 17 years after the death of H.O.V.T., 13 years since the death of Mario Pocón, and 12 years since the death of Walter Caña. It therefore considered that the internal investigations and proceedings had not constituted effective remedies to guarantee access to justice, determine the truth of the facts, conduct a due diligence investigation, and ultimately punish those responsible. Therefore, the IACHR concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

218. Regarding the alleged ill-treatment during the victims' detention and custody, the Commission observed that the State not only failed to refute the allegations of violations of personal integrity committed by its agents but also acknowledged in principle the possible responsibility of State agents in acts of aggression against the victims. Furthermore, although the State was aware of a series of ill-treatment committed against the victims, there is no record of it having initiated a criminal investigation to prosecute and punish those responsible, as would be required under the obligations imposed by both the American Convention and the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture. In view of this, the IACHR found that the State is

responsible for violating the articles on judicial guarantees and judicial protection with respect to these acts as well.

219. In addition, the IACHR noted that no investigation was conducted into the allegations of sexual harassment allegedly committed by a police officer. On the contrary, according to Claudia Torres, these allegations led to reprisals that included harassment and threats against her children and, ultimately, in her opinion, the murder of her son H.O.V.T. by State agents. The Commission considered that the absolute failure to exercise enhanced due diligence in response to a complaint of sexual violence validated the violations arising from the harassment, particularly to physical and mental integrity, privacy, and the right to equality.

220. Finally, the Commission considered that the loss of their loved ones, as well as the absence of truth and justice, caused suffering and anguish to the detriment of the relatives of H.O.V.T., Mario Pocón, and Walter Caña, in violation of their right to mental and moral integrity.

221. Based on these factual and legal considerations, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of Articles 4.1 (right to life), 5.1, 5.2 (right to personal integrity), 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3 (right to personal liberty), 8.1 (judicial guarantees), 11 (protection of honor and dignity), 19 (rights of the child), 24 (equality before the law), and 25.1 (judicial protection) of the American Convention on Human Rights, in relation to the obligations established in Article 1.1 of the same instrument, as well as Article 7 b) of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem do Para), in the terms described in the report. Similarly, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of Articles 1, 6, and 8 of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture to the detriment of H.O.V.T., M.I.V.T., Walter Caña Torres, and Mario Pocón.

4. Marcelo Fabian Nievas v. Argentina[196]

222. The case concerns Argentina's international responsibility for failing to effectively investigate, punish, and prosecute those responsible for the injuries that led to the death of Marcelo Fabián Nievas.

223. On November 22, 1981, Marcelo Fabián Nievas, 17, was found with a gunshot wound by a Federal Police officer on a street in the city of Caseros, Buenos Aires province. He told the officer that moments earlier three individuals had assaulted him with a firearm, and because he had refused to hand over a ring, they shot him, wounding him on the forehead.

224. That same day, he was admitted to the Alejandro Posadas National Hospital and underwent surgery. On November 28, 1981, the victim began to show signs of rapid and progressive sensory depression, tachypnea, cyanosis, pale skin and mucous membranes, and cold sweats, and he was transferred to the intensive care unit for these reasons. According to the information in the case file, the nurses who treated him in intensive care believed that he was suffering from sepsis or septic shock, so he was intubated and transferred to the Intensive Care Unit. On the night of November 28, 1981, Marcelo Nievas died while in that unit.

225. In November 1981, Julio Roberto Nievas, the victim's father, initiated proceedings under the heading "robbery and injury," with the intervention of the Criminal Judge of the Judicial Department of San Martín. Subsequently, the victim's father submitted a new communication, in which he informed the authorities of his son's death, reporting it to the intervening court.

226. On January 5, 1982, the victim's father filed a complaint for robbery with aggravated injury on November 22, 1981, and the death of Marcelo Nievas at Posadas Hospital for reasons he attributed to negligence on the part of the medical team. On March 23, 1982, a hearing was held in connection with that proceeding. On the same date, the criminal judge decided to provisionally dismiss the case, considering that despite having conducted "extensive evidentiary measures" aimed at clarifying the assaults suffered by the

[196] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

victim, no direct evidence attributable to any person had emerged. He also indicated that there was no prospect of continuing along a path that would lead to effective and reliable evidence specifically aimed at the purpose of the investigation.

227. The prosecution and the victim's parents appealed the decision to provisionally dismiss the case. On September 23, 1982, the judiciary found that a review of the case file revealed that seventeen witness statements were still pending. It also indicated that it was necessary to investigate the origin of the weapon, conduct an expert examination of a red Fiat vehicle, conduct a new expert examination of the victim's clothing, investigate the financial status of all the individuals involved, prepare detailed sketches of the premises, and conduct confrontations between the witnesses, among other things.

228. On March 4, 1993, it was decided to reopen the investigation in light of new evidence, consisting of a letter sent to the victim's parents by Sergio Rubén Benítez, an inmate at Olmos Prison Unit No. 1, in which he offered information about the case, identifying himself as an "eyewitness". As a result, interviews were conducted with the witness, which were recorded on cassette tapes and in which he stated that Guillermo Fox had given them money to intimidate a young man whom Ricardo Abda shot. He stated that, subsequently, both men dressed him and left him wounded on the public highway and that they reported the events to Guillermo Fox, who reprimanded them for the violence but told them that he would take care of the matter.

229. On May 11, 1993, the Judicial Branch of the Province of Buenos Aires decided to provisionally dismiss the case because it had not been possible to identify the perpetrator or perpetrators of the crime of aggravated robbery resulting in serious injury and the death of the victim. This decision was based on the self-incriminating nature of the statements made by the witness Sergio Rubén Benítez and his refusal to testify again, as well as on the fact that the judge had exhausted all available means to locate Ricardo Abda, and on the statements made by Teresa Balbina Monserrat and Guillermo Fox, who denied the statements made by Mr. Sergio Rubén Benítez. The decision was appealed by the victim's father, and on October 15, 1993, the Criminal and Correctional Appeals Chamber of San Martín confirmed the provisional dismissal of the case.

230. In its Merits Report No. 336/22, the Commission considered that the State had failed to fulfill its duty to investigate with due diligence and eventually punish those responsible for the acts in which the victim was injured and which subsequently led to his death.

231. The Commission noted that, despite the fact that forty years had passed since the complaint was filed, only a few proceedings were brought to the attention of the IACHR, which did not show that the authorities had conducted the investigation as a legal duty aimed at ascertaining the truth. In particular, the Commission noted that basic steps such as investigating the origin of the weapon that fired the shot that killed the victim and/or conducting a ballistics examination, conducting an expert examination of a vehicle that may have been involved, conducting a new examination of the victim's clothing, investigating the financial status of the persons involved, and conducting confrontations between the witnesses, among others, were not taken in a timely manner. In view of the above, the Commission considered that these elements allow inferring that there was a lack of due diligence in the investigations and that the preliminary investigation was concluded without all the necessary steps being taken to clarify the facts related to the shooting and robbery against the victim.

232. Furthermore, after analyzing the elements related to reasonable time, the Commission considered that the fact that forty years have passed since the complaint was filed without a final decision in this case is clearly contrary to that guarantee.

233. In addition, the IACHR noted that Marcelo Nievas was 17 years old when the investigation and criminal proceedings related to the injuries and robbery suffered on November 22, 1981, began. However, the Argentine State did not provide factual or legal information to prove that, throughout the investigations and criminal proceedings, the authorities in charge considered the victim's status as a minor. In particular, it did not provide documents proving that the judge in the criminal proceedings notified the juvenile advisor, nor

was an official letter sent to that advisor when it became known that the victim had been admitted to a public hospital.

234. The Commission also had no information indicating that the juvenile advisor participated in the proceedings undertaken during the investigations, such as statements, expert reports, or procedural statements. Furthermore, the Commission had no information indicating that the decision to provisionally dismiss the case in 1993 was based on the opinion of the juvenile advisor. In this regard, the Commission considered that the State is responsible for violating the right to judicial protection and judicial guarantees to the detriment of the relatives of Marcelo Fabián Nievas. Similarly, considering that the specific circumstances in which the firearm was discharged against a teenager in the manner described above have not been diligently investigated, the Commission found that the State is responsible for violating the rights of child.

235. Finally, the IACHR found that the State violated the parents' right to mental and moral integrity due to their suffering and helplessness, given that after more than forty years they still do not know the cause of the gunshot wound that led to his hospitalization at Posadas Hospital and subsequently to his death.

236. Based on the findings of fact and law, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the rights of the child, the rights to judicial protection and judicial guarantees, as well as the right to personal integrity, established in Article VII of the American Declaration and in Articles 5.1 (personal integrity), 8.1 (judicial guarantees), 19 (rights of the child), and 25.1 (judicial protection) of the American Convention, in relation to the obligations established in Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Marcelo Fabián Nievas, Julio Roberto Nievas, and Rosalía González de Nievas.

5. Edivaldo Barbosa de Andrade et al. v. Brazil

237. The case concerns the international responsibility of the Brazilian State for extrajudicial executions and injuries committed by public officials in the state of São Paulo in 2006, as well as the situation of impunity for these acts.

238. Edivaldo Barbosa de Andrade, Fabio de Lima Andrade, Israel de Souza, Fernando Elza, and Eduardo Barbosa de Andrade were friends and neighbors who lived in the Parque Bristol neighborhood in São Paulo. On May 14, 2006, they were standing in front of Eduardo Barbosa's house when people in a vehicle shot at them. The multiple gunshots killed Fabio de Lima Andrade, Edivaldo Soares de Andrade, and Israel Alves de Souza, and injured Eduardo Barbosa Andrade and Fernando Elza. According to the petitioner, what happened that day took place in the context of police violence in São Paulo at the time of the events, known as the "May crimes" and committed by state agents.

239. According to Eduardo Barbosa de Andrade, the vehicle from which the individuals emerged was a dark green GM Vectra with no license plate. He stated that three individuals got out of the car and shot at the group, while one individual remained in the front. He explained that after the shooting, the three individuals returned to the vehicle. According to witness Israel Soares de Andrade, ten minutes after the victims were shot, two Military Police vehicles arrived at the scene and collected the shell casings and cartridges from the weapons that were on the ground.

240. According to the expert reports in the IACHR case file, i) Fabio de Lima Andrade was shot at least five times in the heart, lungs, and left shoulder, which caused his death; (ii) Israel Alves de Souza was shot approximately ten times in the chest, arms, and legs, which caused his death; and (iii) Edivaldo Soares de Andrade was shot five times in the spine and back, which caused his death. It was reported that Fabio and Israel were taken to the Emergency Hospital (Hospital do Sesi) and Saboya Hospital, where they died from their injuries. Edivaldo was taken to Heliópolis Hospital, where he died.

241. Eduardo Barbosa de Andrade was shot in various parts of his body and taken to the SESI Hospital and was later transferred to the Heliópolis Hospital where he underwent surgery. Fernando Elza

stated that after being shot, he noticed that his foot had been hit, and since there was no one to help him, he took a bus and went to the Focus Hospital where he was treated.

242. Later, on December 3, 2006, Fernando Elza arrived at his home and parked his motorcycle when a person in a silver vehicle with unidentified license plates shot him. Fernando was rescued by two friends who put him in a vehicle to take him to a hospital. The vehicle in which Fernando and his friends were traveling collided with a light pole on the way to the hospital, and Mr. Elza died.

243. Two investigations were conducted into the events of this case, one into what happened on May 14, 2006, and one into what happened on December 3, 2006.

244. In relation to the events of May 14, 2006, in the early hours of May 15, Fernando Elza went to the 83rd Police Station in Parque Bristol to report the incident. The Civil Police recorded that 16 9 mm caliber cartridges, one 380 caliber cartridge, and several shell casings were seized. The events were also recorded as "intentional homicide" against Edivaldo Soares de Andrade, Fabio de Lima Andrade, and Israel Alves de Souza, and attempted homicide against Fernando Elza.

245. On November 5, the Civil Police published the final report of the investigation, which indicated that despite the steps taken, it was not possible to identify the perpetrators of the crime. On November 18, the São Paulo State Public Prosecutor's Office requested that the investigation be closed because the perpetrators of the crime could not be identified, adding that if new evidence came to light, the investigation could be reopened. On November 26, 2008, the Judiciary closed the case at the request of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

246. In relation to the death of Fernando Elza, on December 4, 2006, the Homicide Team of the 1st Civil Police Station launched a police investigation, in which statements were taken from the victim's mother, friends involved in the accident, and other witnesses. On July 13, the Civil Police Station issued a report on the investigation, indicating that it had learned from a media outlet that some of Fernando Elza's friends had information about what had happened, but that it had not been possible to obtain their statements. It was noted that, notwithstanding this, the investigations had been concluded and were ready to be sent to the judiciary. The parties did not provide additional information regarding progress in the investigation.

247. In its Merits Report No. 101/23, the Commission noted that there were various indications of the involvement of state agents in the events, including the presence of some testimonies that indicated that the persons responsible for the shooting were members of the military police, witnesses who identified that the vehicle used by the persons responsible had the same characteristics as one previously identified in a military police battalion, and that members of the military police arrived at the scene minutes after the incident without any call having been made to that entity. In addition, the Commission observed that the events took place in a context identified by international organizations as one of indiscriminate use of lethal force by military police officers.

248. The IACHR also noted that the State did not present information on compliance with the requirements of legitimate purpose, absolute necessity, and proportionality. On the contrary, at the time the events of the case occurred, there was no confrontation that would have justified the use of force, and the State authorities did not adopt less harmful measures than the use of lethal force. Furthermore, considering the large number of shots fired at each of the individuals, as evidenced by the documentary evidence, the Commission found that a disproportionate use of force was exercised. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to life of Edivaldo Barbosa de Andrade, Fabio de Lima Andrade, and Israel de Souza. Likewise, considering the suffering endured by the victims and the injuries sustained by Fernando Elza and Eduardo Barbosa de Andrade, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to personal integrity.

249. Finally, regarding the death of Fernando Elza, the IACHR noted that it occurred on December 3, 2006, more than six months after the events described above. In this regard, the Commission did not have sufficient information to rule on the alleged violation of Mr. Elza's right to life.

250. With regard to the investigation of the events that occurred on May 14, 2006, the IACHR observed that the information available in the case file does not indicate that any steps were taken to preserve the crime scene, analyze the bullets that struck the victims to determine whether they came from official weapons, or take statements from state agents who may have been at the scene. Similarly, during the investigation, no further steps were taken, nor were the logical lines of investigation related to the involvement of State agents examined or exhausted. In this regard, the Commission considered that, to date, a situation of impunity persists with respect to the facts of the case and that the State has failed in its duty to ensure an adequate investigation to identify and, where appropriate, punish all those responsible for the deaths of Edivaldo Barbosa de Andrade, Fabio de Lima Andrade, and Israel de Souza, and the injuries to Fernando Elza and Eduardo Barbosa de Andrade.

251. With regard to the investigation into the death of Fernando Elza, the IACHR found that the information provided in the case file does not indicate that any steps were taken to preserve the crime scene, analyze the bullets that struck the victim to determine whether they came from official weapons, or take statements from state agents who may have been at the scene. The Commission did not have information on the conduct of other proceedings or the pursuit of logical lines of investigation to determine the possible involvement of state agents or analyze any connection between what happened and the events of May 2006. For these reasons, the IACHR considered that, to date, there remains a situation of impunity for the events in this case and that the State has failed in its duty to guarantee an adequate investigation, within a reasonable time frame, in order to identify and, where appropriate, punish all those responsible for his death.

252. Consequently, with respect to both investigations, the Commission concluded that the State violated the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

253. Finally, the IACHR considered that the deaths and injuries of the victims in a situation such as that described in this case, as well as the absence of a complete and effective investigation, which in turn causes suffering and anguish from not knowing the truth, constitutes in itself an attack on the psychological and moral integrity of all their relatives. Consequently, the Commission concluded that the State violated the right to mental and moral integrity to the detriment of the relatives.

254. Based on these considerations of fact and law, the IACHR concluded that the State of Brazil is responsible for the violation of the rights to life, personal integrity, judicial guarantees, and judicial protection established in Articles 4.1, 5.1, 8.1, and 25.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights, in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument.

6. Persons not involved in criminal cases admitted to Federico Mora Hospital v. Guatemala [197]

255. The case concerns the international responsibility of the State of Guatemala for various violations of the rights of persons not involved in criminal cases and internet at the Federico Mora Hospital.

256. The Federico Mora Hospital is the only public facility in Guatemala that provides outpatient care and hospitalization to persons with mental health needs, receiving persons from throughout the country. The information available to the IACHR indicates that this institution houses two populations: (a) persons involved in criminal cases who have a psychiatric condition, called "forensic detainees," who are under the jurisdiction of the Penitentiary System, and (b) persons not involved in criminal cases, who are in the custody of the Ministry of Health. At the time the petition was filed, forensic detainees who were in pretrial detention were guarded by the National Civil Police, and those who had been convicted were guarded by Penitentiary System guards. Both agents were armed.

[197] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Edgar Stuardo Ralón Orellana, a Guatemalan national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

257. According to the petitioner, many of the persons not involved in criminal cases and admitted to Federico Mora remain there against their will and even against medical recommendations. This is mainly due to the country's mental health policy, which denies the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and allows for their involuntary hospitalization, and to the lack of community service systems and public support to facilitate their integration into society. In addition, discharge from Federico Mora must be approved by the Judiciary, which leads to problems of access to justice and reasonable time frames.

258. In addition, according to the evidence presented in the proceedings, persons admitted to that institution have suffered various violations of their rights, including: (i) the conditions in which the hospital is located; (ii) systematic physical and sexual abuse, regarding which the petitioner emphasized that any person admitted, whether male or female, is at real and imminent risk of physical and sexual abuse by armed guards from the National Civil Police and the prison system, forensic detainees, and institution staff; iii) the use of isolation rooms and the use of physical and chemical restraints; and iv) the lack of individualized treatment for therapeutic purposes, necessary medical care, and programs aimed at social reintegration or reinsertion.

259. In addition to the mental health policy and the conditions described above, which are detrimental to persons not involved in criminal cases who are interned in that institution, the petitioner reported in particular on the conditions of internment of María "X", Ricardo, and Estuardo Kostelecki García.

260. María "X" is a woman diagnosed with residual schizophrenia who was involuntarily admitted to Federico Mora on September 3, 2002, by court order. After months of hospitalization, the medical team recommended her discharge as soon as possible. Despite having expressed her desire to leave, she has been prevented from doing so because, according to the State, no relatives had been identified.

261. For their part, brothers Ricardo and Estuardo Kostelecki García had been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. In 2011, neighbors in the area reported the brothers to the Environmental Crimes Prosecutor's Office for the foul odor and environmental pollution coming from their property. The Fifth Criminal Court requested, within the framework of that case, that Federico Mora take in the brothers. On October 12, 2011, the Kostelecki brothers were admitted to the hospital. On February 8, 2012, they underwent a psychiatric evaluation, which recommended their discharge from the hospital and the provision of outpatient care, with supervision by a family member. Despite this, on July 20, 2012, the Judiciary decided to hospitalize them indefinitely. On March 26, 2014, the Kostelecki brothers were discharged from the Mental Health Hospital. However, on January 15, 2015, they ran away from their guardian's home, claiming that she mistreated them and had taken out loans in their name. In March 2017, Ricardo Kostelecki was diagnosed with diabetes. Ricardo died on January 4, 2018, as a result of cardiac arrest related to the disease.

262. In August 2017, the IACHR visited Federico Mora Hospital as part of its on-site visit to Guatemala. In this regard, the Commission reiterated that "the situation prevailing in that hospital reflects the lack of protection for persons with disabilities in Guatemala". Specifically, it noted that it has information "the conditions of the hospital continue to be unsanitary and unhealthy, thus fostering infectious diseases and posing an immediate threat to the health and lives of the patients". It also noted the separation of inmates involved in criminal cases from the general population and a notable reduction in the presence of custodial guards, although it indicated that it does not consider these measures to be sufficient to fully guarantee the life and integrity of the patients at Federico Mora.

263. In its Admissibility and Merits Report No. 365/22, the Commission examined Guatemala's State regulations and mental health policy applicable to the alleged victims in order to determine whether they were compatible with human rights protection standards.

264. First, the IACHR noted that the domestic regulatory framework, including the Civil Code and the Civil and Commercial Procedural Code, establishes that persons with mental disabilities are deprived of discernment and must be "interdicted," exercising their rights through their guardian or tutor. In the case of persons admitted to a social welfare facility, such as Federico Mora, the legislation dispenses with the interdiction procedure and automatically appoints the director of the facility as the person's guardian and legal

representative. In addition, the Commission highlighted that Guatemalan legislation empowers the court to order, either ex officio or at the request of a party, the transfer of any person to a mental health institution when it deems it necessary to "guarantee the safety of persons, protect them from mistreatment or from acts disapproved by law, morality, or good customs" or when dealing with persons it considers abandoned.

265. In this regard, the IACHR noted that, according to the information provided, mental health care is not integrated into general health services, and that the State does not provide community services or public support systems for persons with mental disabilities to facilitate their full integration into society on an equal basis.

266. In this regard, the Commission considered that Guatemalan legislation denies the legal capacity of persons with mental disabilities, imposing a regime of absolute incapacity based on substitute decision-making, according to which persons cannot exercise their rights directly. The IACHR considered that this regime is, in itself, contrary to the rights to recognition of legal personality, equality and non-discrimination, and judicial protection.

267. With regard to access to justice for persons with disabilities, the Commission noted that in chronic wards, no one had public or private legal counsel. The Office of the Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities has expressed its technical difficulties due to the lack of support from other institutions, including the Institute of Public Legal Defense. The inability to directly access the courts and the lack of legal counsel significantly affect their ability to be released. In this regard, the Commission affirmed that conditioning release on authorization by the Judiciary is contrary to the State's obligations under the American Convention and that the violation of the right of access to justice is intrinsically related to their right to personal liberty.

268. Similarly, the Commission noted that Guatemalan law and mental health policy are reflected in the specific situation of persons not involved in criminal cases who are admitted to the Federico Mora Hospital. In particular, the Commission noted that a determinable group of individuals are confined in the hospital against their will and even against medical recommendations, unable to leave until authorized by the Judiciary. In this regard, the IACHR noted that, despite the fact that in 2014, it was estimated that approximately 75% of those admitted could leave if they had access to adequate support and services in the community, and that in 2022 Federico Mora estimated that 347 of the approximately 282 people admitted were in a condition to be discharged, an alarming percentage of these individuals remain hospitalized.

269. Regarding the right to informed consent, the IACHR noted that the fact that persons with disabilities are involuntarily admitted to Federico Mora and lose their legal capacity as a result of such admission constitutes a clear and arbitrary interference with the right to privacy. In this regard, the Commission observed that it was not demonstrated in the present case that the victims had given their consent freely, without threats or coercion, inducement, or improper incentives, expressed after obtaining adequate, complete, reliable, understandable, and accessible information. On the contrary, based on the considerations already presented on the regulations and policy in this area, the information available to the IACHR indicated that in the present case, the victims' actual or perceived disability was understood as an inability to determine for themselves.

270. The IACHR observed that the effect of Guatemala's regulations and general policy on persons with mental disabilities was particularly evident in the case of the brothers Ricardo and Estuardo Kostelecki García and María "X" or María Coronado, who lived integrated into society until they were placed in indefinite hospitalization.

271. In this regard, the Commission noted that the Guatemalan State maintains a model of substitution in decision-making for persons with disabilities, which still retains a definition and approach to disability from a medical perspective that emphasizes the restriction of capacities and overlooks the social and relational dimension of disability. In view of this, the IACHR noted that persons with disabilities are deprived of their capacity to act and, therefore, their ability to directly exercise their rights; they are deprived of their liberty on the grounds of their disability; and they are deprived of the possibility of directly challenging their

confinement or the conditions thereof. In this regard, the Commission considered that the State of Guatemala violated the rights to equality and non-discrimination, to recognition of legal capacity (as a component of the right to recognition of legal personality), to personal liberty, and to judicial protection.

272. With regard to the general conditions of detention, the IACHR noted the conditions in which Federico Mora was until the date the petition was filed, including the use of physical and chemical restraints on the victims, and concluded that the State did not provide the basic conditions to protect the right to a dignified life for those detained at Federico Mora. The Commission considered that both the general conditions of the facility and the medical care provided fell significantly short of those that are adequate for offering dignified treatment and were, in themselves, incompatible with adequate protection of personal integrity and life.

273. Likewise, the IACHR noted that there is a context of violence against the people interned at Federico Mora, as well as subjection to isolation rooms and physical and chemical restraints, which is even more serious considering the vulnerable situation of the people interned at the institution and the asymmetrical power situation. Additionally, the Commission considered that the State has not provided the victims with adequate health services, nor has it provided them with adequate rehabilitation and social reintegration services that would allow them to exercise their legal capacity on equal terms.

274. In this regard, the IACHR concluded that the State of Guatemala is responsible for the violation of the right to life, personal integrity, and health.

275. With regard to sexual violence, the Commission highlighted the existence of complaints of sexual violence against persons admitted to the hospital and not involved in criminal cases. Furthermore, after a comprehensive analysis of the information provided in the proceedings, the IACHR observed the existence of systematic acts of sexual violence of various kinds, including rape, committed directly by State agents, as well as by private individuals with the acquiescence, tolerance, and collaboration of State agents. The IACHR considered that the rape inflicted on the victims of rape at Federico Mora meets the constituent elements of torture. For these reasons, it concluded that the State failed to comply with its obligations to respect and guarantee the rights of the victims regarding sexual violence. It also considered that Guatemala failed to comply with its obligations regarding sexual torture and did not effectively fulfill its duty to investigate with due diligence the acts of sexual violence against the victims.

276. For these reasons the Commission affirmed that the State of Guatemala is responsible for violating the rights to personal integrity, judicial guarantees, privacy, equality before the law, and judicial protection.

277. Based on these considerations of fact and law, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the rights established in Articles 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 24, 25, and 26 of the American Convention, in relation to the obligations established in Articles 1.1 and 2 of the same instrument, to the detriment of the victims. It also concluded that the State of Guatemala is responsible for violating Articles 1, 6, and 8 of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture and Article 7(b) of the Convention of Belém do Pará, to the detriment of the victims.

7. Dismissed PETROPERU workers v. Peru [198]

278. The case relates to the international responsibility of the Peruvian State due to the irregular dismissal of workers from their positions as employees of Petróleos del Perú (hereinafter "Petroperú") beginning in 1992 in a context of disruption of the democratic order.

[198] Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido requested to abstain from participating in the discussion and decision on this matter, which was accepted by the IACHR, in accordance with Article 17.3 of its Rules of Procedure.

279. The facts of the present case occurred in the same general context previously developed by the Commission in its Merits Report No. 14/15 related to collective dismissals carried out by Petroperú based on a plan to rationalize the workforce under Decree Law No. 26120.

280. In 1990, Alberto Fujimori assumed the presidency of Peru. Both the Commission and the Inter-American Court in the Case of the Dismissed Congressional Employees (Aguado Alfaro et al.) v. Peru identified multiple irregular dismissals in the public sector. In 1991, Legislative Decree No. 674 was issued, declaring the promotion of private investment in state-owned enterprises to be in the national interest. Then, in 1992, Decree Law No. 26120 was enacted, authorizing economic, financial, legal, and administrative restructuring, as well as the rationalization of personnel in those enterprises. In particular, the decree allowed enterprises to initiate voluntary termination programs with or without incentives.

281. On January 3, 1996, Supreme Decree 072-95-PCM was adopted, authorizing Petroperú to implement a worker rationalization plan under the provisions of Decree Law No. 26120. On January 30, 1996, the Single Union of Petroleum Workers of Peru submitted a communication to the head of the Talara Regional Labor Office reporting the alleged irregularity of the staff reduction process that was being carried out on the basis of the legislation adopted, to which, according to the petitioners, they received no response.

282. During January 1996, the victims began to receive notarized letters inviting them to participate in a voluntary retirement program, or else be dismissed. On February 6, 1996, the victims received notarized letters from Petroperú stating that, since they had not accepted the incentive retirement program, their employment with the company was terminated. The following day, the union went to the Labor Authority to report that, since the Labor Authority had not opened a case and subsequently notified the union of it, the workers' right to defense and due process had been violated, without receiving a response.

283. The union also filed an appeal for protection against the state and the company PETROPERÚ, requesting the suspension of Supreme Decree No. 072-95-PCM on the grounds that it violated their right to work. On March 18, 1996, the Specialized Civil Court of Talara dismissed the appeal. The union appealed, and on July 3, 1996, the Second Civil Chamber of the Superior Court of Piura upheld the appealed ruling. In addition, the union filed an administrative action requesting that the resolutions of the Directorate for the Prevention and Resolution of Labor Conflicts and the Regional Directorate of Piura be declared null and void. On February 26, 1996, the Second Chamber of the Superior Court of Piura dismissed the appeal on the grounds that the petition was "legally impossible".

284. Following the establishment of the transitional government in 2000, laws and administrative regulations were enacted providing for the review of collective dismissals to give dismissed public sector workers the opportunity to claim their rights. The Special Review Commissions created under this regulatory framework have determined that the dismissals of thousands of people were arbitrary. However, according to the petitioner, the victims in this case have not received any benefits or compensation for the arbitrary dismissal they suffered.

285. In its Admissibility and Merits Report No. 396/20, the Commission noted that in its judgment in the case of Dismissed Employees of Petroperú et al. v. Peru, the Inter-American Court analyzed the collective dismissals of former Petroperú workers and concluded that the State had violated the rights to judicial guarantees, judicial protection, and work. In this regard, the IACHR considered that the Court's ruling was applicable to the victims identified in the present case because it involved the same factual basis and concluded that the State was responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

286. The Commission also noted that the State acknowledged the existence of possible irregularities in the procedures applied to the collective dismissal decisions adopted in the context of this case, to the extent that it even took subsequent internal measures aimed at protecting those labor rights. It also noted that, 24 years after the events took place, none of these subsequent State measures had been applied to the situation of the victims in the case, nor is it known why the victims would not meet the conditions of such measures. The IACHR also found no evidence in the case file that would allow it to analyze the specific

application of labor guarantees in the context of collective dismissals, which is particularly relevant given the State's control over the public company where these individuals worked. Therefore, it recognized that these elements, viewed together and objectively, reasonably indicate the existence of deficiencies in the collective dismissal procedures to the detriment of the victims' right to work, as well as the subsequent lack of judicial protection.

287. Similarly, the Commission recalled that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights had already analyzed the violation of the right to work in relation to the facts of the present case in its judgment in the case of the Dismissed Employees of Petroperú et al. v. Peru and referred to the Honorable Court's statement that the victims' lack of access to an effective judicial remedy also resulted in a violation of the right to work, insofar as access to justice and effective judicial protection are essential components of that right. Taking all of the above into account, the IACHR concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to judicial guarantees, judicial protection, and the right to work.

288. Based on the findings of fact and law, the Commission concluded that the Peruvian State is responsible for the violation of the rights established in Articles 8.1 (judicial guarantees), 25.1 (judicial protection), and 26 (right to work) of the American Convention on Human Rights, in relation to the obligations established in Article 1.1 of the same instrument.

8. Katya Natalia Miranda Jiménez and family v. El Salvador

289. The case concerns the international responsibility of El Salvador for the murder and rape of Katya Miranda Jiménez, as well as for its failure to investigate, prosecute, and punish those responsible for these acts.

290. Katya Natalia Miranda Jiménez was born on March 13, 1990, was 9 years old at the time of the events, was a student, and was in third grade. On April 3, 1999, Miranda Jiménez went on a family trip to a property near Los Blancos beach, in the jurisdiction of San Luis Herradura, in the department of La Paz, El Salvador. In the afternoon, her mother left for the city of San Salvador, leaving her daughters at the beach at the request of the girls' father. At approximately 9 p.m., Katya and Gina Miranda Jiménez lay down in a tent where they were going to sleep with their father. Near this tent, their grandfather, Mr. Carlos Miranda, lay down in a hammock, and the other members of the group slept in nearby cars, all within a radius of approximately 20 meters.

291. In the early hours of April 4, 1999, Katya was abducted from the tent where she was sleeping and from the property where her family was staying and was raped and murdered. The results of the autopsy performed on the girl's body revealed that her corpse had no underwear or pants and determined that the cause of death was suffocation by asphyxiation, given that her airways contained sand and injuries such as scratches, tears, and bruises were found on her face and genital area, which had been inflicted prior to her death. Two police officers arrived at the scene, ruled out the possibility that the death had occurred in violent circumstances, and limited themselves to guarding the body, but did not observe criminal investigation methods.

292. The State initiated two criminal proceedings in connection with Katya's rape and murder. The first proceeding began on January 21, 2000, when the Attorney General's Office filed a formal complaint with the Justice of the Peace against the girl's grandfather for the crimes of aggravated homicide and rape and aggravated sexual assault, against Edwin Miranda, the girl's father, for the crime of abandonment and neglect, and against two security guards employed by Mr. Carlos Miranda Gonzáles for the crime of concealment to the detriment of judicial activity.

293. On October 13, 2000, the investigating judge issued a ruling definitively dismissing the case against Katya's father and provisionally dismissing the case against her grandfather and the other two defendants, considering that "there are situations that have not been established, there is not enough evidence to bring the case to trial". Consequently, the judge ordered the Public Prosecutor's Office to carry out further

investigative procedures, such as expanding the testimony and identifying other persons who could be relevant to the investigation, for which a period of one year was established.

294. On October 18 of that same year, the Prosecutor's Office filed an appeal against this ruling, arguing that the investigating judge had improperly assessed the evidence. On November 7, 2000, the Third Chamber of the Center upheld the October 13, 2000 ruling, stating that "there is insufficient evidence to support the indictment, but there is a possibility that other evidence may be added". A year later, on October 15, 2001, the Investigating Court of San Luis Talpa upheld the final dismissal. This was because the probability of the defendants' participation in the events had not been established, and the one-year period granted to the Prosecutor's Office to carry out these investigative proceedings had already elapsed without the Prosecutor's Office having effectively contributed new evidence to the proceedings.

295. Regarding the second judicial proceeding, the Commission noted that little information about it can be gleaned from the case file. However, it is known that in this proceeding, the Prosecutor's Office focused on a different hypothesis about what happened to the girl Katya Miranda Jiménez, asserting that her grandfather had orchestrated the kidnapping to take revenge on an individual who owed him money and to blame that individual for the girl's kidnapping. On March 23, 2011, the Zacatecoluca Sentencing Court in the department of La Paz convicted Mr. Carlos Miranda as the perpetrator of the crime of kidnapping against the girl and convicted five other individuals as necessary accomplices to the same crime. This ruling was overturned by the Supreme Court of Justice on September 24, 2014, in a decision that resolved an appeal.

296. In its Merits Report No. 395/22, the Commission observed that, according to the evidence presented in the case, such as the autopsy and body removal reports, Katya Natalia Miranda Jiménez was raped and died of asphyxiation by suffocation, and that the State, in its arguments on the merits, indicated that the results of the investigative proceedings established a violation of the girl's right to life and integrity.

297. The IACHR considered that because of the rape and suffering that amounted to torture, as well as her murder, the victim's rights to life, personal integrity, privacy, and the rights of the child were severely affected. Although the Commission did not have sufficient evidence to attribute this act to the State, it recalled that, as a result of the State's obligations under the American Convention, the Belém do Pará Convention, and the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, the State had a duty to investigate such acts diligently and within a reasonable time, as well as to punish those responsible.

298. In this regard, the Commission noted that El Salvador failed in its obligation to act with due diligence in investigating acts of violence against women, a situation aggravated by its failure to implement measures during the investigation that took into account the age and status of the victim as a child. Furthermore, the Commission also considered it proven that the State's activities in terms of prosecution and punishment had exceeded a reasonable time frame, given that this was not a complex case and that the judicial proceedings had not been affected by an excess of appeals and/or formalities. The Commission also emphasized that the failure of State authorities to exercise due diligence in the investigation not only constitutes an autonomous violation but has also made it impossible for the judicial proceedings to achieve adequate results within a reasonable time frame.

299. The IACHR added that, in addition to the above, there was a violation of the right to equality due to the stereotypical comments made by the judicial authority about Hilda Jiménez and her role as Katya Miranda Jiménez's mother, and the State's failure to take measures that took into account her status as a child, thus also violating her rights of the child. In view of all this, it observed that the State failed to guarantee, through a diligent investigation and criminal proceedings, the rights that were affected as a result of the rape, torture, and murder to which the victim was subjected.

300. Consequently, the Commission considered that the State had failed to investigate, prosecute, and punish the facts of the present case with due diligence, in violation of the rights to judicial guarantees, judicial protection, and the rights of the child, in relation to the right to life, personal integrity, and private life, as well as the duty to investigate acts of violence against women and the duty to investigate acts of torture.

301. Additionally, the IACHR held that Hilda Jiménez and her daughter Gina Miranda Jiménez were affected by the murder and rape suffered by their daughter and sister, and by the State's failure to fulfill its obligations to investigate, prosecute, and punish these acts. This was further aggravated by discriminatory statements directed against Hilda Jiménez during the first criminal proceedings and by threats they received after reporting failures in the investigation of the case, which led them to seek political asylum in the United States. In this regard, the Commission determined that the State is responsible for violating the right to personal integrity and the right to freedom of movement and residence.

302. Finally, the Commission stated that, in this specific case, the actions of private individuals have led to the State's responsibility for violating Article 2 of the Convention, as it has not yet adopted the necessary measures to guarantee the rights of women and girls to live free from violence.

303. The Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the rights to judicial guarantees, judicial protection, equality before the law, and the rights of the child, in relation to the rights to life, personal integrity, and privacy, in accordance with Articles 8, 25, 24, and 19 in relation to Articles 4.1, 5.1, and 11, as well as the obligations established in Articles 1 and 2 of the American Convention. Likewise, the State is responsible for the violation of Articles 5 and 22.1 of the American Convention, Article 8 of the Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, and Article 7 of the Belém do Pará Convention, in the terms described in the report.

9. Adrián Hernando Brunettini v. Argentina[199]

304. The case concerns the international responsibility of the Argentine State for the death of Adrián Hernando Brunettini on December 24, 1993, at the hands of police officers, as well as for the impunity of these acts.

305. Adrián Brunettini was 16 years old, lived in the province of Buenos Aires, and worked in his father's shoe store. On December 24, 1993, he was riding a motorcycle with his friend Guillermo Andrés Casas near Ciudad Evita. As they drove by, they passed a patrol car where police officers Gerardo Rodolfo Azame and Horacio Albino Morales were sitting.

306. According to the petitioner, the police officers asked them to stop, so they slowed down to park, and without any prior warning, a police officer fired a shot into the air, which caused great fear in the young Brunettini, who decided to continue driving on the motorcycle. The petitioner stated that the police officers began to shoot directly at the individuals, and that one of the bullets fired by Mr. Albino struck Guillermo Casas in the right shoulder, passing through to Adrián Brunettini's skull, causing his instant death.

307. Initially, the police officers involved claimed that the shots were fired in response to an alleged attack by the young Brunettini with a firearm. However, this version of events was dismissed by a legal ruling from the Argentine Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, which indicated that the police officers involved had staged a confrontation to justify what had happened. There is no dispute between the parties that the young Brunettini died as a result of a gunshot.

308. The criminal investigation was initiated on the same day before Transition Court No. 2 of the judicial department of Morón. According to the legal opinion of Argentina's Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the case was initially characterized as "resistance to authority and abuse of weapons" by the young Brunettini. According to statements made by Brunettini's parents, police officers altered the crime scene, even placing a firearm near his body. They explained that when prosecutors arrived at the crime scene, they did not conduct a fingerprint analysis of the weapon and did not test the victim's hands for gunpowder residue.

[199] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

309. On November 29, 2006, Transition Court No. 2 of the judicial department of Morón issued a ruling sentencing police officer Horacio Morales to fourteen years in prison, legal accessories and costs, and special disqualification from holding any public office and from owning or carrying a firearm for a period of five years. The court found him guilty of the crime of manslaughter of Adrián Brunettini and attempted manslaughter of Guillermo Casas. Mr. Morales was released from prison on April 4, 2011, on bail, without any reasons being given for his release.

310. The first instance ruling was appealed, and on November 8, 2011, Chamber III of the Court of Cassation issued a decision modifying Mr. Morales' sentence to eleven years in prison. The Chamber confirmed Mr. Morales as the perpetrator of the crimes of manslaughter and attempted manslaughter, arising from the same conduct. No information was provided on whether Mr. Morales was re-arrested and whether he served the sentence imposed. In this regard, Teresa Caffaro, the mother of the young Brunettini, stated that Mr. Morales was not re-arrested and added that "my son's murderer was sentenced to 14 years and only served four because he was a police officer".

311. The petitioner reported that it has filed several appeals in the domestic proceedings before various bodies in order to challenge the decisions of the judicial authorities and prevent the situation of impunity surrounding the death of young Brunettini, without obtaining positive results. Since December 15, 2017, the criminal case has been closed.

312. On June 10, 1999, the relatives of young Brunettini filed a civil suit for damages against the Buenos Aires Police. On December 20, 2012, the Civil and Commercial Court issued a final judgment ordering the defendant to pay the sum of $180,000 plus interest. On April 10, 2014, the Second Appeals Chamber increased the amount of compensation for loss of opportunity to a total of $89,180, and the amount for moral damages to $178,360. On December 23, 2014, the Appeals Chamber increased the amount awarded for compensation for loss of opportunity and for moral damages. With regard to the actual payment of the compensation, the petitioner pointed out that it had not been paid in full and that it had been affected by the economic crisis in Argentina, which was disputed by the State.

313. In its Admissibility and Merits Report No. 100/23, the Commission considered that there was no dispute between the parties that the death of Adrián Brunettini was caused by a police officer, which was confirmed internally by a conviction. It also considered that there were irregularities in the investigation. Among other elements, the IACHR noted the manipulation of the crime scene, the placement of a firearm next to the body of the young Brunettini to make it appear as if there had been a confrontation, the lack of evidence to determine whether the weapon had been fired, and the statement taken from a witness presented by the police who initially confirmed that it was an armed confrontation but later claimed that the police officers had pressured him to give that version of events. The Commission also noted multiple elements that rule out a confrontation between the victim and the police officers that would justify the use of lethal force.

314. In this regard, the IACHR determined that in the present case, the State did not demonstrate that its officers had used legitimate, necessary, and proportionate force, which led to the death of young Brunettini. Thus, considering his death and prior suffering as a result of the multiple gunshots fired before he was killed, the Commission concluded that Argentina is responsible for the violation of the rights to life and personal integrity. Furthermore, the Commission considered that, given that the victim was 16 years old at the time of the events, the State violated its duty to provide special protection to children.

315. In addition, the Commission analyzed whether, in this case, the State conducted a serious and diligent investigation to clarify the circumstances surrounding the death of Adrián Brunettini, and whether this investigation was carried out within a reasonable time. The IACHR noted that the State did not present documentation proving that it had taken appropriate steps immediately after the events occurred, such as properly handling the crime scene, removing and treating the victim's body, performing an autopsy, and maintaining the chain of custody for all forensic evidence. On the contrary, it observed that police officers were involved in altering the crime scene, which constituted a serious breach of their duty of due diligence.

Furthermore, the initial investigations focused on supporting the police officers' version of events, which was that there had been a confrontation with Mr. Brunettini and his companion.

316. The Commission noted that the petitioners reported that several requests were made to the judicial authorities to carry out "investigative proceedings," which were repeatedly denied, a fact that was not disputed by the State, and that there was procedural inactivity on the part of the judicial authorities for long periods of time. In this regard, the IACHR concluded that, although the person responsible for the death of Adrián Brunettini was sentenced to imprisonment by the authorities, there were certain deficiencies and irregularities in the domestic proceedings that led to that conviction, which constitute separate violations of the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

317. With regard to the guarantee of a reasonable time, the Commission highlighted that the criminal proceedings lasted almost 24 years, from the death of young Brunettini in 1993 until the case was closed in 2017, more than 20 years after the events occurred. In this regard, the Commission determined that the criminal proceedings did not comply with a reasonable time, for which the State is responsible for the violation of the right to judicial guarantees.

318. Finally, the Commission considered that the loss of a loved one in circumstances such as those described in this report, as well as the absence of truth and justice, caused suffering and anguish to the family members of young Brunettini, and therefore the State is responsible for the violation of the right to personal integrity.

319. Based on the findings of fact and law, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the Argentine State is responsible for the violation of Articles 4.1 (right to life), 5.1 (right to personal integrity), 8.1 (judicial guarantees), 19 (rights of the child), and 25.1 (judicial protection) of the American Convention on Human Rights, in relation to the obligations established in Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of the victims identified in the various sections of the report.

10. José Vicente, Clara Vilma, and Juana Noemí Rivas v. El Salvador

320. The case concerns the international responsibility of El Salvador for the forced disappearance committed by agents of the Armed Forces to the detriment of the siblings José Vicente, Clara Vilma, Juana Noemy, Gladys Suleyma, and Norma, all with the surname Rivas, as well as for the failure to investigate and provide redress for those acts.

321. The events in this case occurred in the context of the internal armed conflict that took place in El Salvador. José Vicente, Clara Vilma, Juana Noemy, Gladys Suleyma, and Norma Rivas were five siblings, children of Nicolasa Rivas Ángel and Alberto Clímaco Hernández. In August 1982, they were eleven, nine, six, five, and three years old, respectively.

322. In the context of the internal armed conflict, the victims' mother, Nicolasa Rivas, stated that she suffered persecution by the Armed Forces in 1982. According to her statements, this took place in the context of an operation carried out on the Chinchontepec volcano, "with aerial bombardments and then machine-gunning and persecution by soldiers". Ms. Rivas stated that "one day at approximately five o'clock in the morning, while fleeing in a place known as 'Las Pilitas,' they were surrounded by soldiers who shot at them (...) She ran toward a fence with her daughter Doris Idalia Rivas, then one year old, and separated from the rest of her family, managing to survive; and that the children's father, Alberto Clímaco, fled with José Vicente, Juana Noemí, Vilma, Norma, and Gladis Suleyma Rivas (...) Later, she heard a helicopter land where the rest of her family had stayed (...) Alberto Clímaco and several other people told the witness [Ms. Rivas] that they returned to the site days later and found several bodies, but her children José Vicente, Juana Noemí, Vilma, Norma, and Gladis Zuleyma were not found, either alive or dead, to this day."

323. The names of the five children in this case were included as victims of the armed conflict in the report prepared by the Truth Commission and in the report of the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, the latter issued on September 2, 2004.

324. In October 2007, the petitioner initiated three habeas corpus proceedings on behalf of the Rivas siblings for their alleged forced disappearance, against members of the now-defunct Atlacatl Battalion and the Fifth Infantry Brigade, both belonging to the Armed Forces of El Salvador.

325. The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), in its ruling on the combined habeas corpus proceedings numbers 203-2007, 204-2007, and 205-2007, dated July 27, 2011, found that the forced disappearance of José Vicente, Clara Vilma, and Juana Noemy Rivas had been proven, understanding that it "is attributable to agents of the State" and requested that the Attorney General's Office continue with the investigation. Likewise, through resolution of habeas corpus proceeding number 119-2016 of December 6, 2017, it ruled "that it is established that the girls Gladys Suleyma and Norma, both Clímaco Rivas, at the time of their disappearance, were in the department of San Vicente, during the military operation known as 'Invasión Anillo' that took place in the vicinity of the Chichontepec volcano, and that they were involuntarily disappeared at the hands of military personnel who participated in the operation, specifically in August 1982, when they were fleeing with their relatives, and that since that event they have not been located alive or dead by their relatives to date". Consequently, it was ordered to request information about the military operation in question from the Ministry of National Defense and the Joint Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces.

326. Following the Supreme Court's ruling in the case of José Vicente, Juana Noemy, and Clara Vilma Rivas, the National Commission for the Search for Children Disappeared during the Internal Armed Conflict opened an investigation into the case of the Rivas siblings on March 28, 2012. The Attorney General's Office reported that it had conducted investigative proceedings and on September 29, 2017, indicated that "this case is still in the investigation phase".

327. In its Merits Report No. 396/22, the Commission considered that the elements constituting enforced disappearance had been verified in this case and found that the Rivas siblings had been abducted by members of the Armed Forces in August 1982, that their fate and whereabouts remained unknown, and that efforts to advance the investigation and obtain relevant information about their possible fate have been unsuccessful. In this regard, the IACHR concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to recognition as a person before the law, to life, personal integrity, personal liberty, private and family life, protection of the family, to a name, and the rights of child.

328. With regard to the investigation of the facts, although the Commission recognized the State's efforts, it considered that the investigations had been insufficient and had not been conducted with due diligence, given that ten years had passed since they were opened.

329. The IACHR took note of the multiple requests for information made to various State agencies that were either unanswered or responded to with the claim that the information did not exist. It also observed that, despite requests made by the Supreme Court of Justice in the context of habeas corpus proceedings, the Inter-institutional Commission for the Search for Girls and Boys Disappeared as a Result of the Armed Conflict in El Salvador did not provide any information. In turn, the Ministry of National Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces indicated that they had no proceedings, records, or investigations regarding the disappearance of the Rivas brothers. Similarly, the Commission noted that in 2017 searches were conducted in the General Archive of the Armed Forces, the General Archive of the Fifth Infantry Brigade, the Central Archive of Military Detachment No. 2, and the Central Archive of the General Staff of the Air Force and that, according to the information provided, no records were found in any of them in relation to the disappearance of the Rivas brothers.

330. Additionally, the Commission recognized as positive the creation in 2010 of a National Commission for the Search for Children Disappeared during the Armed Conflict, as well as the special policy adopted in this regard by the Prosecutor's Office in 2018. However, in relation to this case, it noted that, despite

the steps taken, no progress has been made in the investigation, nor has any relevant information been obtained that would reveal the whereabouts or fate of the Rivas brothers, or that would enable the identification or punishment of those responsible for these acts.

331. Similarly, the IACHR noted that ten years had passed since the State formally initiated the investigation, and eleven years since the SCJ issued its first ruling, during which time the investigation into the facts of this case had not progressed. The Commission noted that the State failed to comply with its obligation to initiate investigations ex officio, having begun them in 2012, after the petitioner had filed and completed habeas corpus proceedings. Despite the possible complexity of searching for, obtaining, and reconstructing data related to these events, the IACHR observed that the State did not provide information to the proceedings that would allow it to conclude that it had conducted the investigation with due diligence.

332. The Commission also noted that, although internal procedures for accessing information—including administrative and judicial proceedings—had been followed, the victims' relatives had not been able to obtain relevant information about the events. Although some orders from the Institute for Access to Public Information were declared valid by the Administrative Court, authorities such as the Ministry of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces responded that the requested information did not exist and did not attempt to reconstruct it, as had been ordered.

333. In this regard, the Commission considered that the State has failed to fulfill its duty to demonstrate that it has conducted an immediate, thorough, serious, and impartial investigation, both with regard to the case and to the obstacles to accessing information and files that could be relevant to clarifying the case and ascertaining the truth of the facts. In view of the foregoing, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees, judicial protection, and the right to seek and receive information.

334. Finally, the Commission considered that the forced disappearance of the victims has caused profound pain, anguish, and uncertainty for their relatives, the mother and father of the disappeared children, which has been exacerbated by the lack of an effective, diligent, and timely investigation, and by the lack of progress in the investigation, which has prevented them from obtaining any relevant information for the purpose of finding their relatives, learning the truth about what happened, or identifying and punishing those responsible. In this regard, it concluded that the State is responsible for violating the rights to personal integrity, judicial guarantees, judicial protection, and the right to seek and receive information to the detriment of the relatives.

335. Based on these considerations of fact and law, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the rights to recognition as a person before the law, to life, personal integrity, personal liberty, private and family life, protection of the family, to a name, and the rights of the child, established in Articles 3, 4, 5, 7, 11.2, 17, 18, and 19 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1 of the American Convention, to the detriment of José Vicente, Clara Vilma, Juana Noemy, Gladys Suleyma, and Norma Rivas. Likewise, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees, judicial protection, and the right to seek and receive information, established in Articles 8, 13, and 25 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1 of the American Convention, to the detriment of José Vicente, Clara Vilma, Juana Noemy, Gladys Suleyma, and Norma Rivas, and their relatives, Nicolasa Rivas Ángel and Alberto Clímaco Hernández. Finally, the Commission also concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to personal integrity established in Article 5 of the American Convention, to the detriment of family members Nicolasa Rivas Ángel and Alberto Clímaco Hernández.

11. Pablo Rafael Galván v. Argentina[200]

336. The case concerns Argentina's international responsibility for violating Mr. Pablo Rafael Galván's right to appeal his conviction and to personal liberty in criminal proceedings in which he was sentenced to prison for the crime of manslaughter.

337. Mr. Pablo Rafael Galván was arrested on April 8, 1996, on charges of participating in a homicide in the town of Virrey del Pino, La Matanza District, Province of Buenos Aires. On December 21, 1998, Chamber I of the Criminal Appeals and Guarantees Court of the Judicial Department of Morón sentenced him to 18 years and 6 months in prison.

338. On January 5, 1999, Mr. Galván's public defender filed an appeal for cassation, as provided for in Article 454, paragraph 1, of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Province of Buenos Aires, against the conviction, alleging a violation of the rules governing the assessment of testimonial evidence. Specifically, the defense attorney pointed out that "a rational analysis of the evidence presented" would indicate that his client acted in self-defense in response to an unlawful attack by the person who ultimately lost his life.

339. The Criminal Cassation Court twice—in rulings dated February 23, 1999, and December 27, 1999—decided to reject the admissibility of the cassation appeal filed by Mr. Galván's defense. The Court noted that the appellants had not accompanied their appeal with a copy of the statement of intent to appeal filed with the court that had handed down the sentence whose review was sought. This was despite the fact that Mr. Galván's defense counsel had complied in a timely manner with the procedural requirement to declare his intention to appeal, as required by Article 451, paragraph 2, of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

340. In response to the ruling of December 27, 1999, Mr. Galván's defense filed an appeal for the inapplicability of the law before the Provincial Supreme Court of Justice. In that appeal, the defense reiterated the arguments set forth in its previous submissions and pointed out that the contested decision "not only demonstrates formalistic rigor, but also goes beyond what the law says by ruling inadmissible cases that meet all the requirements of the Code of Criminal Procedure". This appeal was dismissed by the Supreme Court of Justice in a ruling dated March 29, 2000, in which it considered that "the extraordinary appeal provided for in Article 494 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is only admissible in cases of non-compliance with or erroneous application of substantive law or doctrine by the Court of Cassation [...] which is not the case here, where the grievances are directed at questioning the interpretation of procedural rules".

341. On May 23, 2000, the Public Defender filed the extraordinary federal appeal provided for in Article 14 of Law 48, arguing that the decision of the provincial superior court constituted an arbitrary act that affected the constitutional right to challenge the conviction. This appeal was declared "inadmissible" by the Supreme Court of the Province of Buenos Aires on August 23, 2000, and the decision was confirmed by the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation on May 30, 2001.

342. On the other hand, the public defender of Mr. Adrián Aníbal Galván—the petitioner's brother and co-defendant in the same criminal case—filed an appeal against the 18-year sentence imposed on him. In a ruling dated February 8, 2001, the Court of Cassation decided to declare the appeal "admissible" and reduced the sentence from 18 years to 15 years in prison, considering that the state of intoxication in which he found himself at the time of the events should be interpreted as a mitigating factor in criminal responsibility and not as an aggravating factor, as the trial court had interpreted it with respect to both the petitioner and his brother.

343. In response to this decision, Mr. Galván's public defender filed a request to extend the effects of the Criminal Court of Cassation's ruling so that intoxication would be applied as a mitigating factor in the criminal conduct committed and, consequently, the sentence imposed on the petitioner would be reduced. As

[200] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

a result, Mr. Galván's sentence was reduced to 15 years and 5 months in prison by a decision of the Criminal Cassation Court dated September 3, 2002.

344. On July 24, 2008, the Public Defender filed a writ of habeas corpus with Chamber I of the Criminal Cassation Court under the terms of Articles 405 and 406 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Province of Buenos Aires. In that document, Mr. Galván's attorney pointed out that his client "had served the 15-year and 5-month prison sentence imposed on him, yet he was still being deprived of his liberty". In support of this, the Public Defender argued that Mr. Galván was entitled to the differentiated calculation of pretrial detention provided for in Law 24,390, according to which, after two years of pretrial detention, one day of pretrial detention would be counted as two days of imprisonment. In this regard, the Public Defender pointed out that the sentence against Mr. Galván had become final following the Supreme Court of Justice's ruling rejecting the appeal against the denial of the extraordinary federal appeal on May 30, 2001.

345. On December 1, 2008, Chamber I of the Criminal Appeals and Guarantees Chamber of the Morón Judicial Department ruled that "the defense is correct in that Galván only became a convicted person after the National Court rejected the appeal, that is, on May 30, 2001". The court then stated that "since Galván was arrested on April 8, 1996, and remained in pretrial detention until May 30, 2001, he served five years, one month, and twenty-three days in prison, which, when calculated with the benefit established in Law 24,390, amounts to a total of eight years, three months, and sixteen days in prison, which, deducted from the sentence of fifteen years and five months in prison, results in a balance of seven years, one month, and fourteen days in prison, which, calculated from May 31, 2001, means that the aforementioned sentence expired on July 13, 2008, which means that the immediate release of the aforementioned person must be ordered in this case". Mr. Galván regained his freedom on December 1, 2008.

346. While in detention, on October 27, 2008, Mr. Galván was wounded by rubber pellets fired by members of the Federal Penitentiary Service during a dispute between prison staff and inmates in Ward 6 of Penitentiary Unit No. 2 of the Sierra Chica Prison. In a report prepared by a forensic medical expert from the La Plata Expert Advisory Office, dated December 19, 2008, it was noted that an examination of Mr. Galván's body "revealed multiple old circular scars located in various places on both lower limbs, which could correspond to marks left by rubber bullets".

347. In its Merits Report No. 263/21, the Commission noted that the rules governing the admissibility and processing of appeals at the time of the events did not expressly require the appellant to attach, together with his appeal, a copy of the statement of intent to appeal made before the court of first instance. Consequently, it considered that the Criminal Cassation Court's decision to sanction such an omission with the inadmissibility of the appeal had no legal basis and was not expressly provided for in the procedural rules applicable to the case. The IACHR concluded that the Criminal Cassation Court's invocation of a formal requirement not provided for by law to reject the admissibility of the appeal deprived Mr. Galván of his right to have a higher court examine the challenges raised by his defense to the sentence that convicted him to 18 years and 6 months in prison.

348. The Commission also observed that, as it was regulated, the appeal did not offer the possibility of guaranteeing a comprehensive review of the conviction. In fact, according to the provisions of Article 454 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Province of Buenos Aires, such an appeal could only be filed on two grounds: namely: 1) failure to observe or erroneous application of a legal precept or jurisprudential doctrine, and 2) new facts or evidence that, on their own or in connection with those already examined, show that the criminal act did not exist or that the defendant did not commit it. Consequently, questions of fact or evidentiary assessment were excluded from the scope of review.

349. The Commission noted that although the Casal ruling had given rise to a line of case law that extended the scope of cassation appeals, the criminal proceedings against Mr. Galván had concluded on May 30, 2001, and therefore the doctrine emanating from that ruling had not yet been adopted by the Supreme Court. The Commission also emphasized that the criminal procedural legislation of the Province of Buenos Aires did not expressly enshrine in its regulations the provisions of the Casal ruling on this point.

350. For these reasons, the IACHR considered that the decision of the Criminal Cassation Court to declare inadmissible the appeal filed on behalf of Mr. Galván was unreasonable and arbitrary and constituted an excessive formalism not supported by the text of the law, such that the petitioner did not have access to a remedy for the alleged violations. The Commission also observed that, regardless of the outcome of the appeal filed in this specific case, the appeal did not enable the victim to obtain a comprehensive review of the conviction. Consequently, the Commission concluded that the State was responsible for violating the rights to appeal the conviction and for failing to guarantee the victim access to a simple and effective remedy in the criminal proceedings that culminated in his conviction.

351. With regard to the right to personal liberty, the Commission noted that it was clear that the judicial body responsible for determining the end of the prison sentence failed to apply the provisions of Law 24,390, also known as the "two-for-one law", to the period of time that elapsed from the declaration of inadmissibility of the cassation appeal to the judgment dismissing the complaint for denial of the extraordinary federal appeal issued by the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation on May 30, 2001. The Commission indicated that this meant that the petitioner's deprivation of liberty from July 13, 2008, to December 1, 2008, was not based on law, but was due to an erroneous calculation by the relevant judicial bodies. Therefore, the Commission considered that such deprivation of liberty was contrary to the right to personal liberty.

352. Furthermore, the Commission noted that the habeas corpus petition was filed by the petitioner's attorneys on July 24, 2008, before the Criminal Cassation Court and that it was not until December 1, 2008, that is, more than four months later, that the First Chamber of Appeals and Guarantees of Morón ruled on the arguments raised by the defense attorneys in that petition. In this regard, the Commission noted that the unjustified and unreasonable delay of more than four months by the courts involved in issuing a decision in response to the insistent requests of the public defenders — who argued in their briefs that there had been an error in the calculation of the prison sentence and that Mr. Galván was being illegally deprived of his liberty — rendered this appeal ineffective in protecting the petitioner's right to personal liberty.

353. In addition, the Commission noted that the events of October 27, 2008 took place during the period in which the victim was deprived of his liberty in excess of the time mandated by law, consisting of a fight in Ward 6 of the Sierra Chica Penitentiary Unit and resulting in the pellet wounds that the victim indicated he had suffered. The Commission noted that the injuries suffered by Mr. Galván, documented after the events, are consistent with those usually caused by the ammunition and weapons used by prison forces, and that the Argentine State did not present any arguments to refute such injuries or information that would allow them to be dismissed as a result of a diligent investigation. In these circumstances, the Commission considered that the harm to Mr. Galván's personal integrity could only have occurred because he was kept in the detention center when he should no longer have been there.

354. In this regard, the Commission concluded that the Argentine State kept the victim in prison in violation of his right to personal liberty. This was related to the delay in deciding on the habeas corpus petition filed, which made it possible for Mr. Galván to be deprived of his liberty and to be the victim of the injuries that occurred on October 27, 2008. This was in violation of the rights to personal liberty, personal integrity, and judicial protection.

355. Finally, the Commission also found the Argentine State responsible for violating the right to personal integrity of Mr. Galván's wife and two children due to the serious consequences they suffered during the period in which he was illegally deprived of his liberty.

356. Based on the factual and legal considerations described in the Merits Report, the Commission concluded that the Argentine State is responsible for violating the rights to appeal the ruling, to personal liberty, to personal integrity, and to judicial protection enshrined in Articles 8(2)(h), 7(1), 7(6), 5, and 25 of the American Convention, respectively, in relation to Articles 1.1 and 2 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Pablo Rafael Galván. The Commission also concluded that the Argentine State is responsible for the violation of the right to personal integrity, enshrined in Article 5.1 of the American Convention, to the detriment of Mr. Galván's relatives identified in the Report.

12. Álvaro Agustín Mejía, Juan del Cid Morales, and Erik Donaire Constanza Bran v. El Salvador

357. The case concerns the international responsibility of El Salvador for the arbitrary detention and violation of the right to judicial guarantees and freedom of residence and movement to the detriment of Álvaro Agustín Mejía, Juan del Cid Morales, and Erik Donaire Constanza Bran, Guatemalan nationals, in September 2006.

358. On September 27, 2006, Álvaro Agustín Mejía, Juan del Cid Morales, and Erik Donaire Constanza Bran traveled from Guatemala City to San Salvador to finalize the sale of their company, which had been previously agreed upon with the buyers. According to the petitioner, the purpose of the meeting was to deliver the documents proving the legality of the company and receive the corresponding payment. The petitioner's account indicates that, while in San Salvador, they went to the restaurant "Tenedores", located in the Gran Vía shopping center, where at approximately 1:30 p.m. they handed over the documents for the sale of the company to the buyer. At that moment, the person who was serving them made a signal and they were intercepted and thrown to the floor by the National Police, at which point approximately 30 State agents entered the premises with their faces covered, some of them dressed in civilian clothing. The petitioner stated that, at that moment, the victims were detained and handcuffed without a warrant, without being told the reasons for their detention, and were not allowed to speak under threat of death.

359. According to the petitioner, they were taken to a parking lot where Stephen Fraga, an agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), was waiting. They were then transported in unmarked green and blue vehicles to an airport that, according to one of the victims, looked like a military base. He stated that during the trip, their handcuffs were tightened excessively, they were threatened with death, they were photographed, and they were not allowed to make a phone call or contact the Guatemalan Embassy. These facts were not refuted by the State.

360. During the proceedings before the IACHR, the Salvadoran State asserted that neither the National Police nor the Attorney General's Office had records of police proceedings related to the victims' names and, with regard to extradition, maintained that under Salvadoran law, the power to grant extradition is vested in the Supreme Court of Justice.

361. A memorandum from the District Court of Columbia in the United States indicated that the victims were arrested in El Salvador on September 27, 2006, and traveled to the United States under the custody of DEA agents. In addition, the Court stated that "on September 26, 2006, agents of the National Police of El Salvador met with DEA agents at the DEA offices in El Salvador to discuss the arrest of the defendants, where DEA agents Fraga and Sandoval were present", shared information about the victims with the Salvadoran authorities, and established how the arrest would be carried out. Additionally, the District Court of Columbia noted that the decision to arrest the victims, and the administrative and tactical details for carrying out this operation, were the responsibility of the Salvadoran law enforcement agencies.

362. Regarding the transfer of the defendants from El Salvador to the United States, the District Court of Columbia noted that on September 27, 2006, at 3:00 p.m., DEA agents Fraga and Sandoval met the victims at the airport in El Salvador, where a DEA plane was already waiting. The three detainees were immediately boarded onto the aircraft along with two DEA agents and two pilots, landing in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at 10:00 p.m. that same day. The Court considered that this transfer was carried out within the framework of the extradition treaty between El Salvador and the United States.

363. On September 30, 2006, Silvia Marina Juárez de Del Cid filed a complaint with the National Civil Police at the San Salvador Centro station regarding the deprivation of liberty of the three victims, without the State having presented any information on the matter during the proceedings.

364. In its Admissibility and Merits Report 148/23, the Commission found that the facts described by the petitioners coincided with the information contained in the case file, including the judgment of the

District Court of Columbia, the criminal complaint filed by Silvia Marina Juárez de Del Cid with the National Civil Police, and the press releases submitted to the proceedings. In this regard, it considered it proven that agents of the National Civil Police of El Salvador carried out an operation in San Salvador that resulted in the arrest of the victims and their subsequent transfer to the airport in that city. It also considered it proven that the victims were handed over to agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and boarded a plane to be transferred to U.S. territory.

365. Regarding the right to personal liberty, the Commission noted that no arrest warrant issued by a competent judge was presented, nor was it proven that the victims were committing a flagrant act that would justify their capture without a prior warrant. The absence of official documentation or records of the arrest, together with the lack of evidence of flagrancy or judicial authorization, led to the conclusion that the arrests were illegal. The IACHR also determined that the State violated the victims' right to be informed of the reasons for their detention. In addition, it noted that the State did not present evidence proving that the victims, as foreigners, were guaranteed the right to be notified of their right to communicate with consular officials to receive assistance. Finally, based on the available evidence, the IACHR concluded that the victims were detained by agents of the Salvadoran National Police, transferred to the San Salvador airport, and sent to the United States without being brought before a judge in El Salvador, and therefore without judicial review. In this regard, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to personal liberty.

366. Regarding the rights to guarantees and judicial protection, the Commission noted that the Salvadoran authorities did not inform the victims, who were Guatemalan citizens, of their right to consular assistance. Furthermore, during their detention, the victims were unable to communicate with a lawyer or family members, which violated their right to establish contact with a third party. This restriction accentuated their defenselessness and contravened the right to due process.

367. Regarding the complaint filed by Ms. Juárez De Cid, the Commission recalled that the authorities have an obligation to take immediate and effective steps to clarify the facts, identify those responsible, and, if applicable, bring them to justice. However, the documentation analyzed does not indicate that the complaint has been processed or that the State has taken concrete measures to clarify the facts. The lack of a diligent and timely investigation violates the victims' right to effective judicial protection. In this regard, the IACHR considered that the State failed to fulfill its duty to investigate the alleged facts in a timely manner, which constitutes a violation of the right to judicial protection. Additionally, given that since the complaint was filed in 2006, there has been no procedural progress or final decision, the IACHR determined that the guarantee of reasonable time was violated.

368. In this regard, the Commission concluded that the State failed to fulfill its duty to investigate the facts with due diligence, as well as to provide adequate and effective remedies to remedy the situation and therefore violated the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

369. Finally, the IACHR noted that the detention of the three victims, all Guatemalan nationals, was followed by their immediate transfer on a DEA plane, without any judicial proceedings in El Salvador. The IACHR observed that there is no evidence in the case file to allow it to affirm that the facts of the case responded to the execution of an extradition order adopted in accordance with the law and respectful of the State's human rights obligations. On the contrary, the information available to it indicates that once detained, they were immediately transported by air out of the country. Thus, the Commission concluded that the victims did not have a duly reasoned decision to proceed with what the State characterized as extradition. Nor did they have due process to guarantee their right to defense, or the opportunity to exercise their right to submit their case for review by the competent authority or to appeal the decision to a higher court with suspensive effect. For these reasons, the IACHR concluded that the victims did not enjoy due process or an extradition decision in accordance with the law, constituting a violation of the rights to freedom of movement and residence, judicial guarantees, and judicial protection.

370. Based on these findings of fact and law, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the Salvadoran State is responsible for the violation of the rights to personal liberty, judicial guarantees, freedom

of movement and residence, and judicial protection, established in Articles 7.1, 7.2, 7.4, 8.1, 8.2. 22.6, and 25.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights, in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Álvaro Agustín Mejía, Juan del Cid Morales, and Erik Donaire Constanza Bran.

13. Ernesto Yoliztly Lejderman, Bernardo Mario Lejderman Konujowska, and María del Rosario Ávalos Castañeda v. Chile

371. The case concerns Chile's international responsibility for the forced disappearance of Bernardo Mario Lejderman Konujowska and María del Rosario Ávalos Castañeda at the hands of the Chilean armed forces on December 8, 1973, in front of their son Ernesto Yoliztly Lejderman, who was two years old at the time of the events, and the obstacles that have arisen in relation to access to justice and the clarification of the truth about the events.

372. Bernardo Mario Lejderman Konujowska was an Argentine national, professor, law student, businessman, and journalist. He left his country because of the repression that occurred during the dictatorship of General Juan Carlos Onganía and, while traveling in Mexico, he met María del Rosario Ávalos Castañeda, who was Mexican, studied sociology, and decided to travel to Chile with Mr. Lejderman in March 1971.

373. The Lejderman Ávalos couple lived in the city of Vicuña, where Bernardo worked with the governor in the area of social services and also devoted himself to wood crafts. María del Rosario, for her part, gave private English lessons. After the military coup in 1973, they decided to cross the border into Argentina. On the way, they sought refuge with their son in the Gualliguaica Gorge, Elqui Valley, where they remained hidden inside some coal ovens. They were found and subsequently executed by military agents on December 8, 1973.

374. According to the petitioner, after the murder of the Lejderman Ávalos couple, the military took the child Ernesto Yoliztly Lejderman Ávalos from the place where his parents were executed and, days later, left him in the care of the nuns at the Casa de la Providencia in La Serena. He remained there until January 1974, when, thanks to diplomatic efforts by the Argentine Consulate, he was transferred to the city of Buenos Aires to be reunited with his paternal grandparents.

375. According to the statement presented by Fidelina del Tránsito Pasten, after the execution of the Lejderman Ávalos couple, the military searched for Luis Horacio Ramírez, who had informed them of the couple's location, and ordered him to come with them, carrying a shovel and a pickaxe to dig a grave and bury the remains of María del Rosario Ávalos. For his part, Mr. Lejderman's body was found days later by Lorenzo del Carmen Pasten. Subsequently, and as indicated in Mr. Ramírez's statement, he went with Mr. Lorenzo del Carmen to "La Angostura", near where the body was found, and they moved it and buried it in a safer place.

376. The body of María del Rosario Ávalos Castañeda was exhumed in April 1974 after various diplomatic efforts by Mexico, and her remains were transferred to the General Cemetery of Santiago. Additionally, according to the petitioner, her remains were transferred in December 1998 to a general niche and were cremated. This information was made known to the petitioner in 2005.

377. Regarding Mr. Bernardo Mario Lejderman, according to the petitioner, his whereabouts remained unknown until 1990. Thus, seventeen years after his execution and following the intervention of the judiciary, his body was found buried on August 1, 1990.

378. On July 31, 1990, human rights organizations in La Serena filed a criminal complaint for the crime of illegal burial against Bernardo Mario Lejderman, in which they recounted the circumstances surrounding Mr. Lejderman's death and requested the exhumation of his remains. In addition, the petitioners indicated that, following the exhumation of Mr. Lejderman's body on August 8, 1990, a complaint was filed for the crimes of murder, illegal burial, and illegal exhumation. However, following the intervention of the Second Military Court of Santiago, the Supreme Court of Chile decided to leave the case in the hands of the military

justice system. On March 10, 1992, the military judge decided to dismiss the case because, in his opinion, the crimes under investigation were covered by the 1978 Amnesty Law.

379. On December 4, 2000, the petitioner filed a criminal complaint with the Criminal Court of Santiago against Fernando Polanco Gallardo, Jorge Cruz Adaro, Carlos Verdugo Gómez, Rubén Fiedler Alvarado, Mario Larenas Carmona, Ariosto Lapostol Orrego, and General Augusto Pinochet as perpetrators, accomplices, or accessories to the crimes of aggravated homicide, illegal burial, and criminal conspiracy to the detriment of Bernardo Mario Lejderman and María del Rosario Ávalos. Likewise, on September 7, 2004, seeking redress for what had happened, the petitioner filed a civil suit against the Chilean Treasury for the moral damage caused to him by the events under investigation.

380. According to the petitioner, on May 26, 2004, Fernando Polanco Gallardo, Ariosto Lapostol Orrego, Héctor Omar Vallegos, and Luis Humberto Fernández were brought to trial and placed in preventive detention. A year later, on May 25, 2005, the trial judge upheld the defendants' plea of res judicata, acquitted them, and dismissed the civil suit.

381. The petitioner appealed the decision, and on June 28, 2005, the Court of Appeals reversed the judgment and ordered that a replacement judgment be issued. However, on July 14, 2006, the judge again upheld the plea of res judicata and acquitted the defendants. It was not until December 18, 2007, that the Ninth Chamber of the Santiago Court of Appeals: (i) revoked the previous judgment, (ii) convicted Fernando Polanco, Luis Fernández, and Héctor Vallejos of the crime of homicide, (iii) sentenced them to imprisonment, and (iv) upheld the claim for damages.

382. The convicted men filed appeals, and on May 25, 2009, the Supreme Court of Chile overturned the Court of Appeals' ruling and issued a new one in its place. In this ruling, while confirming the conviction for the crime of homicide, it reduced the sentence to five years and one day through the application of the gradual statute of limitations and revoked the compensation that had been awarded to the petitioner.

383. Furthermore, according to information provided by the State, which was not contested by the victims' representatives, on November 22, 2016, Mr. Ernesto Lejderman filed a civil suit for damages. That civil lawsuit was resolved by a judgment dated May 31, 2018, which ordered the Treasury to pay the sum of $100,000,000 (one hundred million Chilean pesos). Subsequently, on September 6, 2018, the Santiago Court of Appeals upheld the first instance ruling and ordered the payment of $150,000,000 (one hundred and fifty million Chilean pesos) to the plaintiff. The State asserts that this amount was paid by resolution dated July 10, 2019.

384. Finally, regarding the administrative reparation proceedings, according to the State, Mr. Ernesto Lejderman Ávalos received a total of $45,509.62 in administrative reparation from June 1991 to November 2022.

385. In its Merits Report 192/23, the Commission indicated that, regarding the right to life, to integrity, and personal security, it had been sufficiently demonstrated that the use of lethal force by military agents was unnecessary, disproportionate, and lacking a legitimate purpose, and therefore the deaths constituted extrajudicial executions.

386. The Commission also analyzed whether the acts committed against Bernardo Mario Lejderman and María del Rosario Ávalos constituted forced disappearance. In this regard, the Commission reiterated that, at the time of the events, there was a consistent state policy in Chile of widespread repression against persons whom the regime considered to be opponents, characterized, among other things, by a massive and systematic practice of shootings, summary executions, and forced disappearances.

387. With regard to María del Rosario Ávalos, the Commission noted that she was deprived of her liberty on December 8, 1973, just before her execution by a group of armed soldiers, with the direct involvement of state agents under the command of Captain Fernando Polaco Gallardo. Despite the search

conducted by Mr. Herz Lejderman, the authorities systematically refused to disclose information about the whereabouts of the victim's remains and continued to reproduce a false version of the events. The Commission observed that her remains were exhumed in April 1974 and transferred to the General Cemetery of Santiago and that they were subsequently taken to a general niche and cremated in 1998. However, it was not until 2005 that her son was able to learn the whereabouts of his mother's remains, and the Commission therefore considered that the forced disappearance remained unresolved until that time.

388. Regarding Bernardo Mario Lejderman, the Commission noted that he was detained and executed on the same day and by the same agents as his wife, and therefore the first and second elements of forced disappearance were met. As for the third element, related to the refusal to acknowledge the whereabouts of the remains of the disappeared person, the Commission observed that state agents promoted a false version of his death related to an alleged suicide by dynamite and that it was only 17 years after his execution that, through the intervention of the judiciary, his body was found and his death was registered. In both cases, state agents took measures to conceal the facts or eliminate traces of the bodies to prevent their identification or the establishment of their whereabouts.

389. Therefore, the Commission concluded that the State of Chile is responsible for the violation of the rights to recognition as a person before the law, personal liberty, and personal integrity.

390. Additionally, the Commission concluded that the interference in family life by the State of Chile caused Ernesto Yoliztly Lejderman to be deprived of protection of his family and, in turn, put his physical, emotional, and social development at risk, for which it is responsible for the violation of the rights to protection of the family, protection of private life, and protection of childhood.

391. Furthermore, the IACHR noted that approximately nine years elapsed between the filing of the criminal complaint and the conviction and punishment of those responsible and that, since the events occurred, the petitioner had to wait approximately 36 years for those responsible for the execution of his parents to be punished, without the State providing any information to justify the length of the proceedings. The Commission noted that the length of the proceedings caused profound suffering to the petitioner, as well as frustration, helplessness, and exhaustion, and concluded that the State did not observe the guarantee of a reasonable time.

392. With regard to the complaint filed in 1990 for the crimes of murder, illegal burial, and illegal exhumation, the Commission noted that the Supreme Court of Chile ruled that the proceedings should continue in the military courts and that on March 10, 1992, the military judge dismissed the case on the grounds that the conduct under investigation was covered by the 1978 Amnesty Law. In this regard, the Commission considered that, given the nature of the acts under investigation, the proceedings should have been conducted by the ordinary courts and not by the military authorities. The Commission also noted that the military authorities decided to close the investigation by applying an amnesty law that covered the crimes under investigation and on which the Inter-American Court had already ruled, declaring it unconstitutional because it disregarded the right of victims of serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity to access justice and promoted impunity for such conduct. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for disregarding the guarantee of a natural judge, as well as the obligation to amend the legal system in accordance with international obligations.

393. Similarly, the Commission considered that in the present case, the application of the gradual statute of limitations resulted in the granting of undue benefits that constituted a form of impunity, since the penalties imposed on those responsible for the extrajudicial executions were disproportionate to the right of the relatives to have the crime punished in accordance with its gravity. Thus, the use of the statute of limitations disregarded the State's duty to punish those responsible for crimes against humanity in an adequate and proportionate manner.

394. With regard to the State's responsibility under the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, the Commission considered that, although the Convention had not entered into force for the State when the disappearances occurred, given that the obligation to investigate and punish crimes

against humanity is imprescriptible, and that in the present case the forced disappearance of Mr. and Mrs. Lejderman Ávalos has not been adequately punished, the State is responsible for violating the obligations contained in that Convention.

395. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that the State of Chile is responsible for violating the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

396. Finally, the Commission concluded that the impact on the mental and moral integrity of the petitioner, who was two years old when his parents were executed and who had to witness the concealment of the truth, the manipulation of his parents' remains, and a lengthy judicial process that did not provide him with redress for these events, caused him profound suffering, frustration, and anguish. The Commission therefore determined that the Chilean State violated the right to personal integrity.

397. Based on the findings of fact and law in this report, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to life, integrity, and security of the person established in Article I of the American Declaration to the detriment of Bernardo Mario Lejderman Konujowska and María del Rosario Ávalos Castañeda. Additionally, the Commission concluded that the State of Chile is responsible for violating the rights to recognition as a person before the law, protection against arbitrary detention, personal integrity, and personal liberty established in Articles XVII and XXV of the American Declaration to the detriment of Bernardo Mario Lejderman. Likewise, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to recognition as a person before the law, to life, to personal integrity, and to personal liberty established in Articles 3, 4.1, 5.1, and 7.1 of the American Convention, in relation to the obligations established in Article 1.1 thereof, to the detriment of María del Rosario Ávalos.

14. Priest Jesús Héctor Gallego Herrera and his relatives v. Panama

398. The case concerns the international responsibility of the State of Panama for the forced disappearance of Jesús Héctor Gallego Herrera in the context of the military dictatorship that ruled Panama until December 20, 1989.

399. Mr. Jesús Héctor Gallego Herrera, a Colombian national, was 33 years old and worked as a Catholic priest in charge of the church of Santa Fe, in the province of Veragua, where he carried out his pastoral and social work with the peasant population. According to the information provided in the case file, Mr. Gallego created the so-called "Christian Communities," the "La Esperanza de los Campesinos" Multiple Services Cooperative, the "Community Production Base Groups," and the "Adult Training School," spaces in which, through meetings and reflection workshops, the residents analyzed issues of human rights and general interest to the communities.

400. On the night of May 22, 1971, the house where Mr. Gallego lived, which was also his parish office, was set on fire by unidentified persons. The following day, May 23, the Municipal Ombudsman of the District of Santa Fe ordered an investigation into the incident and took all necessary steps to clarify the case. The victim filed a complaint with the Municipal Ombudsman of the District of Santa Fé on May 25, 1971. According to the official letter issued by the First Superior Prosecutor's Office of the Second Judicial District on October 29, 1971, no arrests were made and no evidence was collected in the investigation into the fire. On November 24, 1971, the Third Superior Court of the Second Judicial District provisionally dismissed the case, based on a request from the prosecutor.

401. On June 7, 1971, Melbourne Constantino Walker Nevans and Eugenio Nelsón Magallón Romero, members of the National Guard, visited the community of Santa Fe asking for information about the victim. According to several witnesses, both agents inquired about the aid received by the cooperative, the priest's address, and his activities. They also went to look for him in the town of El Carmen, where they had a brief meeting with him.

402. According to Jacinto Peña and Clotilde Toribio de Peña, after his home was burned down, Father Héctor Gallego stayed at the couple's house in the town of Santa Fe. Mr. and Mrs. Peña stated that on the night of June 9, 1971, two unidentified individuals arrived at their home in a jeep with a white hood and, after speaking with the priest, asked him to "accompany them to the barracks on orders from above". According to both testimonies, although the victim initially did not want to go with them, he eventually agreed after the men insisted. Additionally, Mrs. Clotilde Toribio de Peña stated that "one of those individuals with a hoarse or deep voice told him that he had an arrest warrant and later she saw, as did her husband, that the priest was walking between the two men".

403. The Peñas reported that as they were taking him away, they heard a scream and saw him being put into the car before they quickly left the scene. Since then, Father Gallego's whereabouts have been unknown.

404. Mr. Peña Abrego and Monsignor Martín Legarra filed a formal complaint regarding the disappearance of Father Gallego Herrera on June 10, 1971. The Attorney General began the investigation that same day and subsequently entrusted the case to the Second Prosecutor of the Veraguas Circuit, who, after conducting some investigative procedures, referred the case to the First Superior Prosecutor of the Second Judicial District.

405. The file shows that Bishops Martin Legarra, Marcos McGrath, and Daniel Nuñez questioned the conduct of the investigations and reported to the Attorney General in June 1971 that a series of irregularities had occurred. In this regard, they indicated that, among other shortcomings, no searches were conducted of the houses in Santa Fe and San Francisco, despite evidence that Father Gallego was being held in that region; the police did not investigate the license plate numbers of cars that passed through the area on the highway when the events occurred; important witnesses were not called to testify, some names mentioned in testimonies were removed, and the main suspects were not summoned to testify.

406. Despite this, the First Senior Prosecutor of the Second Judicial District considered that the investigation had been exhausted and, in a ruling dated June 12, 1973, recommended that the case be closed with a provisional dismissal. On June 26, 1973, the Third Superior Court of the Second Judicial District granted the provisional dismissal and ordered the case to be closed.

407. On January 23, 1990, after the military regime had been dismantled, the Catholic Church requested that the case be reopened. On June 26, 1990, the Superior Court of the Second Judicial District ordered the reopening of the investigation and the continuation of the inquiry into the facts. Subsequently, on April 5, 1991, the court decided to open criminal proceedings against Melbourne Constantino Walker Nevans, Eugenio Nelsón Magallón Romero, Nivaldo Madriñán Aponte, and Oscar Alberto Agrazal Jiménez for the crime of homicide against Jesús Héctor Gallego Herrera. This decision was ratified by the Supreme Court of Justice on January 8, 1992.

408. During the criminal proceedings, on June 17, 1992, one of the defendants, Melbourne Walker, sent a letter to Reverend Father Fernando Guardia, in which he indicated, among other things, that the head of the G-2 was Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Noriega, who had ordered him to hand over information about the victim. He also stated that, according to his investigations, Father Gallego Herrera had been transferred alive to Panama City, where he remained in the custody of members of the G-2. For his part, in an interview with a journalist, Nivaldo Madriñan stated that he had been informed that the victim had first been transferred to a house near the María Inmaculada school and then to Tocumen.

409. On April 29, 1994, the Superior Court of the Second Judicial District sentenced Melbourne Constantino Walker Nevans, Eugenio Nelsón Magallón Romero, and Nivaldo Madriñán Aponte to fifteen years in prison each as accomplices and disqualified them from holding public office for fifteen years after serving their main sentence. It also acquitted Oscar Alberto Agrazal Jimenez, arguing that there was insufficient evidence to convict him. According to the petitioner, an appeal was filed against the judgment, which was

dismissed by the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice, which also upheld it. They also indicated that Mr. Eugenio Nelson Magallon remained a fugitive from justice.

410. Father Jesús Héctor Gallego Herrera was identified in the Truth Commission Report as victim CV-D-035-01, indicating that "there is sufficient evidence to conclude that Jesús Héctor Gallego Herrera was detained by the National Guard and disappeared while in the custody of that armed force".

411. In its Merits Report No. 273/22, the Commission noted that the case file contains direct evidence, as well as multiple circumstantial and contextual elements, indicating the involvement of Panamanian National Guard agents in the disappearance of Mr. Gallego Herrera, and that the facts are consistent with the context of forced disappearances during the military governments between 1968 and 1989. In this regard, the Commission understood that the first two elements of the crime of forced disappearance of persons are present, namely, deprivation of liberty and the involvement of state agents. With regard to the third element of the crime of forced disappearance, the State's refusal to acknowledge the detention or to reveal the fate or whereabouts of the detained person, the Commission emphasized that the testimonies of the relatives and friends of Father Gallego Herrera recount all the efforts they made to locate him in the days following his disappearance, which were unsuccessful.

412. Consequently, the Commission concluded that what happened to Father Gallego Herrera constitutes an enforced disappearance of persons and, therefore, the State of Panama is responsible for the violation of the rights to recognition as a person before the law, to life, to personal integrity, and to personal liberty.

413. With regard to due diligence in the investigation of the forced disappearance of Mr. Gallego Herrera, the Commission noted that the first investigative process began as a result of the complaint filed on June 10, 1971. Regarding this investigation, the Commission observed that the file contains only statements made by some individuals and a vehicle identification procedure. Thus, there is no evidence of any search efforts in the first days after the victim's disappearance, nor in the weeks and months that followed, and it was precisely the lack of due diligence in the investigation that led to the case being closed in 1973. The Commission found that there was no immediate and exhaustive response by the State after the authorities learned of the priest's disappearance and that, on the contrary, the search and investigation efforts were minimal. In this regard, it considered that the criminal proceedings failed to comply with judicial guarantees, which allowed the acts to go unpunished.

414. Regarding the second criminal proceeding conducted after the fall of the military regime, the Commission noted that it was not reopened as a result of an official action by the State, but rather at the request of representatives of the Catholic Church in 1990. Furthermore, although four people were involved in the criminal proceedings, the authorities did not pursue a line of investigation into the participation of high-ranking military personnel, even though there were reasonable grounds to believe that there were masterminds behind the crime. Similarly, the Commission observed that, since the conviction was handed down, the State had not reported on any steps taken to effect the arrest of Eugenio Nelson Magallón. Furthermore, the Commission noted that the information in the case file did not indicate that, in the context of this second proceeding, there had been any plan or strategy to search for the victim or his remains.

415. The Commission also noted that, at the time of the events in question, the crime of forced disappearance was not classified as such in Panama. As a result, the two criminal proceedings were brought for the crime of homicide against Mr. Gallego Herrera. The Commission considered that the decision to define the conduct as a criminal offense carried out in 2016 represents progress in the development of laws consistent with the principles established in the international human rights instruments ratified by the State. This progress notwithstanding, the Commission considered that the events in this case occurred before the State's efforts, and that at least until 2016, the State failed to comply with its obligation to criminalize the offense.

416. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that the State of Panama failed to comply with its obligation to investigate, prosecute, and punish, within a reasonable time and with due diligence, the

enforced disappearance analyzed in this report and concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

417. Additionally, the Commission considered it plausible to hold that the attacks against Father Gallego were intended to punish him and curtail his religious activities as a priest of the Catholic Church, prevent him from continuing his pastoral work in evangelization groups, as well as the work he was doing with peasant groups in Santa Fe de Veraguas through the organization of community centers and the peasant cooperative. Furthermore, the Commission considered that, due to the surveillance, threats, kidnapping, and disappearance he suffered, Father Gallego was deprived of his right to exercise his freedom of conscience and religion as a foreign Catholic priest in Panama, and that this prevented the victim from continuing his work as a human rights defender. Consequently, the Commission concluded that the Panamanian State was responsible for the violation of the rights to freedom of conscience and religion, freedom of association, and the right to defend human rights.

418. Finally, the Commission observed that the disappearance of Mr. Gallego Herrera has caused his family members profound pain and anguish, which has continued throughout all these years, and concluded that the State violated the right to personal integrity to the detriment of those family members.

419. Based on the findings of fact and law, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the rights to legal personality, life, personal integrity and personal freedom, freedom of conscience and religion, freedom of association in defense of human rights, judicial guarantees, and judicial protection, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 3, 4.1, 5.1, 7.1, 12.1, 16.1, 8.1, and 25.1 of the American Convention in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Jesús Héctor Gallego Herrera and his relatives. Likewise, the IACHR concluded that the State is responsible for failing to comply with the obligations contained in Articles I a) and b) and III of the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons as of February 28, 1996.

15. G.C.A.M. and son v. Ecuador

420. The case concerns Ecuador's international responsibility for failing to provide special protection to G.C.A.M., a woman with an intellectual disability, due to the lack of due diligence and irregularities in the investigations into sexual violence, the separation from her son ("S.A.A.M." or "S.A.D.A."), and the double registration of the latter in the civil registry, and the situation of impunity that exists with respect to these events.

421. G.C.A.M. is a woman of Ecuadorian nationality, born on August 7, 1983, who has an intellectual disability that has progressed to 75%. Regarding G.C.A.M.'s childhood, she told authorities that she was the youngest of 11 children, that she was born prematurely, and that she was verbally abused in her family because they called her "sick". She also stated that her father threatened her and her mother physically abused her. According to G.C.A.M., at the age of 14 she went to live in Quito with her sister Virginia Alcívar and her brother-in-law, César Alfonso Yépez Proaño, who physically, psychologically, and sexually abused her. According to her accounts, her brother-in-law threatened her if she did not let him do what he wanted and mistreated her.

422. G.C.A.M. stated that during the time she lived in Quito, she had two pregnancies resulting from her brother-in-law's rapes, and that her sister Virginia Alcívar took her to have two abortions. She also mentioned that in 2009, her sister took her to have a contraceptive device implanted, under the understanding that she was being injected with a device to prevent cancer.

423. According to the petitioner, "at the age of 26, in 2009, [G.C.A.M.] suffered sexual violence for the last time at the hands of César Yépez, and at the age of 27, in 2010, she decided to move in with William Díaz". One month after the birth of G.C.A.M.'s son, he was registered for the first time with his mother's two surnames, as S.A.A.M. In 2008, at the age of 3, S.A. was registered as the son of Virginia Alcívar and César Yépez, as requested by "the mother". In 2010, for the third time, G.C.A.M.'s son was registered in the civil registry with his father's surname, William Diaz, as S.A.D.A.

424. On June 8, 2010, G.C.A.M. filed a complaint with the Pichincha Provincial Prosecutor's Office against César Alfonso Yépez Proaño for the alleged crime of rape. G.C.A.M. informed the authorities of the threats she received if she resisted being raped and that her sister was aware of the facts.

425. On August 2, 2012, the prosecutor in the case filed charges against César Yépez for rape. Mr. Yépez's defense immediately opposed the decision, questioning whether G.C.A.M. had any degree of intellectual disability, as it considered that her disability card had been obtained fraudulently. It also pointed out that G.C.A.M. was a victim of psychological sexual abuse by her partner. On the same date, the 15th Criminal Court of Pichincha ordered the commencement of the preliminary investigation and imposed precautionary measures against the defendant.

426. On August 15, 2012, G.C.A.M. requested that the Pichincha Prosecutor remove Prosecutor Sandra Rosillo from her case and appoint Prosecutor Diego Velasco, as he was the only person with whom she had spoken frankly and calmly. According to the petitioner, Prosecutor Dilza Muñoz was assigned to the case and ordered the collection of evidence that revictimized G.C.A.M. In addition, the petitioner reported that on several occasions the Prosecutor's Office required her to repeat her version of the events.

427. On February 22, 2013, the Fifteenth Criminal Court held a preliminary hearing in which the prosecutor's opinion was received. The prosecutor declined to press charges. On April 10, 2013, the Fifteenth Criminal Court of Pichincha issued a provisional dismissal of the case and the defendant, stating that it was not appropriate to continue with the trial phase, based on the prosecutor's decision not to press charges.

428. At the hearing of the case before the CDH during the 185th Session, G.C.A.M. indicated that, throughout the process of reporting the rape against her brother-in-law, she was mistreated by the various prosecutors assigned to the case. She mentioned that they banged their hands on the table and were impatient with her when she took time to answer questions. She claimed that the prosecutors told their secretaries what to write down in the statements, as if she had said it herself.

429. Since the birth of G.C.A.M.'s son, he had been living with his sister and brother-in-law, so she filed a petition with the 8th Court for Children and Adolescents of Pichincha to get him back. Initially, the Social Work Report suggested that the child continue to live with his aunt and uncle and that G.C.A.M. and her aunt and uncle receive psychological support to help the child understand his biological origins. Therefore, on July 7, 2010, the Eighth Court for Children and Adolescents of Pichincha ruled that S.A. should continue to live with his maternal aunt and uncle on a provisional basis, as he had been with them since birth, and ordered that G.C.A.M. be allowed visitation rights on weekends.

430. On September 13, 2010, the court ordered that S.A. be handed over to his mother, G.C.A.M., and that William Díaz and the maternal uncles undergo psychiatric evaluation, granting them visitation rights on Saturdays and Sundays to see the child. In compliance with the ruling, in October 2010, S.A. was handed over to the court. The petitioner indicated that Virginia Alcívar and César Yépez were accompanied by other individuals, including her mother and sisters, who physically and psychologically assaulted G.C.A.M. According to the medical examiner's report of October 18, 2010, due to the incidents of that day, G.C.A.M. was unable to work for 4 to 8 days, as she was 16 weeks pregnant and at risk of miscarriage.

431. On October 19, 2010, G.C.A.M. filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office, stemming from the incident on October 14 of that year at the Eighth Court for Children and Adolescents. According to the petitioner, on November 5, 2020, the Judicial Unit for Protection Measures and Dismissals of Quito declared the that the statute of limitations for the crime had lapsed due to the lack of progress in the investigation.

432. Regarding S.A., on March 30, 2005, he was registered for the first time in the Civil Registry with his mother's two surnames, then registered as S.A.A.M., with a date of birth of February 19, 2005, where only the name of G.C.A.M. is recorded as the single mother and as the person requesting the registration. The second registration was made on August 6, 2008, under the initials S.A.Y.A., where César Yépez is registered as

the father and Virginia Alcívar as the mother, with the mother, in this case Virginia Alcívar, requesting the registration.

433. According to the State, this registration was done manually, with the presentation of documents required by law, 2which allowed the administrative authority to presume that the child was her biological son". The State also added that the General Directorate of Civil Registration searched for birth certificates for the child "Yépez Alcívar" without finding any previous registration, as the search was done using his uncles' surnames. It noted that "for the General Directorate of Civil Registry, Identification, and Issuance of Identity Cards, it is impossible to automatically find the relationship between the first and second birth registrations of the child S.A.D.A., since even the information contained in the second birth registration is different, such as the child's surnames, the names of the parents, and the place of birth, as can be seen from reading both birth certificates".

434. Later, on May 21, 2010, William Díaz belatedly acknowledged S.A.'s paternity as the biological father, so her current name corresponds to the initials S.A.D.A. According to the State, on this occasion, a new birth certificate was not issued, but rather a note on the margins was added to the first registration.

435. According to the petitioner, on December 31, 2009, William Díaz filed a complaint for identity theft with malicious use of a public document, due to irregularities in the second registration. The petitioner also added that the file disappeared from the Specialized Public Prosecutor's Office No. 3, for which reason Mr. Diaz requested the Ombudsman's Office of Ecuador to initiate a proceeding to monitor due process. The Office issued a ruling of admissibility on December 3, 2018. The petitioner has also pointed out that there is also a complaint for fraudulent use of a false document, due to the double registration of S.A., which was dismissed due to a failure to comply with the duty of due diligence on the part of the State, which is responsible for pursuing the case.

436. During the hearing before the IACHR, William Díaz stated that threats against his life, integrity, and that of his family continue. He indicated that they are afraid to even open the door; that, as a result of filing the complaint against the police officers, the sergeant who received them mentioned that they could file the complaint, but that he would not be responsible for the consequences this could have in the future. William mentioned that as a result, they withdrew the complaint.

437. On December 19, 2013, G.C.A.M. filed a complaint against two brothers and his brother-in-law, among others, for threats he received from them, as he feared for her physical integrity and that of her family. On January 25, 2019, the Judicial Unit for Protection Measures and Dismissals based in the Metropolitan Center of Quito, Province of Pichincha, issued assistance warrants in favor of William Díaz, S.A.D.A. and J.J.D.A., establishing that any agent of the Ecuadorian National Police is obliged to provide assistance to the aforementioned individuals when the aggressors threaten their physical or mental integrity or sexual freedom. The order is valid at all times and nationwide, with no expiration date. The petitioner pointed out that, in the case of the criminal complaint of threats against Virginia Alcívar and César Yépez, the Prosecutor's Office did not pursue the case and the statute of limitations of the crime lapsed.

438. In its Merits Report No. 32/23, the Inter-American Commission first referred to the treatment of G.C.A.M. in terms of access to justice as a complainant of acts of gender-based violence. The Commission observed that the State did not adopt accessibility measures and procedural adjustments appropriate to G.C.A.M.'s disability in the course of the investigation and the examination of evidence arising from the complaint she filed.

439. Regarding the investigation of the acts of sexual violence, the Commission found that the authorities did not act with the strict due diligence required in cases of gender-based violence against women. Specifically, it found that: (i) there was a clear lack of positive measures to conduct an investigation with a gender and intersectional approach for a woman with a disability, especially considering that she was a woman reporting acts of sexual violence; (ii) no measures were taken to ensure her protection as a witness, given the threats and attacks she suffered; iii) there was no investigation into the alleged acts related to the non-

consensual implantation of contraceptive devices, as well as the abortions that occurred in the circumstances described by G.C.A.M; iv) the decision to dismiss the sexual violence complaint was based on stereotypes against women with disabilities that undermined the credibility of the complainant's testimony; and v) the decision to dismiss the sexual violence complaint was also based on an assessment that mistakenly attributed an HPV test the ability to prove sexual violence, ignoring the scientifically proven characteristics of the virus, as well as the multiple forms in which sexual violence occurs.

440. For these reasons, the Commission considered that the State of Ecuador is responsible for violating the rights to judicial guarantees, equality, and judicial protection, as well as for violating Article 7 of the Convention of Belém do Pará.

441. The Commission also noted that the State has intervened on several occasions in relation to S.A.'s rights. In the Commission's opinion, the existence of multiple civil registrations does not provide S.A. with certainty as to how the State recognizes him as an individual, as it keeps him in a legal limbo in which, although his last registered name corresponds to his parents' surnames, he also has another valid registration that identifies Virginia Alcívar and César Yépez as his parents. This lack of certainty in the registry affects S.A.'s rights to legal personality and creates uncertainty regarding the obligations that individuals have toward their family members in civil matters, since S.A. is legally recognized by the State as the child of different individuals. Similarly, the Commission found that the State has violated S.A.'s right to a name by maintaining a civil registry that lists S.A.'s surnames as not corresponding to those of his parents. Therefore, taken as a whole, the State also recognizes him by several names, which creates uncertainty as to his single name. Likewise, the Commission did not observe that the State has taken measures to ensure that S.A. has a single valid record that is consistent with his first and last names.

442. The Commission also considered that the violations of the rights to legal personality and to a name denote a lack of protection of the rights of the child, which imply the adoption of special measures to ensure the protection of their rights. For these reasons, the Commission considered that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to legal personality, to a name, and to the protection of children to the detriment of S.A.

443. Finally, the Commission considered that the impunity related to the serious shortcomings in the investigation of sexual violence and other alleged acts of gender-based violence against G.C.A.M. caused suffering and distress to her relatives identified in the report. Therefore, the IACHR found that the State of Ecuador is responsible for violating the right to mental and moral integrity to the detriment of the relatives of G.C.A.M.

444. Based on these factual and legal considerations, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the rights to judicial guarantees, equality, and judicial protection, contained in Articles 8, 24, and 25 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1 of the same instrument; as well as for violating Article 7 of the Convention of Belém do Pará; to the detriment of G.C.A.M. It also considered that the State is responsible for violating the rights to legal personality, name, and protection of children, contained in Articles 3, 18, and 19 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of S.A. Furthermore, it considered that the State is responsible for violating the right to mental and moral integrity established in Article 5.1 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of the aforementioned relatives of G.C.A.M.

16. María Carlota Lema Chango v. Ecuador

445. The case concerns the international responsibility of the Ecuadorian State for the actions of the authorities in relation to the deprivation of liberty of María Carlota Lema Chango while she was pregnant.

446. María Carlota Lema Chango is an Ecuadorian woman, born in the city of Quito, who worked as a merchant. On May 23, 2002, Ms. Lema Chango, who was 37 years old and pregnant, was arrested in a police operation for possession of marijuana. On May 25, 2002, the Public Prosecutor's Office began the investigative

stage for the crimes of custody, illegal possession, and illegal trafficking of marijuana, in which it mentioned that both Ms. Lema Chango and another detainee, Ms. Onofa Lema, were pregnant at the time of their arrest. Thus, on May 27, 2002, it was certified that Ms. Lema Chango was 17 weeks pregnant. On May 28, 2002, the Thirteenth Criminal Court of Pichincha confirmed the detention of Ms. Lema Chango for 24 hours for the corresponding investigation.

447. On June 5, 2002, the Eighteenth Criminal Court of Pichincha ordered house arrest instead of preventive detention. On June 28, 2002, the Provincial Anti-Narcotics Headquarters of Pichincha indicated its willingness to substitute the preventive detention order with house arrest and requested verification of the current residence of Ms. Lema Chango and Ms. Onofa Lema. According to the report issued on the same day, during verification of the addresses provided by the aforementioned individuals, it could not be determined that they were true, as neighbors stated that they did not know any women with the names indicated.

448. On August 30, 2002, according to the prosecutorial opinion signed by the Prosecutor of the Pichincha Drug Trafficking Crimes Unit, there were sufficient grounds to charge Ms. Lema Chango with the crime of illegal possession and distribution of substances, for which he requested that the respective order committing her to trial be issued against her.

449. On September 4, 2002, members of the Regional Foundation for Human Rights Advisory Services (INREDH) filed a writ of habeas corpus with the Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Quito on behalf of Ms. María Carlota Lema Chango and other detainees, indicating that they were being held illegally and were pregnant. On September 9, 2002, the Mayor's Office decided to deny the habeas corpus petition.

450. On November 14, 2002, by means of Resolution No. 050-20002-HC, the Third Chamber of the Constitutional Court granted the habeas corpus petition, reprimanded the Provincial Anti-Narcotics Chief of Pichincha for failing to comply with the order of the Eighteenth Criminal Judge of Pichincha, and ordered that preventive detention be replaced with house arrest.

451. Subsequently, Ms. Rosario Utreras Miranda, a member of the Ecuadorian Ombudsman's Office, received a letter signed by Ms. Lema's defenders stating that the Mayor had not complied with the Constitutional Court's Resolution, and therefore she sent a letter to the Mayor requesting information on the situation. On December 26, 2002, the Third Criminal Court of Pichincha issued a ruling replacing house arrest with preventive detention for Ms. Lema Chango and Onofa Lema, who would serve their sentences in the Quito Women's Prison because more than 90 days had passed since the birth of their children.

452. On October 29, 2002, the Eighteenth Criminal Court of Pichincha committed Ms. Lema Chango to trial. At the time, she was being held at the women's social rehabilitation center in Quito's El Inca sector. The order states that the seized evidence was tested and found to be positive for marijuana, with an approximate total weight of 66 grams. Ms. Lema Chango and Ms. Onofa Lema were arrested and transferred to the Pichincha Anti-Narcotics Headquarters for investigation.

453. On February 5, 2003, the Court handed down a sentence finding them guilty of the crimes of illegal possession of narcotics, recognizing the mitigating circumstances in their favor and imposing a sentence of eight years of ordinary imprisonment on each of them.

454. On February 7, 2003, Ms. Lema Chango filed an appeal with the Third Criminal Court of Pichincha. On March 7, 2003, the Third Chamber of the Constitutional Court sent a communication to the Mayor requesting compliance with Resolution 050-2002-HC and reminding him of his obligation to urge officials to comply with the rulings.

455. On May 19, 2004, the Second Criminal Chamber concluded that there had been no violation of any rule in the judgment that was the subject of the appeal. On September 1, 2008, pursuant to Constituent Mandate No. 1 of the Constituent Assembly of Ecuador, which "pardoned persons transporting small quantities of psychotropic substances and narcotics", Ms. Lema Chango was pardoned and released.

456. In its Report No. 446/21, the IACHR analyzed the State's actions regarding the preventive detention of María Lema Chango while she was pregnant and in the postpartum period. The Commission considered that the decision to keep Ms. Lema in detention was legally problematic because Article 171 of the Code of Criminal Procedure prohibited this measure for pregnant women or women who had recently given birth. Although there were judicial decisions that took this into consideration, they never resulted in an effective modification of the regime of deprivation of liberty other than preventive detention during pregnancy and postpartum. As a result, the spirit of the law was not upheld, contrary to the right to personal liberty, and the situation of vulnerability that the law sought to protect did not translate into special protection for pregnant women or for the protection of children at the time of the birth of Ms. Lema's child.

457. The Commission found that the protective mandate of the law was disregarded on several occasions and by several authorities – in particular, the administrative authorities, which failed to comply with the court orders by invoking exceptions to the rule that were not provided for in the aforementioned section of the law. In this regard, the Commission noted that the intervention of the mayor, who denied the habeas corpus petition, created an obstacle to Ms. Lema Chango's access to justice when she was in the final weeks of her pregnancy, and recalled that such a petition must be decided by a judicial authority. In addition to the obstacle posed by the intervention of the administrative authority in the habeas corpus proceedings, the Commission considered that the repeated disregard of the judicial decisions ordering house arrest for Ms. Lema confirmed that this remedy was not effective, constituting a violation of the rights to personal liberty and access to justice.

458. The IACHR emphasized that, although the State asserted that the administrative authority responsible for enforcing the habeas corpus order went to the address provided by Ms. Lema and that neighbors stated they did not know her, the State did not pursue any further steps to identify an alternative address or to ascertain whether the address provided was correct. The Commission noted that this demonstrates a lack of due diligence in light of Ms. Lema's circumstances and not only amounts to a failure to afford protection, but also delineates a discriminatory course of conduct, insofar as the type of punishment imposed by the State on a pregnant woman is the most severe, even suffering from a defect of legality, and yet is carried out as a form of sanction against the pregnant woman. The Commission further observed that the foregoing reveals a punitive culture so deeply entrenched against pregnant women involved in drug trafficking that it becomes possible to disregard a constitutional and legal mandate of protection, without such disregard being effectively remedied throughout the entire period of pregnancy.

459. The Commission also observed that keeping the victim in deprivation of liberty had a differential impact on Ms. Lema due to her pregnancy, contrary to the principle of equivalence that medical treatment must have in the context of deprivation of liberty, and that the State did not prove that, during her pregnancy or during the 90 days after giving birth, the authorities adopted a gender-sensitive approach in their actions that took into account Ms. Lema's special needs and the greater need for protection that she and her baby required. In the Commission's opinion, the foregoing constituted a form of violence against Ms. Lema, not only because of the failure to take positive action, but also because of the distress and suffering caused by the deliberate reluctance to implement the protective measures ordered by the judicial authorities, which would have provided her with a higher level of well-being and guaranteed her rights to health—including the right to mental health—and personal integrity.

460. In addition, the Commission also found that, by virtue of the right to protection of children, the authorities should have taken measures to ensure a safe birth under hygienic conditions. Likewise, the postnatal period should have had such conditions, and for this, the mother's situation was crucial to guarantee the well-being of the child. However, the IACHR did not observe that authorities took into account the best interests of the child who was born in order to provide special conditions of protection for Ms. Lema.

461. Finally, the Commission noted that this lack of positive measures in favor of Ms. Lema, which was incompatible with the legal framework in her pre- and post-natal period, contrasted with the speed with which she was remanded in custody again on December 26, 2002, less than two months after she had given

birth. The Commission indicated that the State had not presented information that would have justified the necessity and proportionality of the measure to return Ms. Lema to preventive detention when she had not yet been convicted.

462. In this regard, the Commission considered that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to personal integrity, personal liberty, equality, judicial protection, and the right to health to the detriment of Ms. Lema Chango. Likewise, the State is responsible for the violation of the protection of childhood to the detriment of Ms. Lema Chango's son.

463. Based on these factual and legal considerations, the Commission concluded that the State of Ecuador was responsible for violating the rights to integrity (Article 5), personal liberty (Article 7), honor and dignity (Article 11), protection of children (Article 19), equality (Article 24), judicial protection (Article 25), and health (Article 26), in relation to Article 1.1 (obligation to respect rights) of the American Convention and the duty of States to punish and eradicate violence against women (Article 7) of the Convention of Belém do Pará, to the detriment of María Lema and her son in the terms indicated in the Report.

17. Jimmy Freddy Torres Villalva and Family v. Chile

464. The case concerns Chile's international responsibility for failing to investigate and punish those responsible for the extrajudicial execution of Jimmy Freddy Torres Villalva by State agents in September 1973 in the city of Concepción.

465. The events in this case took place in the context of the coup d'état of September 11, 1973. According to the information contained in the case file, together with that analyzed by both the Rettig Commission and various Chilean judicial authorities, it has been established that in September 1973, Mr. Jimmy Freddy Torres Villalva, a 19-year-old Ecuadorian, was residing in the city of Concepción, Republic of Chile, and was studying chemical engineering at the University of Concepción as a recipient of a student scholarship.

466. On the morning of September 19, 1973, Mr. Torres Villalva and another Ecuadorian student named Felipe Porfirio Campos Carrillo took a bus to the city of Los Ángeles, where his girlfriend lived. According to the complaint filed by Mr. Campos Carrillo's brother, a member of the Carabineros informed him on September 19 that both students had been detained at the Chaimávida police checkpoint.

467. According to the testimony provided by Mr. Joel Salamanca Saldaña, Mr. Campos Carrillo's attorney, both students were held as detainees at what was then the Fourth Police Station in Concepción, which was identified by the Rettig Commission as a detention center where serious human rights violations were committed.

468. According to the testimony of Heriberto Moisés Krumm Ahumada and Vicente Garcia Pincheira, who were also detained at the Fourth Police Station, both students were in very poor physical condition, semi-conscious, and showed signs of having been tortured. Pedro Enrique Hann Silva, a police officer at the Fourth Police Station, also indicated that the young men were tortured by a delegation from the Carabineros Intelligence Service (SICAR) composed of uniformed officers and civilians, who suffocated the detainees by rolling them in ashes.

469. On the night of September 19, Major Fernando Pinares Carrasco ordered one of his subordinates to "take those two MIR members (miristas) out, because now we are going to kill them". The students were handcuffed and taken from their cell to a vehicle parked on the street.

470. Witness Pedro Enrique Hann Silva, who was serving in the Carabineros at the time, testified during the trial that his superior officers ordered the formation of a convoy of approximately 15 to 20 police vehicles and drove along a dirt road to a beach located in the area known as "Boca Sur" on the southern bank of the mouth of the Bio-Bio River. Arriving at that location, the three young men were placed at the water's edge, blindfolded and facing the sea. At that moment, one of the members of the group, who was dressed in

civilian clothes, stood behind the detainees and fired a revolver shot into the back of each of their heads. The bodies were then carried to the waves and thrown into the sea. The lifeless body of Mr. Torres Villalva was found on the morning of September 20, 1973, by a fisherman near the Boca Sur cove, along with that of Felipe Porfirio Campos Carrillo.

471. According to the information contained in the file, the police and judicial authorities of the State of Chile carried out various investigative measures in the days following the discovery of the body. However, the Commission has no information regarding the filing of charges against any person in connection with the events under investigation.

472. After the restoration of the rule of law in Chile, the investigation was resumed by the First Court of First Instance of Coronel, whose presiding judge decided to bring charges against the former commissioner of the Fourth Police Station of Concepción of the Carabineros de Chile, Colonel Fernando Pinares Carrasco, and the then head of the SICAR in the Concepción area, Colonel Sergio Arévalo Cid. On October 21, 2013, Special Investigating Judge Carlos Aldana Fuentes issued a ruling sentencing Mr. Arévalo Cid to fifteen years and one day of medium-security imprisonment. In the same ruling, the judge decided to acquit Mr. Pinares Carrasco of the charge of having participated as the perpetrator of the murders of Mr. Campos Carrillo and Mr. Torres Villalva. In response to this decision, the intervening party represented by the Program for the Continuation of Law 19.123 belonging to the Ministry of the Interior filed an appeal.

473. In a ruling dated July 23, 2015, the Fourth Chamber of the Concepción Appeals Court decided to overturn the first instance ruling only in the part that acquitted Fernando Pinares Carrasco as the perpetrator of the crimes of aggravated homicide and, instead, decided that he should be convicted as the perpetrator of those crimes and sentenced to fifteen years and one day of maximum security prison. Likewise, the Fourth Chamber of Appeals held that criminal responsibility should not be limited to Captain Arévalo Cid in his capacity as head of SICAR, since "both uniformed and plainclothes police officers participated in the convoy of vehicles in which the two young university students were transported, which rules out the absence of orders from officers of the aforementioned Fourth Police Station, whose superior officer was Major Pinares Carrasco".

474. In response to this decision, Mr. Pinares Carrasco's defense filed an appeal. On April 26, 2016, the Second Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of Chile decided to revoke the July 21, 2015, ruling of the Fourth Appeals Chamber of Concepción only with regard to the sentence imposed on the defendant Pinares Carrasco and to uphold the October 21, 2013, acquittal ruling against him, since "the evidentiary record of the proceedings does not permit a finding that Fernando Pinares Carrasco's culpable participation in the homicides of Felipe Campos Carrillo and Freddy Torres Villalba has been established."

475. In its Merits Report No. 259/23, the Inter-American Commission noted that it is not disputed by the parties that Mr. Torres Villalva was arrested without a warrant by Chilean police officers, that he was taken to the police station, where he was severely mistreated and physically tortured, and that he was taken from his cell in the early hours of September 20, 1973, and killed by several gunshots. The Commission understood that these actions violated the Chilean State's duty to respect personal liberty, integrity, and life in light of the American Declaration of Human Rights.

476. Likewise, the Commission considered that the extrajudicial execution of Mr. Torres Villalba remains in a situation of partial impunity, and therefore the Chilean State has not complied with its international duty to diligently clarify the facts and punish all those responsible. In particular, the Commission noted that the Chilean judicial authorities did not investigate or prosecute all the members of the so-called Civil Commission of the Carabineros, headed by then-Captain Sergio Arévalo Cid, and that the time that had elapsed between the events and the resumption of investigations and prosecution decisively undermined the possibility of fully clarifying the facts and punishing those responsible.

477. In this regard, the Commission noted that despite the American Convention being in force and the conviction of one of the defendants, the investigation has not been diligent or exhaustive with respect to all

responsibilities and that, in effect, the prison sentence handed down exclusively to a single senior officer at the facility where the victim in the case was detained is not sufficient to determine that the Chilean State has fully complied with its international obligation to diligently investigate the facts, prosecute, and punish all those responsible for this serious act, which, given its characteristics, constitutes a crime against humanity. Consequently, the Commission concluded that the State of Chile is internationally responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

478. Similarly, the Commission noted that the extrajudicial execution of Mr. Torres Villalva took place on September 20, 1973, and that the first instance conviction against one of the participants in the act was handed down on October 21, 2013, and that the judicial process finally culminated in the decision of the Second Chamber of the Supreme Court dated April 26, 2016, whereby the first instance judgment was handed down more than 40 years after the events took place and the judicial process was effectively concluded almost 43 years after the death. Consequently, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible at the international level for the violation of the guarantee of a reasonable time.

479. Finally, the Commission considered that the serious human rights violations suffered by Mr. Torres Villalva affected the psychological and moral integrity of his relatives, which has been exacerbated by the situation of partial impunity in which the case finds itself, as well as by the considerable delays in the investigation of the facts and the prosecution of only a small number of those responsible. Therefore, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the right to psychological and moral integrity to the detriment of the family members.

480. Based on these factual and legal considerations, the Commission concluded that the State of Chile is responsible for violating the rights to judicial guarantees, judicial protection, and personal integrity, established in Articles 5, 8.1, and 25 of the American Convention on Human Rights in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of the persons identified in the various sections of this report. Likewise, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to protection against arbitrary detention, to life, liberty, security, and integrity of the person enshrined in Articles XXV and I of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man to the detriment of Mr. Jimmy Freddy Torres Villalva.

18. Gustavo Guillermo Ramírez Calderón and family v. Chile

481. The case concerns the international responsibility of the Chilean State for the forced disappearance of Gustavo Guillermo Ramírez Calderón on September 6, 1975, during the military dictatorship, the situation of impunity for the acts, and the lack of comprehensive reparation for the family members.

482. At the time of the events, Gustavo Guillermo Ramírez Calderón was 20 years old, a member of the Socialist Party, and part of the National Liberation Army of Chile (Los Elenos). On September 6, 1975, Mr. Ramírez Calderón was at the home of Julio Vial Aranda when he was kidnapped by members of the Carabineros Intelligence Service (SICAR) and taken to the Carabineros Intelligence and Joint Command headquarters. Mr. Vial Aranda remained in detention with the victim until the day of his death. According to his statements, both were severely weakened by the torture they suffered during their detention.

483. On November 12, they were transferred to “Cuatro Álamos”, a facility under the control of the National Intelligence Directorate (DINA). On November 18, in the morning, they were transferred to “Villa Grimaldi”. Mr. Vial later stated that he heard Mr. Ramírez’s screams while he was being tortured, that then there was silence and guards running around, and that he heard "cardiac arrest" and did not see him again.

484. On October 15, 1975, an investigation was launched to search for Mr. Ramírez Calderón through the filing of an action for the protection of constitutional rights before the Santiago Court of Appeals. On October 30, the Minister of the Interior informed the judicial authority that Mr. Ramírez was not being detained by order of that Ministry. On November 15, 1975, the DINA reported that Mr. Ramírez was not registered as a detainee. Taking these reports into account, the Court of Appeals rejected the action for the protection of constitutional rights.

485. On December 2, 1975, Criminal Court No. 9 initiated proceedings for the disappearance of Mr. Ramírez Calderón. On October 18, the special investigating judge declared himself incompetent to continue processing the case and referred it to the Second Military Court, because the DINA was a military agency. The petitioner indicated that on January 17, 1980, the Second Military Court accepted its jurisdiction to hear the investigation before the military criminal court. On October 30, 1989, the Military Court reopened the case and issued a dismissal order. The decision was upheld by the Court Martial on September 4, 1990.

486. After the restoration of democracy in Chile, Case No. 2182-1998 was initiated, covering multiple acts committed by state agents at Villa Grimaldi during the military dictatorship. This case included the "kidnapping" of Mr. Ramírez Calderón. Both parties reported that on August 8, 2014, the Supreme Court of Justice issued a ruling convicting six individuals of the crime of aggravated kidnapping of the victim, as defined in Article 141 of the Penal Code, and sentencing them to eight years in prison. On August 31, 2016, the Supreme Court of Justice, in response to an appeal, upheld the ruling. In that ruling, the Court awarded Mrs. Primitiva Calderón Román, Mr. Ramírez's mother, the sum of 100,000,000 Chilean pesos for moral damages.

487. On September 6, 2000, Paulina Ester Galván Calderón, Mr. Ramírez's sister, filed a claim for compensation for the events before Civil Court No. 30 of Santiago. On April 30, 2002, the court issued a ruling denying the claim. On October 9, 2002, an appeal was filed with the Santiago Court of Appeals. On July 5, 2007, the Court of Appeals upheld the rejection of the claim for compensation, stating that "although criminal proceedings arising from crimes affecting human rights may be considered imprescriptible, imprescriptibility does not apply to civil proceedings arising from such crimes, which are subject to ordinary law". On May 26, 2009, the Supreme Court upheld the contested decision, finding that the action was time-barred under current law. On June 11, 2009, Civil Court No. 30 granted res judicata status to the matter.

488. In its Merits Report No. 154/23, the Commission considered that it is not disputed that the elements constituting forced disappearance were present in this case, in addition to which the State acknowledged its international responsibility for those acts. In this regard, the Commission concluded that the State violated the rights to recognition as a person before the law, to life, to personal integrity, and to personal liberty. Furthermore, the Commission considered that there were multiple elements to determine that Mr. Ramírez was subjected to acts of torture while he was deprived of his liberty.

489. The Commission further noted that in this case, the investigation was initiated before ordinary criminal jurisdiction and that, in 1980, it was transferred to the military criminal jurisdiction, where it remained for ten years until an order dismissing the case was issued pursuant to the Amnesty Law. The IACHR emphasized that, in addition, the Amnesty Law was applied as the basis for dismissing the criminal investigation. The Commission also underscored that the investigation before the military criminal jurisdiction and the application of the Amnesty Law had an impact on the search for Mr. Ramírez's whereabouts insofar as, during the period in which the investigation was pending before that jurisdiction, there is no indication of concrete actions taken to search for the victim's whereabouts.

490. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that, by applying military criminal jurisdiction and the Amnesty Law to this case, the Chilean State violated the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection, specifically the right to a competent, independent, and impartial authority, as well as the right to an adequate and effective judicial remedy. Similarly, the Commission concluded that as long as the crime of forced disappearance is not classified domestically as an autonomous crime, correctly adapted to international standards, the State continues to violate Articles 2 of the American Convention and III of the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons.

491. In the present case, the IACHR also noted that there is no dispute between the parties that no domestic investigation was conducted into the alleged acts of torture against Mr. Ramírez. In view of the lack of investigation, the Commission concluded that the State violated the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

492. Additionally, the Commission observed that the State is internationally responsible for the lack of adequate and effective remedies to provide redress to Mr. Ramírez's relatives, having applied the statute of limitations to civil actions for redress for serious human rights violations, which, in the context of this case, are classified as crimes against humanity.

493. Finally, the IACHR considered that the disappearance of a loved one causes suffering and anguish due to not knowing the truth, which in itself constitutes an affront to the psychological and moral integrity of Mr. Ramírez's relatives. Consequently, the Commission determined that the State violated the right to psychological and moral integrity to the detriment of Mr. Ramírez's relatives.

494. Based on these factual and legal considerations, the Commission concluded that the State of Chile is responsible for violating the rights to recognition as a person before the law, to life, to personal integrity, to personal liberty, to judicial guarantees, and to judicial protection, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 3, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 7, 8.1, and 25.1 of the American Convention, in relation to Articles 1.1 and 2 of the same instrument, to the detriment of the persons identified in the various sections of the report. Furthermore, the State is responsible for the violation of the rights established in Articles I, XVII, XVIII, XXV, and XXVI of the American Declaration; Articles I and III of the Convention on Forced Disappearance; and Articles 1, 6, and 8 of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture.

19. Chilean Afro-descendant tribal people and their members v. Chile

495. The case concerns the international responsibility of the Chilean State for violating the rights to equal protection under the law, judicial guarantees and protection, and political rights of the Chilean Afro-descendant tribal people by failing to include the variable "Afro-descendant" in the 2017 national census or to reserve a seat in the 2021 Constitutional Convention for representatives of that people.

496. According to the information provided in the proceedings before the IACHR, by way of background, from the sixteenth century onward numerous persons of African origin were forcibly transported for the purpose of enslavement in order to perform forced labor related to mineral extraction in Potosí, whose port of departure and commercial outlet was located in Arica. It is estimated that, by the first half of the eighteenth century, persons of African origin constituted approximately 40% of the population of the Lluta Valley, located within the Arica region. From that time onward, the African-descendant population began to settle in the Lluta, Azapa, and Codpa Valleys, Chilean territory where certain Afro-descendant communities continue to reside to this day.

497. On October 27, 2011, the National Institute of Statistics agreed to conduct a Statistical Study of the Characterization of the Afro-descendant Population of Arica ("ENCAFRO") in order to obtain official statistical information to focus public policies aimed at this sector of the Chilean population. As a result, it was determined that the Afro-descendant population in Arica numbered 8,415 people, mostly settled in urban areas, that the community had high levels of school exclusion, and that the most relevant criteria for self-perception were physical appearance, dances and religious ceremonies, surnames, and culinary traditions. According to the information provided, the Afro-descendant community in Chile continues to engage in various community activities and religious festivities that have been typical since the colonial period, with the "adoration of the May Cross" being their main religious ceremony. In addition, the Afro-descendant people of Chile have created community groups to perpetuate the development of their culture and guarantee the territorial space that corresponds to each family and its respective Cross.

498. In this context, Law 21,151 was published on April 16, 2019, granting legal recognition to the Chilean Afro-descendant tribal people and their cultural identity. This law establishes that "Chilean Afro-descendants are understood to be the group of people who, having Chilean nationality in accordance with the Political Constitution of the Republic, share the same culture, history, and customs, united by a sense of identity and anthropological discourse, descendants of the transatlantic slave trade of Africans brought to the current national territory between the 16th and 19th centuries, and who self-identify as such".

499. On July 23, 2015, the Chilean Ministry of Economy, Development, and Tourism issued Decree 104, instructing the National Institute of Statistics of Chile (INE) to conduct an abbreviated national census in 2017 to obtain the basic information needed to correct the shortcomings of the 2012 census.

500. On October 3, 2015, the non-governmental organization Desarrollo Afrodescendiente Lumbanga, together with other associations of Afro-descendants, presented an open letter addressed to the President of the Republic of Chile and the Director of the INE requesting the inclusion of the category "Afro-descendant/Black" in the 2017 census. On that occasion, it highlighted the historical presence of the Afro-descendant population in the country and the importance of making this community visible. In response to this communication, on December 28, 2015, the INE issued ORD No. 2455/2015, in which it reported that the decision had been made to create an abbreviated census form that would include only the strictly necessary questions. It also indicated that, although it was up to the INE to define the questions on the census questionnaire, the process of defining the topics and questions had been completed, which is why it was not possible to include a new question regarding belonging to the Chilean Afro-descendant population. The INE also pointed out that the census question on indigenous peoples included the field "other (specify)" so that the Afro-descendant community and other indigenous or tribal peoples could self-identify in the questionnaire.

501. The official version of the census was presented on October 24, 2016. Finally, the question on belonging to indigenous or native peoples had ten categories or possible answers: the nine indigenous peoples recognized in Law 19.253 and a box with the option "other, specify" so that the respondent could indicate their belonging to peoples not identified in the census questionnaire.

502. On January 26, 2016, the same Lumbanga organization and other associations filed an appeal for protection with the Santiago Court of Appeals to reverse the INE's decision not to include the Chilean Afro-descendant tribal people as a separate category in the 2017 census. In their submission, they argued that this decision was unfounded and did not comply with the recommendations of international organizations on the matter, thereby violating their right to equality before the law. They also requested that the decision contained in ORD No. 2455/2015 be overturned and that the census be brought into line with international instruments.

503. On January 27, 2016, the Court of Appeals declared the petition inadmissible on the grounds that there was no evidence of a violation of the constitutional guarantees protected by that remedy. In response, on January 30, 2016, the associations of Afro-descendants filed a motion for reconsideration and a subsidiary appeal. On February 2, 2016, the Court of Appeals held that "the arguments presented do not alter the grounds taken into consideration when issuing the contested decision". Based on this argument, the Court of Appeals decided to reject the motion for reconsideration and to accept the appeal as a secondary remedy. On March 21, 2016, the Third Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of Chile upheld the appealed decision and returned the case file to the court of origin.

504. On the other hand, on November 15, 2019, the so-called "Agreement for Social Peace and the New Constitution" was signed in Chile, which gave rise to the start of a constitutional process. According to public information provided to the IACHR, based on a motion by various Deputies, on December 17, 2019, the discussion of Bill No. 13129-07 began, which "Modifies the Constitution to reserve seats for representatives of indigenous peoples in the constituent body that will be formed to create a new Political Constitution of the Republic". As reported by the petitioner, and not disputed by the State, although the original bill did not consider reserving a seat to guarantee the participation of the Chilean Afro-descendant tribal people in the constituent process, during the discussion of said constitutional reform, the conditions were created for its inclusion in the parliamentary discussion. On December 15, 2020, the Chamber of Deputies held session No. 113, during which a parliamentary debate was held on the aforementioned bill, including discussion on reserving a seat for the Afro-descendant Chilean people.

505. Following this debate, the National Congress approved an amendment to the constitutional reform bill, through which it decided, on the one hand, that the Constitutional Convention would include seventeen seats reserved for indigenous peoples and, on the other hand, not to reserve seats for the Chilean Afro-descendant tribal people.

506. On January 14, 2021, the organization Desarrollo Afrodescendiente Lumbanga filed a constitutional protection appeal with the Arica Court of Appeals to challenge that decision. On January 18, 2021, the Arica Court of Appeals declared the appeal inadmissible on the grounds that it did not clearly identify the violation of any constitutional right protected by the action and that the legislative process regarding the reservation of seats in the Constitutional Convention was a matter outside the scope of this type of constitutional appeal. On February 5, 2021, the Third Chamber of the Supreme Court of Chile upheld the Court of Appeals' decision, declaring that the arguments raised were "inadmissible".

507. In its Admissibility and Merits Report No. 359/22, the Inter-American Commission first analyzed whether the non-inclusion of the Chilean Afro-descendant tribal people in the 2017 demographic census, when in contrast nine indigenous peoples were expressly included as self-identification categories, was compatible with the right to equality before the law.

508. The Commission recalled that when a distinction is based on a suspect category, the proportionality analysis is particularly strict, the burden of proof falls on the State, and the measure is presumed to be incompatible with the Convention. The Commission noted that in the present case, the distinction was allegedly based on "race", a suspect category, without any evidence to demonstrate the reasonableness of such a measure, much less to rule out the presumption of incompatibility with the Convention. Notwithstanding this, it analyzed whether the difference in treatment that resulted from not including the Afro-descendant population in the census was proportionate.

509. The Commission considered that the State's failure to include the category of Afro-descendant tribal peoples in the census had a disproportionate effect that impacted its obligations to advance the development of State policies that take victims into account, provide specific solutions to their current problems, and, specifically, include them in national censuses and data registries. The IACHR noted that the INE merely pointed out that the appropriate time to incorporate changes to the census questionnaire had passed, when it is the State that must ensure the inclusion of Afro-descendant peoples in censuses and statistical records, in addition to adopting measures aimed at granting them recognition, visibility, and special protection in order to eradicate a historical process of exclusion. In this regard, the Commission determined that the State of Chile failed to comply with its obligation to grant equal treatment before the law and create conditions of real equality for the Chilean Afro-descendant tribal people and, therefore, is responsible for violating the right to equal protection before the law.

510. Second, the Commission analyzed whether the decision not to reserve seats for the Chilean Afro-descendant tribal people in the Constitutional Convention constituted a violation of political rights and the right to equal protection under the law. The Commission emphasized that, based on its obligations under the American Convention, the State has the obligation to adopt all necessary measures to ensure that the Chilean Afro-descendant tribal people participate, on an equal footing, in decision-making on matters and policies that may affect their rights and the development of their community, such as constitutional reform. The Commission noted that, given that this group faces structural discrimination and historical exclusion that have led to its lack of recognition by political institutions or State bodies and its exclusion from the management of public affairs, the State must adopt positive measures, including involving them in the constitutional process, so that they can express their opinions and see their own interests reflected, in accordance with their values and historical and cultural patterns.

511. The IACHR observed that, on the contrary, the lack of reserved seats in the constitutional process and, in general, the failure to adopt other affirmative measures to promote the participation of this group constituted an obstacle to the full exercise of the right to participate, on equal terms, in the conduct of public affairs. The Commission noted that the State of Chile has failed to correct de facto inequalities in the political participation of the Afro-descendant Chilean people, which had a negative impact on the victims by limiting their actions and influence in the constitutional process. In this regard, the Commission considered that the exclusion of the Afro-descendant Chilean people associated with the lack of legal recognition of their right to participation, together with the failure to adopt measures to ensure their participation in the constitutional process by reserving a seat in the Constitutional Convention, is contrary to their right to

participate in the conduct of public affairs and to equality before the law, and that the State is responsible for the violation of those rights.

512. Finally, the Commission noted that the two actions brought by the victims at the domestic level were dismissed at the admissibility stage and, therefore, the merits of the case were not addressed by the courts. Likewise, these decisions were not duly reasoned, in that the reasons why the allegations made were considered inadmissible were not set out, as required by the guarantee of due reasoning, and the claims of the petitioning party were not analyzed, a situation that is incompatible with the duty to provide sufficient and adequate reasoning, as required in a case such as this. Therefore, the Commission considered that the victims were unable to sustain and prove their allegations throughout a proper judicial process, which constitutes a denial of justice. In this regard, the Commission indicated that the existing domestic remedies were ineffective because they did not provide an adequate and effective guarantee of the victims' right of access to justice and that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

513. Based on the factual and legal considerations, the Commission concluded that the State of Chile violated, to the detriment of the Chilean Afro-descendant tribal people, the rights enshrined in Articles 8.1 (judicial guarantees), 23.1.a (political rights), 24 (right to equal protection before the law), and 25.1 (judicial protection) of the American Convention, in relation to Articles 1.1 and 2 of the same instrument.

20. Saul Filormo Cañar Pauta and relatives v. Ecuador

514. The case concerns Ecuador's international responsibility for failing to exercise due diligence in investigating the disappearance and subsequent murder of union leader Saúl Filormo Cañar Pauta.

515. Mr. Saúl Filormo Cañar Pauta was dedicated to defending workers' rights by organizing and strengthening unions. During the last years of his life, he served as Secretary of Population Affairs and Youth for the Ecuadorian Confederation of Class-Based Unitary Workers' Organizations (Confederación Ecuatoriana de Organizaciones Clasistas Unitarias de Trabajadores - CEDOCUT).

516. On November 26, 1998, Mr. Cañar participated in a meeting with officials from the Ministry of Social Welfare in the city of Quito related to his union duties. Subsequently, he was approached in the Villa Flora neighborhood by at least eight, armed, individuals, who forced him into a vehicle.

517. When Mr. Cañar did not return home on November 26, 1998, his partner, Mélida Bravo, went to a police station to report his disappearance. The petitioner added that the police authorities told her that they could not process the report "because 48 hours had not passed since his disappearance", which was not disputed by the State. Ms. Bravo stated that, due to this situation, she had to wait until November 30, 1998, to file the report of her partner's disappearance again. The case file does not indicate that any action was taken between the time the report was filed and December 3, 1998, when Mr. Cañar's body was found.

518. Regarding the discovery of Mr. Cañar's body, four people working to clean up the Cunuyacu River in the city of Latacunga, Cotopaxi province, found a "black lump" containing a corpse. These individuals proceeded to inform the police authorities. The police authorities went to the site and identified the body as that of Mr. Cañar. According to the autopsy report, the cause of death was asphyxiation by strangulation.

519. On December 9, 1998, the Second Criminal Court of Cotopaxi ordered the initiation of proceedings against "the perpetrators, accomplices, and accessories to the crime, if any". According to the State, the National Police issued the following reports after the proceedings began: (i) a report dated January 15, 1995, in which "any involvement by State agents is completely ruled out"; and (ii) a report dated April 13, 1999, which "confirms that it was private actors acting out of personal interests who attempted to take the life of Mr. Cañar Pauta". According to the court records of the proceedings, Mr. Cañar's clothing was handed over to Judicial Police technicians 45 days after his body was found.

520. On April 4, 2002, the Second Criminal Court of Cotopaxi issued a provisional dismissal of the case, stating that "at present, it is not possible to proceed with the substantiation of the present case (…); faced with the innumerable hypotheses, the investigation was never brought to a conclusion, much less were those conjectures ever definitively grounded through technical and scientific means (…); no final police report has ever been issued, only preliminary conclusions".

521. At the same time, an ad hoc commission was created under the auspices of the Ombudsman's Office and Amnesty International to investigate what happened to Mr. Cañar. In its report, the commission concluded that Mr. Cañar's disappearance and murder were carried out by armed or paramilitary groups, sponsored by Colombian paramilitary leader Carlos Castaño, on the San Juan tobacco farm. This was an act of retaliation against Mr. Cañar's union activities on the farm.

522. On May 8, 2002, the petitioner requested that the State Prosecutor reopen the case. The petitioner pointed out that the police reports contained contradictions and lacked sufficient conclusions to identify a suspect. This was despite the existence of several pieces of evidence related to the events which were reported in the press. On September 25, 2002, the First Chamber of the Superior Court of Justice upheld the provisional dismissal order. The Court indicated that the Judicial Police had failed to follow up and conduct thorough investigations, and that this deficiency had made it impossible for the judge to find incriminating evidence against any individualized person.

523. On January 22, 2007, the Second Criminal Court of Cotopaxi issued a final dismissal of the case, and on February 13, 2007, according to the petitioner, the Criminal Chamber of the Superior Court of Justice of Lacatunga confirmed the final dismissal.

524. In its Merits Report No. 142/21, the Commission analyzed whether the manner in which the investigation into Mr. Cañar's death was conducted constituted a violation of the obligations arising from the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

525. Regarding the proceedings prior to the discovery of the body, the Commission noted that at the time, Mr. Cañar was a union leader, had significant visibility with various unions, and had suffered threats and even attacks as a result of his union activities. The Commission also observed that on the day of his disappearance, he had been at a meeting with state authorities from the Ministry of Social Welfare in the city of Quito, that there were witnesses to the moment he was detained and disappeared, and that the incident had been reported in the media. The Commission noted that, despite this, the State did not take any measures to obtain statements from the people who saw Mr. Cañar on the day of his disappearance or from people related to his union work, nor did it conduct any patrols in the area where he was allegedly detained and disappeared. In addition, it noted that Mr. Cañar's body was found by chance.

526. For these reasons, the Commission considered that the State's actions prior to the discovery of the body were not consistent with its duty to investigate with due diligence. It also concluded that the State did not act with the due diligence necessary to preserve the crime scene or gather evidence during the initial investigation, and that the autopsy did not demonstrate that a thorough examination of the body had been conducted.

527. Regarding the subsequent stages of the investigation, the IACHR noted that during the nearly nine years that the criminal proceedings lasted until the final dismissal was confirmed, no one was identified or prosecuted. In this regard, the IACHR observed that, although the police, prosecutors, and judicial authorities included various hypotheses about what happened to Mr. Cañar in their reports or orders, these were not analyzed exhaustively.

528. In particular, the Commission observed that, despite the existence of evidence related to the possible involvement of state agents in Mr. Cañar's disappearance and murder, the State did not take any measures to explore this line of investigation. It also noted that, according to the report of an ad hoc commission, Mr. Cañar's disappearance and murder were allegedly carried out by armed or paramilitary

groups at the San Juan tobacco farm as an act of retaliation against his union activities at that farm. The Commission considered that this line of investigation had not been adequately analyzed and that other hypotheses presented during the proceedings had not been thoroughly followed up.

529. The Commission concluded that the decision to dismiss the case without conducting proceedings to analyze the various lines of investigation was contrary to the duty to investigate with due diligence. It also considered that the duration of the proceedings, which lasted almost nine years and culminated in a final dismissal order, and the State's failure to justify such a delay, constituted a breach of the duty to investigate within a reasonable time.

530. In this regard, the Commission concluded that the Ecuadorian State did not act with due diligence to investigate the disappearance of Mr. Cañar, despite the complaints filed. Once the body was fortuitously discovered, the State likewise failed to exercise the due diligence necessary to preserve the scene and to secure evidentiary elements during the initial investigative steps, and the autopsy does not demonstrate that a rigorous examination of the body was conducted. The Commission underscored that the lines of investigation were likewise not pursued with due diligence, as the available information indicates that the necessary steps were not taken to investigate the potential perpetrators. Lastly, the Commission considered that the investigation of these events did not respect the guarantee of a reasonable time and that, to date, the disappearance and death of Mr. Cañar remain in a situation of impunity. Consequently, the Commission concluded that the State violated the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

531. Additionally, the Commission considered that, in the present case, the failure to respond immediately and diligently to search for Mr. Cañar during the time he was missing until his body was found constituted a breach of the duty to protect his rights to life and personal integrity, the risk of which was known to the State. Furthermore, considering that Mr. Cañar was deprived of his liberty prior to his death, the Commission indicated that the State also failed in its duty to protect the victim's right to personal liberty.

532. Furthermore, the Commission considered it reasonable to infer that the disappearance and death of Saúl Cañar Pauta were associated with his union activity and that, therefore, the failure to fulfill the duty of prevention regarding his rights to life, personal integrity, and personal liberty also implies a failure to fulfill that duty regarding his right to freedom of association, since there are elements that have not been properly investigated by the State that allow concluding that his role as a trade unionist was the motive for what happened.

533. Finally, the Commission considered that the loss of a loved one in a context such as that described in the present case, as well as the absence of a complete and effective investigation, which in turn causes suffering and anguish from not knowing the truth, constitutes in itself an affront to the psychological and moral integrity of Mr. Cañar's relatives.

534. Based on these considerations, the Commission concluded that the State of Ecuador is responsible for the violation of the rights to life, personal integrity, personal liberty, freedom of association, judicial guarantees, and judicial protection established in Articles 4.1, 5.1, 7.1, 16, 8.1, and 25.1 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1 thereof, to the detriment of Saúl Cañar Pauta. It also concluded that the State violated the rights established in Articles 5.1, 8.1, and 25.1 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1 thereof, to the detriment of Mr. Cañar's relatives.

21. Alexandra Benado Vergara, Alejandra Gallo Poblete et al. v. Chile

535. The case refers to Chile's international responsibility for the failure to legally register Alexandra Benado Vergara as the mother of D.B.G. and L.B.G., as well as for the confirmation of this refusal in the administrative and judicial proceedings carried out.

536. At the time of the events, Chilean civil law stated that "the father and mother of a child conceived through the use of assisted human reproduction techniques are the man and woman who underwent

them" and that the filiation determined in accordance with this rule could not be challenged or a different one claimed.

537. Alexandra Benado and Alejandra Gallo were a couple from 2007 to 2014, and in 2009 they underwent assisted human reproduction techniques, as a result of which Alejandra Gallo became pregnant and on January 10, 2010, gave birth to twin boys, D.B.G. and L.B.G.. Both were registered solely as children of Alejandra Gallo.

538. On March 26, 2013, Alejandra Gallo and Alexandra Benado requested that the Civil Registry and Identification Service legally recognize Alexandra Benado as the mother of the children D.B.G. and L.B.G., in the same capacity as Alejandra Gallo. According to the petitioner's claim, which was not contested by the State, after some internal procedures, the official Juana Soto verbally informed them that it was impossible to register the children because the applicant was female.

539. On April 12, 2013, the victims filed a constitutional protection action with the Santiago Court of Appeals, stating that "the rights of the appellants and their children had been violated, in particular their rights to mental integrity, equality before the law, respect for and protection of private life, and the right to the inviolability of the home", and requested that the birth records and birth certificates of the children be amended to include Ms. Alexandra Benado Vergara as their mother.

540. On 15 April 2013, the First Chamber of the Santiago Court of Appeal declared the constitutional protection action inadmissible, finding that "the petitioning party seeks, through the protection action, to modify the legislation in force on filiation, without identifying any illegality allegedly committed, but rather challenges a legal framework with which it disagrees, a matter that falls within the scope of the legislative reservation". Against that decision, the victims filed a motion for reconsideration, arguing that "the action satisfies all the requirements set forth in the Political Constitution of the Republic and in the Supreme Court's Auto Acordado regulating the processing of the protection action". On 19 April 2013, the First Chamber of the Santiago Court of Appeals held that the arguments raised did not succeed in rebutting the grounds relied upon in issuing the challenged decision and therefore decided to deny the motion for reconsideration.

541. On April 25, 2013, the victims filed a complaint with the Supreme Court, alleging that the April 19, 2013, ruling contained clear and serious violations of judicial integrity. On May 16, 2013, the Third Chamber of the Supreme Court declared the complaint inadmissible, concluding that "in accordance with the provisions of Article 545 of the Organic Code of Courts, the complaint shall only proceed when the fault or abuse is committed in an interlocutory judgment that ends the trial or makes its continuation impossible, or in a final judgment, and only when these are not subject to any appeal", and that the ruling on which the appeal was based was not covered by that provision.

542. On May 23, 2013, the victims filed an appeal for reconsideration against the Supreme Court's decision and requested that the powers established in Article 84, final paragraph, of the Code of Civil Procedure be used to correct the errors made in the decision of the Santiago Court of Appeals, which declared the protection action inadmissible. On May 27, 2013, the President of the Supreme Court of Justice decided to reject the appeal outright. In addition, on June 6, 2013, the Third Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice ruled on the additional petition, declaring it inadmissible.

543. On December 9, 2021, Law 21.4004 was enacted, which aimed to introduce amendments to various legal bodies to regulate same-sex marriage on equal terms. As a result of this amendment, the previous provision on the recognition of maternity or paternity in assisted human reproduction techniques was replaced in the Civil Code. The aforementioned law entered into force on March 10, 2022. Due to the above, according to information provided in the case file, on April 12, 2023, birth certificates were issued for D.B.G. and L.B.G., stating that Alexandra Benado and Alejandra Gallo are the parents of the children.

544. In its Merits Report No. 255/23, the Commission considered that two differences in treatment were created in the present case. First, between, on the one hand, the victims as a same-sex couple who

underwent assisted human reproduction treatment, whose members were prevented from both being recognized as mothers of the children, and, on the other hand, heterosexual couples who undergo the same treatments and who are recognized as the parents of the children. Second, between, on the one hand, the children of homosexual couples born through assisted human reproduction techniques, who are only recognized as having a filiation with one of their parents, and, on the other hand, the children of heterosexual couples born through such techniques, who are recognized as having a filiation with both parents. Taking this into account, the Commission considered that the reason for denying recognition of filiation in this case was that the couple was made up of persons of the same sex, a restriction established by law, and therefore concluded that the reason for denying recognition was the sexual orientation of the victims. Furthermore, given that the State denied one of the mothers the registration of her filial relationship, a circumstance that would not have occurred but for her gender, the Commission considered that there was also a difference in treatment in this regard.

545. Similarly, the Commission understood that the victims formed a family, and therefore it was incumbent upon the State to recognize their family ties and protect them. In this regard, the Commission noted that the State did not prevent the existence and development of the homosexual couple or the family in this case, even allowing them access to assisted human reproduction techniques. However, the Commission noted that, after the birth of the children, the State recognized only one of the filial ties, with the mother who gave birth to them, but made it impossible to recognize and protect the other filial tie, with Ms. Benado. The Commission considered that, by failing to recognize and protect one of the filial ties with the couple's children, the State interfered with or restricted the recognition of the victims' family. It therefore concluded that the State interfered with the protection and recognition of the family formed by the victims, as it was composed of a same-sex couple.

546. Regarding the restriction of the rights of the children D.B.G. and L.B.G., and their best interests, the Commission considered that these were interfered with by the State, as the recognition of the filial bond was prevented on the grounds of their mothers' sexual orientation. In view of this, the Commission emphasized that the non-recognition of a filial relationship has a severe impact on a person, and even more so on a child, who may be prevented from enjoying, exercising, and, where appropriate, claiming rights such as nationality or residence, property rights, and rights to food, housing, health, or education. In particular, the Commission noted with concern the petitioner's argument that the non-recognition of the filial relationship affected the physical bond between Ms. Benado and the children during the quarantine measures taken by the State of Chile in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. This also prevented the minors from receiving Chilean social security protection. Therefore, the Commission considered that the lack of recognition of the filial bond implied a restriction on the children's rights and on the right to special protection of children.

547. Similarly, the Commission noted that, although the children were registered in the Chilean Civil Registry with the names and surnames chosen by their mothers, and with the filial recognition of one of the mothers, the State did not record or recognize the children's filiation with their mother Alexandra Benado in their registration. The Commission considered that this lack of registration affected their rights to legal personality and identity, insofar as their filiation with Ms. Benado was not legally recognized and did not give rise to the corresponding rights and obligations, preventing D.B.G. and L.B.G. from exercising them.

548. For these reasons, the Commission considered that the State's failure to recognize the filial relationship between D.B.G. and L.B.G. and Ms. Benado affected their rights to private and family life and to protection of the family, their right to special protection of childhood, and their right to recognition of legal personality. Furthermore, the impossibility of recognition was based on the sexual orientation of the mothers, as the children's relationship with a same-sex couple could not be registered, unlike those of heterosexual couples.

549. Regarding the compatibility of the difference in treatment and restrictions with the American Convention, the Commission indicated that, although the protection of the family which was understood to be protected under the legal system, that is, of a heterosexual father and mother, could be legitimate insofar as it seeks to protect the family, it is not so when one considers that, by protecting certain couples and their filiation,

it simultaneously excludes others, whose protection also corresponds to the States and whose exclusion makes it discriminatory. Furthermore, the Commission pointed out that a frequently cited purpose is to protect children so that they grow up and develop with a father and a mother, that is, in a family that has historically been understood to be protected, made up of a heterosexual couple, but that purpose is based on a type and stereotype of family, excluding others, which is in itself discriminatory and cannot be protected by the Convention and therefore cannot constitute a legitimate aim. Therefore, the Commission considered that the interference with the rights at stake was arbitrary.

550. As for the suitability of the restriction, the Commission considered that the distinction derived from only allowing the filiation of a father and mother with their children through assisted reproduction techniques is in no way suitable for achieving the aim of protecting heterosexual families, since the recognition of same-sex and same-sex parent families does not negatively or positively influence the rights of heterosexual couples, the relevant factor being that the basis for the distinction is discriminatory and based on stereotypes. Regarding necessity, the Commission considered that the goal of protecting heterosexual families can be equally achieved without excluding or failing to protect other families, such as same-sex couples, and therefore the measure is not necessary either. Finally, with regard to proportionality, the Commission understood that the impact on same-sex couples' families in cases such as the present one is very high, as they are prevented, through the recognition of filiation, from acquiring the obligations and rights resulting from that filial bond, which affects not only property and inheritance rights but also multiple duties that would not be generated and that are directly related to the rights of children.

551. Due to these considerations, the Commission considered that the impediment to the recognition of filiation on the grounds of sexual orientation violated the rights to legal personality and legal status, to private and family life, to the protection of the family, to the special protection of children, and to equality.

552. Finally, the Commission noted that the Santiago Court of Appeals dismissed the constitutional protection action on the grounds that the petitioner sought, by way of protection, to modify the current legislation on filiation, without considering the central argument regarding the violation of various rights. Similarly, the Commission noted that in their decisions on the appeals filed by the petitioner, the courts limited themselves to rejecting them, without providing sufficient reasoning for their decisions, but rather relying on general statements. The Commission observed that, in the last appeal filed, the petitioner based its request for ex officio action on previous case law, which was not considered by the Court. On the contrary, the Court did not include any reasoning in its rejection.

553. The Commission noted that the remedies sought did not constitute an adequate and effective means of protecting the victims' rights, not because the appeal was filed incorrectly, but because the domestic actions were rejected without proper reasoning. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial protection and guarantee.

554. Based on the findings of fact and law in the report, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the rights to legal personality, private and family life, protection of the family, special protection of children, equality before the law, and judicial guarantees and protection, established in Articles 3, 8, 11, 17, 19, 24, and 25 of the American Convention, in relation to Articles 1.1 and 2 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Alexandra Benado Vergara, Alejandra Gallo Poblete, D.B.G., and L.B.G.

22. Franklin José Brito Rodríguez and family v. Venezuela

555. The case concerns Venezuela's international responsibility for the multiple violations committed against Franklin José Brito Rodríguez in the 2000s, including, among others, his illegal and arbitrary detention while he was on hunger strike as a form of protest.

556. Franklin José Brito Rodríguez was a Venezuelan farmer and biologist from the Guarataro Parish in the Municipality of Sucre, Bolívar State. On November 18, 1999, Mr. Brito was awarded the transfer of a 290.20-hectare plot of land in the Sucre Municipality of Bolívar State, which was named Fundo Iguaraya. In 2003, the National Land Institute (INTI) granted land titles to two individuals for land adjacent to the Iguaraya Farm, which the victim claimed was contiguous to his own land, thereby granting part of his farm to these individuals. Mr. Brito reported that he had access problems due to a fence erected by a neighbor, as well as trespassing by animals that had caused crop losses, and he filed various complaints with multiple authorities denouncing this situation.

557. In addition to the various complaints filed, Mr. Brito brought a constitutional action against the actions of the INTI that granted the Agrarian Letters, as well as against the individuals who he claimed were affecting his property. In August 2006, the trial judge dismissed the action, a decision that was upheld in May 2006 and ultimately ratified by the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) on March 7, 2007. In this regard, the TSJ confirmed the decision adopted in the first instance, rejecting the action on the grounds that time-barred. However, it urged the competent agrarian authorities, through the INTI, to take the necessary measures "for the definitive resolution of the problem caused to the complainant by the granting of Agrarian Letters with respect to land adjacent to his, specifically the loss of access to his land, to which end, as recorded in the case file, this citizen has taken countless steps at all levels, which have not yielded any concrete results beyond inspections and reports that have proved ineffective".

558. On April 14, 2009, the petitioner formally requested the president of INTI and the then President of the Republic to revoke the Agrarian Deeds. The State conducted several inspections between 2003 and 2009, concluding that there were no overlaps. In August 2009, INTI revoked the Agrarian Deeds on humanitarian grounds. However, in 2012, a new judicial inspection found that access to the farm was still blocked by a gate. No information was provided on subsequent actions taken to definitively resolve the conflict.

559. Due to the lack of a solution to the conflict over the Iguaraya estate, Mr. Brito went on multiple hunger strikes as a form of protest, including a first strike in November 2004, lasting six days, which led to a meeting at the Office of Presidential Affairs, and a second strike in July 2005, in Plaza Miranda in Caracas, with his mouth sewn shut, after which, 120 days later, he amputated his little finger in front of cameras to get the President's attention. In November 2006, he went on a third hunger strike for ten days until he received a response from INTI. In March 2007, he began a fourth hunger strike in front of the Supreme Court, which culminated in an agreement with INTI. In August 2007, he went on another hunger strike in front of the Supreme Court to protest the March 7 ruling and to demand a copy of the Agrarian Letters. In July 2009, he staged another strike in front of the OAS headquarters in Caracas, demanding the revocation of the Agrarian Letters and legal compensation.

560. According to a medical report by the Red Cross, as of December 3, 2009, Mr. Brito's life was at risk. That same day, the Public Ministry sent a forensic doctor from the Scientific, Penal, and Criminal Investigations Corps of the Caracas Metropolitan Area, who evaluated Mr. Brito in an ambulance and suggested that he be transferred to a health care center. The following day, Mr. Brito ended his hunger strike due to the administrative decision issued by the INTI to grant his request for revocation. He was transferred to the Hospital de Clínicas Caracas, where he remained in recovery until December 11, 2009, when he resumed his hunger strike.

561. After his hospitalization, his health improved, he regained 11.5 kg of weight and was able to walk on his own. A psychiatrist at the Hospital de Clínicas Caracas issued a report stating that during his hospitalization between December 4 and 11, 2009, he was evaluated at the hospital and found to be "mentally healthy and fit, with no evidence of mental illness at the time of his evaluation".

562. The 49th Prosecutor of the Public Ministry with Full Jurisdiction at the National Level, the 81st Prosecutor of the Public Ministry of the Caracas Metropolitan Area, and the 127th Assistant Prosecutor of the Caracas Metropolitan Area requested a precautionary measure from the judiciary to guarantee the protection of Franklin Brito's right to health and life. They requested his transfer to a hospital to receive medical care and

undergo a "forensic psychiatric examination" to determine his mental health status, considering that his life was at imminent risk. They explained that Mr. Brito resumed his hunger strike, which he continued in order to "have senior representatives of the national government prosecuted and convicted".

563. On 12 December 2009, the Twentieth Court of First Instance with Control Functions of the Criminal Judicial Circuit of the Metropolitan Area of Caracas admitted the action, relying on Articles 43 and 83 of the Constitution, concerning the rights to life and health, and ordered that the victim be urgently transferred to the Carlos Arvelo Military Hospital so that he could receive appropriate medical care. With regard to its authority to rule on the matter, the court indicated that the nature of the facts was consistent with the jurisdiction exercised by the judge pursuant to Article 7 of the Organic Law on the Action for the Protection of Constitutional Rights and Guarantees.

564. On December 13, 2009, at approximately 1:40 a.m., Mr. Brito was detained by approximately 35 security officials, without identification or explanation, while protesting in front of the OAS headquarters with his wife. He was placed in an ambulance and taken to the military hospital without being formally notified of the court order or a prior hearing. His wife, Elena Iguaraya Rodríguez, was only able to contact him two hours later and stated that the following day she learned from a third party that Mr. Brito's detention was due to an injunction filed by the Public Prosecutor's Office. She maintained that they were not notified of the decision and that there was no hearing.

565. On December 14, 2009, the Ombudsman and the Attorney General of the Republic publicly declared that Mr. Brito was not in a mental condition to continue his hunger strike, thus justifying state intervention to protect his life. On December 16, a court ordered the formation of a multidisciplinary medical team to evaluate his mental health. The report from the Caracas Psychiatric Hospital concluded that Brito was suffering from "encapsulated delirium", although he was open to dialogue. On December 17, 2009, the victim sent a letter to the hospital director expressing his desire not to be evaluated or receive medical treatment by personnel from the Caracas Military Hospital and that he wished to continue his hunger strike of his own free will. He requested that the Red Cross provide the evaluation and medication, asking to be discharged from the hospital. According to a press release, he denounced in a video that he was being held against his will and refused to receive medical treatment against his will.

566. During his stay at the Military Hospital, Mr. Brito continued his hunger strike, claiming that he was being held against his will despite having been medically discharged and that the conflict over his land had not been legally resolved. He claimed that the authorities were trying to discredit him mentally.

567. According to his lawyer, Mr. Brito was force-fed through a nasal tube and induced into two comas to hydrate and feed him, causing him suffering and permanent injury. On January 9, 2010, he was sedated and transferred without consent to another area of the hospital, where he received forced treatment in intensive care. In June 2010, he began a thirst strike, demanding that the Red Cross provide him with medical assistance. In view of his deteriorating health, the court authorized the admission of Red Cross medical personnel on June 10. From then until at least August 25, 2010, the Red Cross conducted daily evaluations, coordinated with the hospital, to protect his rights to health and life. On August 11, 2010, Brito announced that he would radicalize his hunger strike, refusing to take IV fluids and consuming only water for 10 days, and that if he did not receive a response from the then President of the Republic, he would begin an indefinite thirst strike.

568. On August 17, his wife and daughter reported that he had convulsed twice, losing consciousness and becoming immobile, with difficulty speaking. On August 23, it was reported that he was in a coma induced by respiratory failure. Mr. Brito died on August 30, 2010, at the Carlos Arvelo Military Hospital. The death certificate indicated the direct cause of death as septic shock and respiratory arrest, with associated causes such as nosocomial respiratory failure, multiple organ failure, and protein-calorie malnutrition.

569. On December 18, 2009, the organization PROVEA filed a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of Franklin Brito, challenging his detention and admission to the Military Hospital. However, on December 21, the Court of Appeals dismissed the action, ruling that it was not possible to file an action for the protection of

constitutional rights against another action that was already pending. Subsequently, on May 31, 2011, Mr. Brito's wife filed a complaint with the Public Prosecutor's Office for violations of his fundamental rights. On August 10, 2011, the Prosecutor's Office requested that the complaint be dismissed, arguing that Brito required urgent medical attention and that the officials had acted in accordance with their duties. On February 9, 2012, a court upheld the dismissal, considering that there was no punishable offense.

570. Ms. Rodríguez appealed the decision on February 28, 2012, arguing that she had not been heard and that the dismissal had not been adequately justified. However, on April 18, 2012, the Court of Appeals rejected the action. On May 21, 2012, an appeal for annulment and, alternatively, an appeal for cassation were filed with the Supreme Court of Justice. On February 27, 2013, the Supreme Court of Justice declared the annulment inadmissible, considering that it was not a valid means of challenge.

571. In its Admissibility and Merits Report No. 200/24, the IACHR did not identify that the hypothesis of deprivation of liberty suffered by Mr. Brito was expressly contained in domestic legislation. The Commission also noted that the court that issued the precautionary measure belonged to the criminal jurisdiction, without observing that Mr. Brito had been linked to any criminal proceedings. In this regard, the IACHR recalled that the two hypotheses of deprivation of liberty under the law were the existence of a pre-trial detention order or flagrancy. In the present case and based on the evidence, the IACHR noted that there was no judicial arrest warrant as such, but only an injunction. In this regard, it considered that the State did not prove the existence of a judicial order as required internally, or that there was a situation of flagrancy. Consequently, the Commission found that Mr. Brito's detention was illegal.

572. The Commission also analyzed whether Mr. Brito's deprivation of liberty and transfer to the hospital was a measure that complied with Inter-American standards. The Commission noted that, in principle, the protection of health and life could constitute a legitimate purpose for detaining a person and taking them to a hospital. However, it noted that the State did not demonstrate that it was essential to transfer Mr. Brito to the hospital in order to protect his health and life. In this regard, the State did not prove, nor is there any information indicating, that his transfer to the hospital was medically necessary, given that he had been discharged on December 11, 2009, two days before being forcibly transferred to the Military Hospital.

573. The IACHR observed that Mr. Brito had previously been examined in an ambulance by a forensic doctor at the site of the protest, which, if repeated, could have allowed him to be examined without the need for his forced transfer to a hospital and to assess his state of health in situ, prior to the issuance of the measure. In this regard, it noted that no less harmful measures had been attempted, such as offering medical assistance or evaluation at the site of the protest, without the need to detain him and take him to a hospital, such that the restriction of his liberty was not necessary.

574. With regard to proportionality, the Commission considered that the victim's personal liberty, given his state of health, outweighed the restriction imposed. That being the case, it considered that the sacrifice inherent in the restriction of the right to liberty was excessive or disproportionate to the advantages that were supposedly sought through such restriction. Added to this was the fact that the measure was carried out in the early hours of the morning and that around 35 state agents attended to carry it out by force. In this regard, the IACHR considered that the measure adopted was disproportionate.

575. In view of these elements, the Commission considered that Mr. Brito's detention constituted an arbitrary and illegal arrest. In addition, there is no information to indicate that Mr. Brito was informed of the reasons for his arrest or that he was promptly brought before a judicial authority to review the measure imposed. Consequently, the IACHR concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to personal liberty.

576. Regarding what happened to Mr. Brito inside the hospital, the Commission considered that subjecting him to treatment against his will, keeping him in the hospital despite his medical discharge, sedating and force-feeding him, and in particular, the alleged forced administration of medication and a nasal tube, as well as the induction of a coma in order to feed him, constituted a clear violation of his private life and amounted

to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment committed against Mr. Brito. Consequently, the Commission considered that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to personal integrity, privacy, health, and access to health information, as well as for the obligations derived from the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture.

577. Likewise, the Commission considered that the victim's legitimate exercise of freedom of expression through a peaceful hunger strike as a manner of protesting, given his state of health, implied the arbitrariness of the restriction imposed. In view of this, the Commission considered that the detention of Mr. Brito while he was exercising his right to protest, as well as his force-feeding, resulted in a restriction contrary to the Convention and arbitrarily affected the exercise of his right to protest in the manner and place he chose. Thus, the Commission concluded that the State violated the right to freedom of expression.

578. Furthermore, the Commission noted that it has no information on actions taken by the authorities, nor has the State provided evidence to prove that an immediate, thorough, serious, and impartial investigation of the facts was conducted. The Commission indicated that there is no record of an investigation into the circumstances of the victim's death, who died while under a precautionary measure that was supposedly intended to protect his life. In particular, it indicated that there is no record of any investigations into the medical or military personnel who had Mr. Brito in their care or custody, or into the judge who heard the case and upheld the order to keep Mr. Brito hospitalized.

579. The IACHR noted that no minimal measures were taken to investigate the causes of Mr. Brito's death, even though the autopsy indicated that one of these causes was septic shock, an aspect that could have been investigated in relation to a possible lack of diligent medical care. The Commission also had no information indicating that, in response to the complaint, any steps were taken to investigate the possibility that his death was the result of the medical treatment he received against his will in the hospital.

580. Similarly, the Commission considered that, given the type of violations reported, the State had a duty to investigate by all possible means, that is, not only criminal but also administrative. The IACHR also recalled that the complaint contained allegations of torture, despite which no investigation was conducted into this matter. Therefore, the Commission considered that the situation of impunity surrounding the violations implies that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection. Similarly, in view of the acts that the IACHR determined to be cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, the lack of a diligent investigation implies that the State violated its obligations under the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture.

581. In addition, the IACHR noted that, to date, more than 20 years after it had reported the facts relating to the alleged encroachment and transfer of Mr. Brito's land, which had affected the use and enjoyment of the land as alleged by the victim, the situation has not been remedied. This is despite the ruling of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice on March 7, 2007, which ordered that the situation be rectified. Therefore, the Commission considered that the lapse of 20 years, without a decision to resolve the matter and guarantee access to the property which, according to the latest available information, was blocked, exceeds a period that can be considered reasonable and concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to due process and judicial protection.

582. Finally, the Commission considered that the acts to which Mr. Brito was subjected, which constitute at least cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, as well as the lack of a diligent investigation to clarify what happened and determine the corresponding responsibilities, caused suffering and distress to his relatives. In view of this, it found that the State violated his right to mental and moral integrity, to the detriment of his family members.

583. Based on these findings of fact and law, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to personal integrity, personal liberty, private life, judicial guarantees, freedom of expression, health, and judicial protection, established in Articles 5.1, 5.2, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 8.1, 11.2, 13.1, 25.1, and 26 of the American Convention, in relation to Articles 1.1 and 21 of the same

instrument, and Articles 1, 6, and 8 of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, to the detriment of Franklin Brito. Additionally, the IACHR concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of Article 5.1 in relation to Article 1.1 of the American Convention to the detriment of Franklin Brito's relatives.

23. Natividad de Jesús Ramírez and family v. El Salvador

584. The case concerns El Salvador's international responsibility for the extrajudicial executions and forced disappearances of members of the Ramírez family by public officials in 1982, as well as the situation of impunity that continues to surround these events.

585. The events in this case occurred in the context of the internal armed conflict in El Salvador, which lasted from 1980 to 1991, a period in which, in the course of counterinsurgency operations, members of the Armed Forces executed peasants, men, women, and children simply because they considered them to be collaborators with the guerrillas. According to the Truth Commission, these deaths are part of a pattern of conduct that was part of a deliberate strategy to eliminate or terrorize the peasant population in areas of guerrilla activity in order to deprive the guerrillas of their sources of supplies and information, as well as the possibility of hiding or disguising themselves among the population. The IACHR has identified that one of the groups of people considered enemies by the government at the time were those who were part of or supported the activities of the Catholic Church.

586. The Ramírez family consisted of two households living in neighboring houses in the canton of El Progreso, Nueva San Salvador, La Libertad. According to the petitioners' report, which was not disputed by the State, the family members participated in various activities of the Catholic Church, as a result of which they were classified by the State as political opponents of the government and considered "subversive enemies". Between 1981 and 1982, they suffered raids, detentions, threats, and attacks committed against them by State agents.

587. According to Carlota Ramírez's statement, on May 10, 1982, individuals dressed as athletes and armed with rifles captured and killed Rufino and Teresa Ramírez, and proceeded to detain Natividad de Jesús Ramírez, Guadalupe Robles, José Elías Ramírez Cuchilla, and Jorge Ramírez Cuchilla, whose whereabouts remain unknown to this day. She also stated that soldiers commanded by a sergeant went to the Ramírez family home and detained her brother Alejandro, claiming that he had stolen a tape recorder; they then searched the house but did not find the room where the rest of the family was hiding. Alejandro managed to escape amid gunfire, and then a burst of machine-gun fire was heard in the direction of the home of Mr. Natividad de Jesús Ramírez, the petitioner's father.

588. The petitioner also reported that on August 8, 1982, Salvador Ramírez was captured by several men dressed in civilian clothes who were driving an army truck and taken to a place called "La Periquera". His whereabouts remain unknown to this day. Mrs. Ramírez stated that there were several witnesses who saw what happened to Mr. Salvador Ramírez. She claimed that she learned that he had been executed but did not know his exact whereabouts.

589. After the events occurred, the family attempted to file the corresponding complaints with State authorities, but their requests were not addressed. On March 30, 2003, Carlota Ramírez reported the aforementioned disappearances and murders to the Attorney General's Office. The State reported that the Attorney General's Office conducted a series of investigations, including interviews with witnesses and reports from the Ministry of National Defense.

590. In 2004, members of the Ramírez family requested information from the Attorney General's Office on the status of the proceedings, but no response was provided to that request. The parties did not submit any information on the conduct and results of proceedings or other procedural actions between 2004 and 2013. The State reported that the investigation was closed in 2013 and reopened years later. On September 24, 2018, the Human Rights Institute of the José Simeón Cañas Central American University issued a statement indicating

that the case remains open, without further proceedings having been conducted and without the facts having been clarified or those responsible identified.

591. In its Merits Report No. 150/23, the Inter-American Commission considered that, in relation to the extrajudicial executions, it was clearly demonstrated that the use of lethal force by State agents was unjustified, disproportionate, and lacked a legitimate purpose, In addition, that the present case falls within the context of serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions of civilians identified as enemies by the government during the armed conflict. Consequently, the Commission concluded that the State violated the right to life of Rufino Ramírez and Teresa de Jesús Ramírez.

592. With regard to the forced disappearances, the Commission took note of the information on the deprivation of liberty suffered by five members of the Ramírez family. The Commission also confirmed the direct participation of public officials, who entered homes, detained five people, and took them to an unknown location. The Commission also considered the information regarding the State's refusal to reveal the whereabouts of the five individuals and therefore determined that the three concurrent elements were present to establish the forced disappearance of five victims. Consequently, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the forced disappearance of Natividad de Jesús Ramírez, Salvador Ramírez, José Elías Ramírez, Jorge Alberto Ramírez, and Guadalupe Roble, violating their rights to legal personality, life, personal integrity, and personal liberty. Furthermore, because José Elías was 13 years old and Jorge Alberto was 14 years old, the State violated its duty to provide special protection to children.

593. In relation to the investigation, the Commission observed a series of omissions in the duty to investigate after the events occurred. In relation to the deaths of Rufino Ramírez and Teresa de Jesús Ramírez, the Commission noted that members of the security forces did not preserve the crime scene and that there is no documentation proving that the corresponding autopsy was performed. Nor is there any information proving that the authorities carried out a search after the victims were detained and disappeared, whose whereabouts are currently unknown.

594. The Commission noted that the investigation was opened in 2003, approximately two decades after the events occurred, and that the State did not present any documentation proving the results of the proceedings it claimed to have carried out in relation to the investigation. Similarly, the State did not present any information regarding the search efforts to determine the whereabouts of the disappeared victims, nor did it provide any reason to justify the closure of the proceedings it claimed to have carried out after reopening the investigation. In addition, the Commission indicated that the State did not present any documentation proving that it had conducted an investigation with a gender perspective, particularly regarding the extrajudicial execution of Teresa de Jesús Ramírez.

595. Therefore, the Commission considered that, to date, a situation of impunity remains in place for the events of the case and that the State has failed in its duty to guarantee an adequate investigation in order to identify and, where appropriate, punish all those responsible for the forced disappearance of Natividad de Jesús Ramírez, Salvador Ramírez, José Elías Ramírez, Jorge Alberto Ramírez, and Guadalupe Roble; and the extrajudicial executions of Rufino Ramírez and Teresa de Jesús Ramírez. Consequently, the IACHR concluded that the State violated the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

596. Finally, the Commission held that the death of two persons and the forced disappearance of five persons, as well as the absence of a complete and effective investigation, which in turn caused suffering and anguish from not knowing the truth, constituted in itself an attack on the psychological and moral integrity of the members of the Ramírez family, compounded by the fact that some of the family members directly witnessed the events that occurred. The Commission also highlighted the disproportionate impact of violence on women and girls in the context of armed conflict. Therefore, the Commission concluded that the State violated the right to personal integrity and protection of the family to the detriment of the relatives of the victims identified in the Report.

597. Based on these findings of fact and law, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the rights to recognition as a person before the law, life, personal integrity, personal liberty, judicial guarantees, protection of the family, rights of the child, and judicial protection, established in Articles 3, 4.1, 5.1, 7.1, 8.1, 17, 19, and 25.1 American Convention on Human Rights, in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of the persons identified in the various sections of the report.

24. Orlando José Fernández Medina v. Venezuela

598. The case concerns Venezuela's international responsibility for violations of due process and judicial guarantees in the context of criminal proceedings against Orlando José Fernández Medina, in the context of his activity as a public figure and political leader.

599. Orlando José Fernández Medina was a political figure in Venezuela and was president of the political organization "Organización Fuerza en Movimiento". The petitioner indicated that during the years 1995 and 2000, he served as governor of the State of Lara.

600. Mr. Fernández reported that in 1999, criminal proceedings were initiated against him for embezzlement of public funds linked to his administration as governor, as well as other criminal proceedings in which attempts were made to implicate him in the commission of other crimes. He stated that this situation constituted "political persecution". According to the petitioner, these proceedings were initiated by various officials, including Luis Reyes Reyes, the former governor of the State of Lara between 2000 and 2008.

601. In particular, in 1999, the Attorney General's Office investigated a complaint filed against him by the Association of Retired and Pensioned Educators of the State of Lara, regarding the embezzlement of ten billion bolivars during his term as governor. According to the information provided, the case file is registered under number F13-F3-044-01 with the intervention of the 37th National Prosecutor's Office and the 22nd Prosecutor's Office of the Public Ministry of the State of Lara. The petitioner indicated that for six years he had no information about the case and that he was "under threat of arrest in the context of the criminal proceedings". He stated that during this period he was unable to give a statement in the case. He stated that on July 27, 2005, the authority of the 37th Prosecutor's Office with National Jurisdiction summoned Mr. Fernández Medina.

602. On August 17, 2005, he was charged with embezzlement. At the arraignment, Mr. Fernández's defense requested that various measures be taken, including the summons of the then Secretary General of the Government, Director General of Finance, Deputy of the Legislative Branch, and Comptroller General of the State of Lara. It is not known whether the Public Prosecutor's Office took the requested steps.

603. Mr. Fernández Medina's defense filed a request for a hearing before the Criminal Control Court to urge the Public Prosecutor's Office to conclude the case. On March 20, 2007, the court declared the defense's request inadmissible, arguing that he had not been formally identified as a defendant. On May 20, 2007, Mr. Fernández Medina's defense filed an appeal against the decision of the Fourth Control Court.

604. On May 18, 2009, the Court of Appeals of the Criminal Judicial Circuit of the State of Lara ruled to dismiss the appeal filed, indicating that although the procedural rule establishes a period of six months after the formal indictment of the suspect for the admissibility of the request to set a reasonable time limit for the completion of the investigation, "such rules establish an exception to their application in cases where the investigation refers to crimes against humanity, against the public interest, or in the area of human rights [...] whereas in the present case, the crime charged refers to embezzlement, as provided for and punishable under Article 60 of the Anti-Corruption Law". In this regard, it noted that "it is considered one of the crimes against the public interest, a circumstance that excludes the investigation from the setting of the hearing established in the aforementioned Article 313".

605. On February 22, 2010, the Supervisory Court set the date for the oral hearing on March 5. On the same day, the hearing was suspended at the request of the Public Prosecutor's Office on the grounds that it had not been duly notified. The hearing was eventually held on April 6, 2010. The summary records show that the Court urged the Public Prosecutor's Office to present the final brief within a reasonable period of time. The petitioner stated that the Public Prosecutor's Office has not, to this date, submitted its final brief, and therefore the criminal proceedings remain open.

606. Furthermore, the petitioner reported that on March 15, 2005, individuals entered Mr. Fernández Medina's home without a search warrant or evidence of a crime in progress, in order to search for a "political document". According to a newspaper article, two unknown men entered the home of Mr. Fernández Medina's family. On May 11, 2005, Mr. Fernández filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office alleging that the government had been trying to fabricate judicial, administrative, and political measures against him.

607. The petitioner indicated that, as a result of his complaint to the Attorney General's Office, he was granted protective measures on several occasions, the last of which was on May 24, 2005. He stated that the government did not comply with the measures granted "in a clear position of keeping me subject to constant persecution of every kind". The parties did not inform the Commission regarding the implementation of security measures, their duration, or their alleged shortcomings.

608. Finally, the petitioner mentioned other criminal proceedings in which Mr. Fernández Medina had been implicated as part of a "political persecution". The petitioner stated that he had been investigated as the mastermind of a homicide, but that he had been cleared of the charges, a decision that was upheld by the Supreme Court of Justice in 2006. He maintained that during a criminal trial involving a group that forged documents in 2005, one of the defendants had mentioned his name. According to publicly available information, Mr. Fernández had received death threats by telephone from unknown individuals and had been insulted by the then Minister of Communication and Information.

609. In its Admissibility and Merits Report No. 201/24, the Inter-American Commission analyzed whether the Venezuelan State guaranteed the rights established in the Convention in the criminal proceedings against Mr. Fernández Medina. The IACHR observed omissions, shortcomings, and irregularities in the proceedings.

610. First, the Commission noted that Mr. Fernández Medina did not have access to the case file during the first six years of the proceedings, nor was he able to give testimony or exercise his right to defense, and that the State did not present arguments or justifications to explain this restriction, nor did it allege exceptional circumstances that prevented the Prosecutor's Office from receiving his testimony. Second, the IACHR noted the lack of due diligence in the initial stage of the investigation, including the failure to take evidentiary measures requested by the defense, which were never carried out.

611. Third, it highlighted that the Supervisory Court denied Mr. Fernández Medina's defense request to set a hearing and receive his testimony because it was unaware that he had been charged by the Prosecutor's Office. The Commission indicated that the authorities did not provide explanations as to whether the Prosecutor's Office had incorrectly informed the Supervisory Court of the procedural progress of the case or whether there was an error in the court's analysis of the proceedings in the case file.

612. Fourth, the Commission noted that Mr. Fernández Medina's defense filed an appeal against the Supervisory Court's refusal to schedule a hearing, alleging a violation of the right to defense and the right to be heard. However, the appeal was dismissed by the Fourth Supervisory Court, which merely stated that, in accordance with domestic law, it was not necessary to hold a hearing but made no reference to the reasons why Mr. Fernández Medina's statement had not been taken during all this time.

613. Fifth, the Commission noted that, although the Supervisory Court eventually set a date for the hearing and to take Mr. Fernández Medina's statement, the hearing was suspended because the Public Prosecutor's Office had not been notified, which is a clear irregularity in the handling of the case. Sixth, the

Commission observed that at the hearing on April 6, 20 , the Supervisory Court ordered the Public Prosecutor's Office to present the final brief "within a reasonable time" and that, according to the petitioner, this has not been done. On the contrary, to date, the criminal proceedings against Mr. Fernández Medina remain open.

614. The Commission emphasized that, for these reasons, it is clear that in the criminal proceedings against Mr. Fernández Medina, the victim's right to be heard was not guaranteed, as he was not allowed access to the case file or to present evidence, and requests for the Public Prosecutor's Office to take action and close the case were dismissed. Added to this are the unjustified delays, including a postponement of the taking of his statement and the holding of an oral hearing. The IACHR emphasized that, despite all this, the proceedings remain open without the State having reported on the steps taken in recent years, their status, or the reasons why they have not been concluded. The Commission also considered that all the aforementioned shortcomings, omissions, and irregularities are part of a context in which the Venezuelan State initiates criminal proceedings against political dissidents with the aim of threatening and intimidating them for their political stance.

615. In view of all the elements noted, the Commission considered that during the criminal proceedings against Mr. Fernández Medina, his right to defense and his right to be heard were not guaranteed, the judicial decisions were not duly reasoned, and the remedies presented have not been adequate or effective in remedying such violations. Consequently, the IACHR found the State responsible for violating the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

616. With regard to the analysis of reasonable time, based on the four applicable criteria, the Commission considered that the proceedings, which remain open after almost twenty years, have not been resolved within a reasonable time, and therefore found the State responsible for violating the right to judicial guarantees.

617. Based on these findings of fact and law, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection established in Articles 8.1 and 25.1 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Orlando José Fernández Medina.

25. Hugo Loris Mantovani v. Argentina[201]

618. The case relates to Argentina's international responsibility for violating the right to appeal a conviction to the detriment of Mr. Hugo Loris Mantovani, who was subjected to criminal proceedings in the jurisdiction of the City of Buenos Aires.

619. On April 4, 2002, Oral Court No. 25 of the Federal Capital handed down a guilty verdict and sentenced Mr. Hugo Loris Mantovani to 10 months of imprisonment, suspended, and payment of procedural costs for finding him criminally responsible as the perpetrator of the offense of fraud by fraudulent administration to the detriment of the company "Food Shop S.A." The court found that, in his capacity as president of the company, Mr. Mantovani signed six promissory notes in favor of Mr. Benjamín Quiroga, an employee of the company, which were found to be without cause and without any accounting basis, and therefore without any debt to justify their issuance. The judgment was based on testimonial evidence from employees, company documentation, and an accounting expert opinion.

620. Mr. Mantovani's defense filed an appeal against this ruling based on Article 456, paragraph 2, of the National Code of Criminal Procedure, in accordance with Article 404, paragraph 2, alleging that it lacked sufficient grounds, which made it arbitrary, and requested its annulment and the referral of the case to another court. It also invoked the guarantee of a second instance established in Article 8.2.h of the American Convention, relying on precedents such as Maqueda v. Argentina of the IACHR and the ruling of the Supreme Court of the Nation in the Giroldi case, where that Court established the character of the Criminal Cassation Chamber as an

[201] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

intermediate court for the purpose of ensuring the defendant's right to an appeal against a conviction in the first instance.

621. With regard to the grievances, the defense argued that the ruling was not a logical conclusion based on the evidence and that the promissory notes were not without cause, but rather a means of payment for work performed by Mr. Quiroga in the installation and maintenance of cold storage rooms on the company's premises. The defense also argued that there was testimonial and documentary evidence supporting the existence of such an employment relationship and that the Court had made a partial assessment of the evidence. In particular, the defense attorney referred to the existence of witnesses such as the company's lawyer, the head of security, and an employee, who claimed to have seen Mr. Quiroga performing repairs on the cold storage rooms.

622. Likewise, Mr. Mantovani's defense attorney argued that the lack of reasoning in the conviction as regards the establishment of the crime of fraudulent administration is also reflected in the fact that the trial court did not rule on the existence of alleged urgent circumstances that required the work in the cold storage rooms be carried out expeditiously, even if it meant paying Mr. Quiroga an amount higher than the market rates prevailing at the time.

623. On May 6, 2002, Criminal Court No. 25 decided not to uphold the appeal, arguing that the defense only offered a different interpretation of the evidence and did not demonstrate arbitrariness. It held that the appeal did not meet the requirements for admissibility and that the grievance was reduced to a disagreement with the court's assessment of the evidence. The Oral Criminal Court further stated that, "when a cassation appeal is lodged, any alleged errors must be identified as having occurred with respect to the factual basis established by the trial court, since allowing a challenge to the version of the facts set out in the judgment would undermine the benefits that the principle of immediacy affords in the assessment of the evidence at the trial stage."

624. In response to this decision, the defense filed a complaint appeal for denial of the cassation appeal, in which it reiterated its arguments and contended that the court exceeded its jurisdiction by analyzing the substantive merits of the appeal, which was the exclusive responsibility of the Cassation Chamber. It asserted that the court should have limited itself to verifying the formal requirements and that its decision violated the right to appeal the judgment.

625. On June 27, 2002, Chamber I of the National Criminal Cassation Chamber dismissed the complaint for denial of the appeal filed by the public defender. It considered that the defense failed to refute the arguments of the trial court, especially in relation to the lack of arbitrariness, and that the appeal lacked independent grounds. Furthermore, in response to the defense's claim that the Oral Court had concluded that the promissory notes had been delivered to Mr. Quiroga without cause, without providing evidence to support that assertion, the Cassation Chamber cited the ruling of the Oral Court and stated that "it is noted that the judge reasonably substantiated his decision, especially with regard to the fact that the aforementioned credit instruments—promissory notes—were without cause, which is why the grievance raised by the official defense focused on the lack of substantiation of this issue is inadmissible".

626. In response, the defense filed an extraordinary federal appeal, insisting that the conviction violated the principle of sufficient reasoning, the principle of favor rei, and the guarantee of double instance. On August 22, 2002, Chamber I of the National Criminal Cassation Chamber declared the extraordinary federal appeal inadmissible, arguing that the defense's arguments did not constitute a federal issue, as they referred to matters of evidentiary assessment. The Chamber also stated that the extraordinary appeal could not succeed in relation to the alleged violation of the guarantee of a second instance, since the appellant had not demonstrated "how the arguments that he could have developed during the cassation proceedings would have changed the outcome".

627. Finally, the defense filed a complaint with the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation for denial of the extraordinary federal appeal, reiterating its grievances and arguing that the Chamber failed to respond

to the substantive questions, limiting itself to transcribing excerpts from the conviction. On September 8, 2003, the Supreme Court declared the extraordinary appeal inadmissible pursuant to Article 280 of the National Code of Civil and Commercial Procedure.

628. In its Report 149/23, the Commission noted that the criminal proceedings against Mr. Mantovani were governed by the provisions of the Argentine Code of Criminal Procedure, approved by Law 23,984, enacted on August 21, 1991. It also noted that the sentence handed down against Mr. Mantovani and the successive appeals and extraordinary federal appeals filed by his defense were resolved before the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation issued the "Casal" ruling, which provided a new interpretive guideline regarding the grounds for admissibility of appeals, considerably broadening the scope of what could be considered grounds for appeal.

629. Similarly, the Commission considered it necessary to note that until the enactment of the Federal Criminal Procedure Code in December 2014—which to date has not yet been fully implemented—there were no legal reforms that incorporated the doctrine of the "Casal" ruling into the text of the criminal procedure code. Nor was any regulatory provision issued to extend the effects of the Casal ruling to those proceedings that had already been concluded prior to its issuance. For these reaons, the Commission observed that, in the present case, the regulatory reforms and jurisprudential changes subsequently adopted by the Argentine State are not applicable to the specific situation of the victim.

630. The Commission noted that it understands that the existing regulatory limitation in the National Criminal Procedure Code on the admissibility of appeals against convictions in force at the time of the events made it impossible, in this specific case, for Mr. Mantovani to exercise his right to a comprehensive review of the judicial decision handed down by the court of first instance.

631. The Commission emphasized that a comparative analysis of the grievances raised by Mr. Mantovani's defense and the responses provided to them by the higher courts, especially by the Cassation Chamber, reaffirm the State's international responsibility for the violation of the right to a comprehensive review of the conviction.

632. Indeed, the Commission noted that the main point raised by the defense in its appeal focused on challenging the conclusion reached by the trial court regarding the existence of financial damage to the company "Food Shop S.A.," of which he was the President and managed the assets, and that it mentioned the testimony of three workers who had observed Mr. Quiroga entering the company's premises and who attested that he had knowledge of cold storage maintenance. However, Chamber I of the Cassation Chamber did not assess these testimonies or express the reasons why the statements they provided were not sufficient to modify the conclusion reached by the trial court that handed down the conviction.

633. On the contrary, the Commission noted that, both in its decision of June 27, 2002, which dismissed the complaint against the denial of the cassation appeal, and in its judgment of August 22, 2002, which declared the extraordinary federal appeal "inadmissible", Chamber I of the Cassation Chamber merely reproduced extensive passages from the first instance judgment without clearly stating the reasons why it agreed with it. The IACHR considered that this course of action taken by the court that was called upon to review the first instance judgment affected Mr. Mantovani's right to a comprehensive review of the conviction, since it prevented his grievances from being analyzed in depth, especially when they questioned the very existence of the act that was the subject of the criminal complaint.

634. Finally, the Commission noted that the efforts made by Mr. Mantovani's defense team to have the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation correct the procedure and take the necessary steps to guarantee the right to a comprehensive review of the conviction were unsuccessful. This was the case since , despite the fact that the defense raised and substantiated the existence of a federal issue that would warrant the intervention of the highest national court, the Supreme Court, in application of Article 280 of the Civil and Commercial Code of the Nation, decided to dismiss in limine the complaint for denial of the extraordinary federal appeal filed without entering into its study. Consequently, the Commission considered that this decision closed off any

possibility that the victim in this case could obtain a comprehensive review of his conviction and, in particular, obtain a response to the arguments made by his defense attorneys.

635. Based on these findings of fact and law, the Commission concluded that the Argentine State is responsible for violating the rights to appeal the judgment and to judicial protection enshrined in Articles 8.2.h and 25.1 of the American Convention, respectively, in relation to the obligations established in Articles 1.1 and 2 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Hugo Loris Mantovani.

26. Jurandir Ferreira de Lima v. Brazil

636. The case concerns Brazil's international responsibility for the forced disappearance of Jurandir Ferreira de Lima, as well as for its failure to investigate the facts.

637. At the time of the events, Jurandir Ferreira de Lima, a man of African descent, was 30 years old and served as president of the Residents' Association, located in Vilage Pavuna, Rio de Janeiro. According to statements made by Mr. Ferreira de Lima's wife, he was constantly threatened by police officers because, in his role as president of the Residents' Association, he refused to allow places for the sale of narcotics to be set up in the community, and he had animosity toward a man named "Roberto" with whom he disputed the leadership of the Association.

638. According to the testimony of his mother, Mrs. Beatriz, on March 14, 1995, her son left home and has not returned since. This coincides with the statement of his wife, who said that Jurandir left home in the direction of the Residents' Association, saying he would return around 3 p.m., but never returned.

639. According to Mrs. Beatriz, a man named Marcel saw her son being taken from the Residents' Association by two armed police officers in the direction of a water pump. Marcel also reportedly told the victim's mother that the police took Jurandir to a pigsty, where his body was ground up and fed to the pigs. The information provided indicates that, in light of this situation, Jurandir Ferreira de Lima's relatives began to search for him. According to Mrs. Beatriz's statement, when she began to search for her son, an armed man told her that he had been killed by a police officer.

640. After the victim's disappearance, his wife stated that she searched for him in morgues, police stations, and hospitals, without finding his whereabouts, so she went to the 31st Civil Police Station in Ricardo de Albuquerque. According to Mrs. Beatriz's statement, she and her family began receiving threatening phone calls after her son's disappearance, and when she met with a group of police officers, they told her that if they continued investigating, they would kill her entire family.

641. On March 17, 1995, the victim's wife reported his disappearance to the 31st Police Station in the Ricardo de Albuquerque neighborhood, a report registered under number 0543/95. However, on October 22, 2018, the Civil Police informed the petitioner that there was no investigation related to the aforementioned report.

642. Subsequently, on April 27, 2004, Ms. Beatriz gave a statement to the Public Prosecutor's Office. On June 17, 2004, the Public Prosecutor's Office initiated administrative proceedings for the victim's disappearance, which were handled by the 22nd Criminal Investigation Prosecutor's Office. On February 24, 2005, Solange Ribeiro de Lima, Beatriz Ferreira da Silva, and João Maria Ferreira de Lima testified before the Deputy Attorney General's Office for Institutional Affairs. Beatriz stated that she knew who was responsible for her son's disappearance, including four police officers. She also stated that, for fear of reprisals, she would not reveal their names, limiting herself to stating that a man named "Rogério", who was an informant for prison guard Roberto and had since died, was involved in the disappearance.

643. According to the information available on the administrative proceedings, on June 29, 2007, the Public Prosecutor's Office requested that a police investigation into the events be opened. The Commission did not have information allowing it to determine whether that investigation had been initiated or conducted.

However, it was informed that on March 30, 2014, the Public Prosecutor's Office closed the administrative proceedings due to lack of evidence.

644. In its Merits Report No. 268/22, the Commission considered that several contextual and specific elements of the case suggest that the victim was deprived of his liberty and disappeared with the participation of State agents. In particular, the Commission noted that there are contextual elements that point to the involvement of police officers within the communities and, specifically, in Rio de Janeiro. Furthermore, Ms. Beatriz reported to the Public Prosecutor's Office that four police officers were involved in her son's disappearance and that the victim's profile matches that of victims of forced disappearance in Rio de Janeiro, according to the Subcommission on Truth and Democracy – "Mães de Acari" together with the Human Rights Commission of the Rio de Janeiro Legislature (ALERJ), that is, a man of African descent living in a favela.

645. The Commission also noted that, given all of these elements, which point to the deprivation of liberty and subsequent disappearance of the victim by State agents, the State did not provide an alternative hypothesis based on a diligent and effective investigation. For these reasons, the Commission considered that the first and second requirements for disappearance were met, since for the purposes of this international proceeding it was considered sufficiently proven that the deprivation of Jurandir Ferreira de Lima's liberty was carried out with the participation of State agents.

646. Regarding the third element of enforced disappearance, consisting of the refusal to reveal the whereabouts or fate of the victim, the Commission noted that the first complaint of the events was filed on March 17, 1995, that is, only two days after the alleged abduction occurred. Despite this, based on the information available, the Commission did not find that immediate steps had been taken to effectively search for Mr. de Lima, and therefore considered that the lack of an effective investigation served as a mechanism to cover up the responsibility of the perpetrators, particularly given the lack of immediate measures to locate the victim and those responsible.

647. In view of these considerations, the IACHR found that the elements of forced disappearance, which continues to this day as the whereabouts or fate of the victim have not been determined, are sufficiently proven. Consequently, it concluded that the Brazilian State is responsible for the violation of the rights to juridical personality, life, personal integrity, and personal liberty.

648. Regarding the investigation of the facts, the Commission referred first to the initial stages and considered that the necessary steps were not taken in a timely manner, including those aimed at taking statements from the relatives of Mr. Jurandir Ferreira. The Commission also noted that the State did not refer to any effective search efforts and that, on the contrary, according to Ms. Beatriz's statement, when she reported her son's disappearance, the police chief dismissed the report and suggested that she wait.

649. With regard to the logical lines of investigation, the IACHR found that the file did not show that the State had conducted effective investigations into the police officers allegedly involved in the victim's disappearance. The IACHR noted that this was the case even though the victim's relatives specifically stated to the Public Prosecutor's Office that some police officers could be involved in the disappearance. The Commission had no information indicating that they were interviewed or timely involved in the investigation, or that such complaints had been adequately investigated to clarify the alleged responsibility of police officers.

650. Regarding the reasonable time, the Commission noted that on March 17, 1995, the victim's wife reported his disappearance to the Civil Police. Subsequently, and without any indication that an investigation had been conducted, the Public Prosecutor's Office initiated proceedings that were closed on March 30, 2014, that is, more than 20 years after the events began, without the victim's whereabouts being determined and without anyone being effectively held responsible for the violations, despite indications of the involvement of State agents. The Commission observed that the State has not justified this delay on the grounds of the complexity of the case. In fact, the Commission noted that, although this is a case of disappearance, the information available to it shows that the State has not acted to identify the persons involved in the disappearance. Regarding the actions of the interested party, the Commission observed that there is no information in the file to indicate that the victims obstructed the investigations. With respect to the conduct of

the State authorities, the Commission emphasized that the available information indicates that there was no thorough investigation by them.

651. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that the Brazilian State failed to comply with its obligation to investigate, prosecute, and punish, within a reasonable time and with due diligence, the forced disappearance of Mr. Jurandir. Consequently, it determined that the State is responsible for violating the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection, as well as the obligations contained in the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons.

652. Furthermore, the Commission noted that, to date, the Brazilian State has not incorporated the criminal offense of enforced disappearance into its legal system through the mechanisms provided for in its legal system and with all its constituent elements, and therefore considered that it has also failed to comply with its obligation to adopt domestic legal provisions.

653. In addition, the Commission noted that Mr. Ferreira de Lima's work clearly fell within the concept of human rights defender, in his role as leader of the "Association of Residents of the Chico Mendes Community", which exposed him to a situation of particular risk due to the actions of armed groups whose interests his work opposed. For these reasons, the Commission considered it proven that Mr. Ferreira de Lima's forced disappearance was motivated by his work in opposition to these groups. The Commission also mentioned that the situation of impunity surrounding his forced disappearance reasonably sends a message that acts of violence against human rights defenders will not be investigated, creating an intimidating effect on other human rights defenders who denounce acts of violence committed by State agents in Brazilian favelas. In this regard, the Commission determined that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to freedom of expression and the right of association.

654. Finally, the Commission considered that the disappearance of their loved one, the uncertainty of his fate or whereabouts, and the absence of truth and justice more than 27 years after the events occurred, caused suffering and distress to the family members of Jurandir Ferreira de Lima, in violation of their right to psychological and moral integrity.

655. Based on the findings of fact and law in the report, the Commission concluded that the Brazilian State is responsible for the violation of Articles 3, 4, 5, 8.1, 13, 16, and 25.1 of the American Convention in relation to Articles 1.1 and 2 of the American Convention and Article I, paragraphs a, b, and d, of the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, as of February 3, 2014, the date on which Brazil deposited the instrument of ratification of that treaty.

27. Members of Voluntad Popular v. Venezuela

656. The case concerns Venezuela's international responsibility for various violations of the rights of members and leaders of Voluntad Popular, related to the protests that took place in Venezuela in February 2014.

657. At the time of the events, the victims in this case belonged to the Venezuelan political party Voluntad Popular, with some serving as mayors and councilors in different regions of the country. According to the petitioner and various press reports published in the media, the members of that party were subjected to threats, harassment, acts of violence, detentions, and irregularities in the judicial proceedings against them, in the context of the protests that took place in 2014.

658. In its Admissibility and Merits Report No. 57/25, the Commission first referred to the situation of Daniel Ceballos, Alexander Tirado, Raúl Emilio Baduel, Rosmit Mantilla, Ángel Contreras, Gilberto Sojo with Carolina González and her daughter, Enrique Sierra, and Antonio Rivero. With regard to the arrests, the Commission noted that these individuals were arrested on March 19, 2014, March 21, 2014, May 8, 2014, November 25, 2014, June 4, 2014, and April 27, 2013, respectively, by State agents without an arrest warrant and not in a situation of flagrante delicto.

659. The Commission noted that Mr. Tirado, Mr. Baduel, and Mr. Contreras were participating in peaceful protests when they were detained and transferred by security agents without explanation. Likewise, Rosmit Mantilla was detained after a search of his home was conducted without an arrest warrant.

660. In turn, Mr. Sojo, Mr. Sierra, and Mr. Rivera were detained after being deceived by agents of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN). In this regard, the Commission noted that Mr. Sojo was summoned to an establishment for having won a raffle and, upon arrival, was apprehended along with his partner Carolina González by agents dressed in civilian clothing and transferred to the El Helicoide Penitentiary. SEBIN personnel also transferred his underage daughter to El Helicoide, where she spent the night. In the case of Mr. Sierra, the Commission noted that, according to the petitioner, he went to the SEBIN headquarters to inquire about a family member and was detained. Finally, Mr. Rivero was summoned to El Helicoide to participate in a meeting with a Minister, but upon arrival he was detained by SEBIN agents, who did not inform him of the reasons for his detention or show him an arrest warrant.

661. The Commission observed that, in all of the above cases, State agents acted without a court order or under the assumption of flagrante delicto and found that they were detained illegally and arbitrarily. With regard to Carolina González and her daughter, the IACHR emphasized that she was a child at the time of the events and that, together with Ms. González, she was detained on the night of November 25, 2014, at El Helicoide without being provided with special care or adequate food.

662. Similarly, the IACHR noted that the State did not present information that could corroborate that State agents informed the victims of the reasons for their detention. The Commission considered, for the purposes of this case, that the victims were not informed of the reasons for their detention in accordance with the standards required by the American Convention.

663. The IACHR also observed that in the case of Mr. Sojo, he remained inside El Helicoide in the custody of SEBIN agents from the morning of November 26, 2014, until he was brought before a judicial authority at 11:00 p.m. on November 28, 2014. The Commission noted that the State did not dispute this information or provide explanations as to why he had not been brought before a judicial authority within 48 hours of his detention.

664. For these reasons, the Commission determined that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to personal liberty of the victims identified above, as well as for the violation of the right to protection of children to the detriment of Ms. González's daughter.

665. With regard to the victims' conditions of detention, the IACHR noted that Leopoldo López, Daniel Ceballos, Alexander Tirado, and Raúl Emilio Baduel had been held in confinement for long periods of time, a circumstance that is also corroborated by information obtained through various media outlets and observations made by the IACHR in its monitoring functions.

666. In the case of Mr. López, the petitioners indicated that he was held in complete isolation for periods of up to five months. Daniel Ceballos was reportedly held in isolation for up to three weeks at a time, and Mr. Tirado and Mr. Baduel were also held in isolation for several days.

667. The Commission also found that Leopoldo López, Alexander Tirado, and Raúl Emilio Baduel stated that they were physically and psychologically abused. In this regard, the three reported being beaten, insulted, and threatened while officers pointed guns at them. Likewise, both Mr. Tirado and Mr. Baduel reported that at night, officers played pro-government music at high volume to prevent them from sleeping. In turn, both were allegedly forced to lie naked on hot asphalt, and it was reported that prison guards threw tear gas bombs into their cells. The Commission noted that the State did not dispute this allegation or provide an alternative version of events.

668. For these reasons, the Commission emphasized that, since Leopoldo López, Daniel Ceballos, Alexander Tirado, and Raúl Emilio Baduel were deprived of their liberty, the State of Venezuela was the

guarantor of their rights, including their personal integrity. The Commission considered that the victims' account demonstrates that this treatment was intentional in that it was applied only to them and not to the entire prison population. The IACHR emphasized that the isolation imposed was intended to punish the victims for denouncing their conditions of detention. Likewise, the fact that Mr. Tirado and Mr. Baduel were forced to lie naked on hot asphalt, causing burns all over their bodies, demonstrates that they suffered severe physical pain that was intended to cause them harm. For these reasons, the Commission found that these elements were sufficient to conclude that, while in detention, Leopoldo López, Daniel Ceballos, Alexander Tirado, and Raúl Emilio Baduel were subjected to intentional acts that caused them intense physical and mental suffering, which constituted acts of torture. Thus, the IACHR concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to personal integrity.

669. With regard to the duty to investigate acts of torture, the Commission emphasized that, according to the petitioner's allegations and information gathered from the media, the aforementioned abuses were repeatedly reported, including in the context of the criminal proceedings in which the defendants were involved, to prison authorities and the media. The Commission noted that the petitioner indicated that none of these complaints had been processed and that the judicial authorities had not taken any measures to remedy the situation.

670. The Commission noted that only in the case of Messrs. Tirado and Baduel did the judge in charge of the proceedings order their transfer to another detention center. However, in none of the cases was an investigation opened to determine what had happened and/or identify those responsible. The IACHR noted that the State did not dispute this information and emphasized that, in this case, there was a complete failure on the part of the Venezuelan State to provide an explanation of the situation of the victims while they were in its custody, as well as a lack of clarification of what happened and total impunity.

671. The Commission also found that, to date, there has been no investigation into the acts of torture against the four victims and considered that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection to the detriment of Leopoldo López, Daniel Ceballos, Alexander Tirado, and Raúl Emilio Baduel.

672. In addition, the IACHR noted that the documentation presented to it did not indicate that any medical examination had been performed on the victims during their detention. Furthermore, the State did not provide any information on this matter, nor did it explain how their health was monitored. The Commission also noted that Leopoldo López and Antonio Rivero went on hunger strikes while in detention and did not receive medical attention during that time.

673. In the case of Ángel Contreras, the IACHR highlighted that the petitioners explained that during his detention he suffered "great psychological harm, with deterioration of his health". In particular, the Commission noted that, according to the petitioners, Mr. Contreras had attempted suicide several times during his detention. In this regard, the Commission considered that the Venezuelan State failed to provide an explanation regarding the situation of the aforementioned individuals and noted the lack of medical assistance while they remained in its custody. Based on the foregoing, the Commission concluded that the Venezuelan State is responsible for violating the rights to personal integrity and health.

674. With regard to judicial guarantees, the Commission observed that there were multiple shortcomings, irregularities, and omissions in the criminal proceedings against Messrs. López, Ceballos, Tirado, Baduel, Mantilla, Contreras, and Sojo.

675. First, with regard to the right to defense, the Commission noted that, in repeated cases, members of the Venezuelan government, including the President, made comments to the media about various members of the Voluntad Popular party and their alleged responsibility. In particular, the Commission highlighted the case of Mr. Leopoldo López, who was accused in the media by Diosdado Cabello, the president of the Legislative Assembly, of being responsible for the deaths that occurred during the protests. The Commission emphasized that this public statement was made before he was arrested, brought before a judicial

authority, and formally charged. In turn, once the criminal proceedings against Mr. López had begun, President Maduro stated at a press conference, "Leopoldo López has to pay and he will pay; he has done a lot of damage to this country". The IACHR considered that, in the aforementioned context, such public statements could have fostered a belief or prejudice regarding his guilt, in addition to revealing a possible bias in the evaluation of the facts by the judicial authority hearing the case. Thus, the Commission considered that the State is responsible for violating the right to the presumption of innocence.

676. Second, Messrs. Ceballos, Tirado, Baduel, Contreras, Sojo, Sierra, and Rivero were detained by State agents without being informed of the charges against them, a matter that was not remedied throughout the judicial proceedings. The Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the defendants' right to be informed in advance and in detail of the charges against them.

677. Third, the Commission noted that during Mr. Sojo's arbitrary detention at the Helicoide, his private defense attorneys went there to meet with him, but State agents informed them that he was not being held there. The IACHR noted that ten days passed between Mr. Sojo's arrest and the time his private attorneys were admitted and given access to the case file. Given this situation, the Commission considered that the State was responsible for violating the right to be assisted by a defense attorney of one's choice.

678. Fourth, the IACHR emphasized that in various cases, the petitioners argued that the victims' defense attorneys did not have prior access to the evidence used against their clients, nor were they allowed to present evidence. In the case of Leopoldo López, the petitioners argued that during one of the oral trial hearings, the Public Prosecutor's Office presented an expert witness on the tweets published by the victim without them having had prior knowledge that an expert opinion had been ordered. In turn, in the cases of Messrs. López and Mantilla, the petitioners indicated that the evidence and witnesses offered by the defense were not admitted. Likewise, in the context of Daniel Ceballos' oral trial, the petitioners maintained that the defense proposed 91 witnesses and that only 12 were admitted. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the right of the defense to question witnesses present in court and to obtain the appearance, as witnesses or experts, of other persons who could shed light on the facts.

679. Fifth, the Commission highlighted the case of Rosmit Mantilla, in which the petitioner argued that for 27 days his defense was unable to appeal the custodial measure imposed on him because the court "was not in session". The Commission noted that the State did not provide any explanation as to why the relevant court was not available for this purpose or how the right to challenge the decision on the victim's liberty was guaranteed. The Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to appeal the ruling.

680. With regard to the violation of the guarantee of independence and impartiality of the competent judge, the IACHR highlighted two testimonies related to the case of Leopoldo López that indicated a lack of impartiality and independence in the judicial system, in addition to the irregularities mentioned in the criminal proceedings against Mr. López, such as the appointment of the former Deputy Minister of Communications, a recognized ally of the Venezuelan government, as an expert witness for the Public Prosecutor's Office, and the limitation of the right to speak at the request of the Public Prosecutor's Office. Similarly, in the case of Daniel Ceballos, the Commission observed indications of a lack of impartiality on the part of the judicial authority involved. For these reasons, the Commission found that the courts that tried Leopoldo López and Daniel Ceballos did not meet the requirements inherent in the guarantees of independence and impartiality, and concluded that the State was responsible for the violation of that right.

681. Finally, regarding the guarantee of a reasonable time, the IACHR ruled on the four criteria for its analysis in the cases of Leopoldo López, Daniel Ceballos, Alexander Tirado, and Raúl Emilio Baduel, as well as those of Rosmit Mantilla and Ángel Contreras. The Commission noted that all of these proceedings had been ongoing for more than ten years, without the current procedural status being known to date, and considered that they had not been resolved within a reasonable time.

682. With regard to the alleged acts of violence, threats, and harassment against members of the Voluntad Popular party, the Commission considered it sufficiently proven that, as a result of the protests that took place in 2014, members of Voluntad Popular suffered a series of acts of violence, harassment, and threats that, due to their nature and connection to the party's status as an opposition political party, constituted violations of their personal integrity, freedom of expression, freedom of association, and political rights.

683. Taking into account the number of complaints received, the time that has elapsed since the events, and the fact that, to date, no one has been identified as responsible, the Commission considered that the investigation mechanisms have proven ineffective as suitable means of identifying the sources of risk and enabling the design of measures to, on the one hand, dismantle the risk and, on the other, effectively protect the members of Voluntad Popular in order to prevent the materialization or continuation of the events against them. In this regard, the Commission noted that the lack of an effective response in the context of the investigations constituted a breach of the duty to guarantee.

684. Additionally, the Commission observed that the Venezuelan State has not adopted protective measures in favor of the members of Voluntad Popular, nor has it complied with the precautionary measures ordered by the Commission for that purpose. On the contrary, the Commission considered that the State actively adopted measures that exacerbated the situation of risk in which the members of the political party found themselves. The IACHR took note of statements made by State officials regarding the work of the members of Voluntad Popular. The Commission observed that after the protests that began in February 2014, President Nicolás Maduro, Minister Rodríguez, Deputy Diosdado Cabello, and other authorities indicated that Voluntad Popular had ties to the United States, that its members were economically motivated terrorists, and that they were seeking to overthrow the democratic government. On these occasions, the party's political leaders, Leopoldo López, Darío Ramírez, David Smolansky, Raymar Humbria, Gaby Arellano, Ana Karina García, Adriana Pichardo, Theresly Malavé, and María del Carmen Llanos were personally accused of conspiring against the government.

685. For these reasons, the Commission found that the State failed to fulfill its duty to protect in accordance with its international obligations and that it also failed to fulfill its duty to respect by making itself a part of the risk faced by Voluntad Popular through the specific actions of its authorities, as well as by showing tolerance and acquiescence with regard to the acts committed against it.

686. Additionally, the Commission considered that there are multiple elements to corroborate that the various infringements suffered by the members of Voluntad Popular were linked to their work as political activists opposed to the government, and that these were intended to stigmatize and intimidate them and prevent them from continuing with those activities.

687. Thus, the IACHR concluded that with regard to the series of acts of violence, threats, and harassment that, by their very nature, are linked to the opposition activities and protests against the government carried out by Voluntad Popular, the Venezuelan State is responsible for violating the rights to personal integrity, honor and dignity, freedom of expression, freedom of association, and political rights of the members of the Voluntad Popular political party identified in the report.

688. Finally, the Commission noted that the petitioners reported that many members of the Voluntad Popular party had been forced to leave Venezuelan territory to protect their safety. In particular, almost a year after regaining his freedom, State agents raided the headquarters of Voluntad Popular and attempted to arrest Mr. Antonio Rivero without a warrant, prompting him to go into hiding to protect his physical integrity. Similarly, Darío Ramírez stated that he had received various "threats" from SEBIN agents and had been accused by Deputy Diosdado Cabello of being part of a terrorist plot to overthrow the government. Faced with this situation, he decided to leave Caracas and go into hiding. Consequently, the Commission found that Venezuela failed to comply with its obligation to guarantee the right of Antonio Rivero and Darío Ramírez to move and reside freely in their country.

689. Based on the findings of fact and law in its report, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the right to personal liberty guaranteed in Articles 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Daniel Ceballos, Alexander Tirado, Raúl Emilio Baduel, Rosmit Mantilla, Ángel Contreras, Gilberto Sojo, Carolina González and her daughter—whose name is unknown to the Commission—Antonio Rivero, and Enrique Sierra; as well as the right of the child established in Article 19 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1(1) of the same instrument, to the detriment of the girl. It also found that the State is responsible for the violation of the right enshrined in Article 7.5 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Gilberto Sojo. The Commission also concluded that the State is responsible for violating the right to personal integrity enshrined in Articles 5.1 and 5.2 of the American Convention in relation to the obligation set forth in Article 1.1 of the same instrument to the detriment of Leopoldo López, Daniel Ceballos, Alexander Tirado, and Raúl Emilio Baduel.

690. In turn, the Commission considered that the State is responsible for violating the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection, established in Articles 8.1 and 25.1 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Leopoldo López, Daniel Ceballos, Alexander Tirado, and Raúl Emilio Baduel. Additionally, the IACHR concluded that the State is responsible for violating Articles 1, 6, and 8 of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture to the detriment of Leopoldo López, Daniel Ceballos, Alexander Tirado, and Raúl Emilio Baduel. The Commission concluded that the Venezuelan State is responsible for violating the rights to personal integrity and health enshrined in Articles 5.1 and 26 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Leopoldo López, Daniel Ceballos, Alexander Tirado, Raúl Emilio Baduel, Ángel Contreras, and Antonio Rivero. Likewise, the IACHR found that the State is responsible for violating the right to the presumption of innocence, recognized in Article 8.2 of the Convention, to the detriment of Leopoldo López; the right to know the charges against them, provided for in Article 8.2.b of the American Convention, to the detriment of Daniel Ceballos, Alexander Tirado, Raúl Emilio Baduel, Ángel Contreras, Gilberto Sojo, Enrique Sierra, and Antonio Rivero; the right to be assisted by a defense attorney of their choice, recognized in Article 8.2.d, to the detriment of Gilberto Sojo; the right to access to evidence enshrined in Article 8.2.f, to the detriment of Leopoldo López, Rosmit Mantilla, and Daniel Ceballos; the right to appeal the ruling recognized in Article 8.2.h, to the detriment of Rosmit Mantilla, all in relation to Article 1.1 of the American Convention. The Commission also concluded that the State violated the right to guarantees of independence and impartiality enshrined in Article 8.1 of the American Convention to the detriment of Leopoldo López and Daniel Ceballos, in relation to Article 1.1. The IACHR held the State responsible for violating the right regulated in Article 8.1 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Leopoldo López, Daniel Ceballos, Alexander Tirado, Raúl Emilio Baduel, Rosmit Mantilla, and Ángel Contreras.

691. It also concluded that the Venezuelan State is responsible for violating the rights to personal integrity, honor and dignity, freedom of expression, freedom of association, and political rights, established in Articles 5.1, 11.1, 13.1, 16.1, and 23.1 of the American Convention, in relation to the obligations established in Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of the members of the Voluntad Popular political party. Finally, the Commission found that the State is responsible for violating the right enshrined in Article 22.1 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Antonio Rivero and Darío Ramírez.

28. Pedro Baque Tuárez v. Ecuador

692. The case concerns Ecuador's international responsibility for the deaths of brothers Carlos Enrique Jaramillo Mera and Pedro Jorge Jaramillo Mera, and the attack suffered by Pedro Baque Tuárez, as well as the lack of due investigation and impunity for these acts.

693. At the time of the events, Pedro Baque Tuárez was 23 years old, worked in his parents' business, and spent his free time riding motocross bikes. On February 11, 1999, Pedro Baque, Carlos Jaramillo, and Pedro Jaramillo were riding their motorcycles in the El Guabito neighborhood when, next to the Becker Warehouse, a group of police officers consisting of José Delgado, Wilmilton Palacios, Wilmer Ayala, Francisco

Indio, Miguel Mayorga, Kléber Moreira, Wilson Alulema, and Jorge Seme stopped them on the grounds that they were suspects in the murder of a police officer.

694. According to the statement given by Mr. Baque Tuárez, when Pedro Jaramillo tried to find out what was happening, a police officer pulled out a gun and shot him in one of his eyes, killing him, and threw the others into a red pickup truck next to Pedro Jaramillo's body, where they were told that they would be taken to the Crime Investigation Office (OID). According to Mr. Baque, they went to Sancán, where they entered some bushes and, at that location, the police officers tortured Mr. Carlos Jaramillo, accusing him of the death of Officer Chango. In particular, he indicated that they cut his forehead, back, and neck with a knife, after which they put a gun in his mouth and shot him several times.

695. Mr. Pedro Baque stated that after Carlos Jaramillo was dead, the police officers shot him several more times in the back while he was kneeling. He indicated that, in that circumstance, a police officer grabbed him by the arm and said, "Now you talk", to which he replied that he knew nothing about the murder. He stated that a police officer then shot him twice in the lower jaw. He indicated that, already seriously injured, one of the police officers put his boot on his back and said, "He's not dead, kill him", and they shot him in the left shoulder blade. After fifteen to twenty minutes, the police officers left, and Pedro Baque sat down next to the bodies of Carlos and Pedro Jaramillo. He crawled to the road, where he was rescued by Mr. Jorge Tarira, who took him to the Jipijapa Hospital.

696. The events of this case were investigated in two separate proceedings: one aimed at evaluating the events related to the death and attempted murder of the victims, and the other aimed at investigating an alleged assault and motorcycle theft in which Pedro Baque was charged as one of the suspects.

697. On February 18, 1999, Pedro Baque's father filed a complaint with the Fifth Criminal Court of Jipijapa regarding the events that had occurred against his son. On April 1, 1999, the Fifth Criminal Court of Manabí requested that the Chief of the OID provide the names and surnames of the police officers who had acted in the February 11, 1999 operation. On April 28, 1999, the First Judge of the Fourth District of the National Police issued an order to initiate criminal proceedings against police officer Wilmilton Palacios "and other perpetrators, accomplices, and accessories to the crime under investigation".

698. On June 7, 1999, the Attorney General determined that the Manabí Prosecutor's Office should conduct an investigation into the events. On August 10, 1999, a preventive detention order was issued against the five police officers who participated in the operation. On September 17, 1999, Mr. Pedro Baque testified before that Court.

699. On July 2, 2001, the Presidency of the Court of Portoviejo issued an order to open a trial against the defendants Miguel Mayorga, Jorge Seme, Wilminton Palacios, Kléber Moreira, and Wilmer Ayala, considering that all of them participated in the operation that resulted in the death of the Jaramillo brothers and the attack on Pedro Baque. Furthermore, it also issued a provisional dismissal of the case and of the defendants Vicente Cascante Polo, Wilson Alulema, Carlos Grijalva, Jarder Yeri Pincay Indacochea, Holger Fredy Conforme Orrala, Francisco Indio, Neil Castro, Jorge Leli Tarira Zamora, Noel del Jesús Celi Merchan, and Temístocles Ismael Ramos Sánchez, due to insufficient evidence of their participation in the events. The victim and his family appealed the decision, and on September 5, 2001, the Portoviejo Court upheld the decision to dismiss the case.

700. On March 4, 2002, the Presidency of the Portoviejo Court sentenced the five defendants to twelve years of extraordinary imprisonment and ordered their detention. The decision was appealed by the defendants, and on April 25, 2002, the First Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice upheld it. Several appeals were filed against this ruling. The defendants filed an appeal on points of fact and an appeal for cassation. The latter was declared inadmissible on September 23, 2003, by the Second Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ). In addition, they filed an appeal for clarification on September 29, 2003.

701. On January 22, 2004, it was reported that the decision had become final. On the same date, the immediate arrest of the five convicted police officers was ordered. On February 6, 2004, the request to revoke the arrest warrant was denied as inadmissible. Subsequently, on February 10, 2009, the president of the Plenary Session of the Provincial Court of Manabi was informed that the arrest warrants were still in effect. Of the five, only Jorge Seme was arrested.

702. On December 31, 2015, the Presidency of the Provincial Court of Justice of Manabi declared that the sentence imposed on four of the convicted individuals who had not yet been arrested had expired, ordering that the arrest warrants against them be lifted. With regard to Jorge Seme, it concluded that the statute of limitations did not apply, since he was already in custody.

703. In its Admissibility and Merits Report No. 333/22, with regard to the detention, the Commission noted that the State did not provide any document proving the existence of an order of deprivation of liberty issued by a competent judge against any of the three victims, nor did it present any documentation proving that they had been apprehended in flagrante delicto or immediately after the commission of the crime and with evidence of it. The Commission also considered that the victims were not informed of the reasons for their detention in accordance with the standards required by the American Convention. With regard to judicial control of deprivation of liberty, the Commission indicated that it is clear that in the present case the purpose of the arrest was not to bring the victims before a competent authority to determine the legality of the arrest and protect their personal safety, as required by that provision. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that the State violated the right to personal liberty.

704. Furthermore, considering that the State did not contest the allegations and statements that the victims were physically assaulted by the police, the Commission found that the State violated the right to personal integrity. With regard to the victims' submission to acts of torture, the IACHR considered that in the case under analysis, the elements necessary to classify the acts perpetrated against Pedro Baque and Carlos Jaramillo as torture were present. The Commission emphasized that, in the case of Pedro Baque, the acts perpetrated against him while he was deprived of his liberty by State agents were intentional and were intended to make him confess to his alleged participation in the death of a police officer. Furthermore, it found that the acts caused intense physical suffering to the victim.

705. With regard to Carlos Jaramillo, the Commission also found that the elements constituting torture were present. In particular, the Commission noted that, according to Pedro Baque's statement, which was not contested by the State, while he and Carlos Jaramillo were deprived of liberty in a vehicle, the police intentionally cut Mr. Jaramillo's forehead, back, and neck with a knife, causing him profound physical suffering. It also noted that, according to the available information, this was done in order to pressure him into confessing his responsibility for the death of a police officer.

706. With regard to the right to life, the Commission observed that, according to Mr. Pedro Baque's statement and the conclusions of the Judiciary, Mr. Pedro and Mr. Carlos Jaramillo were extrajudicially executed by State agents while in their custody.

707. For these reasons, taking into account the presumption that applies in these cases, given that the victims died while in State custody and suffered multiple assaults, the Commission concluded that the State violated the right to life of Pedro Jaramillo and Carlos Jaramillo. Similarly, it considered that the State violated the right to personal integrity to the detriment of the three victims, and violated the prohibition of torture to the detriment of Pedro Baque and Carlos Jaramillo.

708. Additionally, the Commission observed that the State committed a series of failures in the investigation into the torture and deaths of the victims. In particular, autopsies were not performed on Pedro and Carlos Jaramillo. Similarly, according to information provided to the IACHR, it was not until April 9, 1999, two months after the events, that the crime scene was examined, which compromised its forensic investigation.

709. With regard to the logical lines of investigation, the IACHR found that the file does not show that the State conducted effective investigations into the possible intellectual authors of the events in this case. The Commission also noted that the investigations were conducted by bodies linked to the accused or by the accused themselves. In particular, on February 12, 1999, Lieutenant Colonel Rodrigo Acosta Cansina, then head of the OID in Portoviejo, assigned police officer Wilmilton Palacios, one of the individuals accused by the victims' families, to conduct the investigation into the events. In addition, the investigations were conducted by the Manabí No. 4 Police, a body of which the accused were members.

710. With regard to the location of the five convicted persons, the Commission noted that the State limited itself to issuing various arrest warrants without any result, even though the accused continued to participate actively, through their defense attorneys, in the investigation and criminal proceedings. Furthermore, the Commission noted that although the State reported that a "Capture Brigade" had been created, which would have assigned a group of agents to carry out the capture of the agents at large, it was created more than ten years after the judgment that convicted them, and no information was provided to conclude that, after the Brigade's first attempt to locate them, other actions had been taken to enforce the aforementioned court decision.

711. The Commission observed that, linked to the lack of due diligence and effective enforcement of the sentence referred to above, on December 31, 2015, the statute of limitations was recognized in relation to the convicted fugitives from justice.

712. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that the State of Ecuador failed to comply with its obligation to investigate, prosecute, and punish, with due diligence, the torture and extrajudicial executions analyzed in its report, and is therefore responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection. Finally, the Commission considered that the arbitrary detentions, torture, and deaths of Pedro Jaramillo, Carlos Jaramillo, and Pedro Baque, as well as the absence of truth and justice, caused suffering and anguish to their families, in violation of their right to mental and moral integrity.

713. Based on the findings of fact and law in the report, the Inter-American Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to life, personal integrity, personal liberty, judicial guarantees, and judicial protection, established in Articles 4, 5, 7, 8, and 25 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Pedro Jaramillo, Carlos Jaramillo, Pedro Baque, and their families.

29. Kevin Claudio Sebastián Peralta Farias and Carina Farias v. Argentina[202]

714. The case relates to Argentina's international responsibility for violations of judicial guarantees and judicial protection, in connection with the claim for full reparation for Kevin Claudio Sebastián Peralta Farias and his mother Carina Farias for the death of his father, Claudio Sebastián Peralta Asís, caused by State agents.

715. At the time of the events, Mr. Claudio Peralta was Carina Farias's de facto partner, and they both lived at the same address. On July 27, 1993, their son Kevin Peralta was born, but he was not registered in the civil registry after his birth. According to Roberto Domingo Peralta and Ramona Teresa Asís, Claudio Peralta's father and mother, he was unable to recognize his son before his death "for reasons beyond his control, namely the financial difficulties he was experiencing, which prevented him from paying the money necessary to obtain a national identity document".

716. On November 11, 1994, police authorities entered Mr. Claudio Peralta's home as part of an anti-drug operation, and one of the agents shot and killed him. This was confirmed in court on December 16,

[202] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, an Argentine national, did not participate in the debate or decision on this matter.

1996, by a ruling of the Second Federal Criminal Court of Mendoza, which found the officer who fired the shot guilty of manslaughter and sentenced him to two years and six months in prison.

717. Roberto Domingo Peralta and Ramona Teresa Asís participated as civil parties in the proceedings leading to the aforementioned ruling, and the court determined that the convicted police officer, the Province of Mendoza, and the National Government should pay compensation for moral damages and funeral expenses. Neither Carina Farias nor Kevin Peralta were parties to the aforementioned criminal proceedings, nor were they represented therein. Carina Farias was 19 years old at the time of Mr. Claudio Peralta's death, so a substantial part of the proceedings took place while she was considered a "minor" under domestic law.

718. On September 11, 1996, Kevin Peralta's birth certificate was issued. In that certificate, he was identified as "Kevin Claudio Sebastián Farias" and Carina Farias was identified as his mother, with no person identified as his father. On September 4, 1997, Carina Farias initiated the filiation process so that her son Kevin Peralta would be recognized as the son of Mr. Claudio Peralta. On May 15, 2001, the Civil, Commercial, and Mining Court of Mendoza issued a ruling granting the paternity suit. The court ordered that Kevin Peralta be registered as the son of Claudio Peralta and Carina Farias. On October 25, 2001, Ms. Carina Farias registered Kevin Peralta's birth in the Mendoza Registry of Civil Status and Capacity of Persons with a date of birth of July 27, 1993, identifying Claudio Peralta as the father and herself as the mother.

719. On December 4, 2001, Ms. Carina Farias filed a lawsuit requesting that her son Kevin Peralta be compensated for damages resulting from his father's death. On May 23, 2006, the Supreme Court issued a single-instance ruling rejecting the lawsuit and upholding a statute of limitations exception filed by the defendants.

720. In its Admissibility and Merits Report No. 156/23, the Commission analyzed whether the Argentine State provided adequate and effective remedies to guarantee full reparation to Kevin Peralta and his mother, Carina Farias, in the criminal proceedings related to Mr. Peralta's death and in the proceedings related to the compensation claim filed on behalf of Kevin Peralta.

721. The Commission noted that, during the criminal investigation that led to the conviction of the police officer for Mr. Peralta's death, the prosecuting and judicial authorities became aware that Carina Farias was Mr. Peralta's partner and that Kevin was their son, which was recorded in the December 1996 conviction. Despite this, the State did not take any measures to ensure that Kevin Peralta and his mother were represented and participated in the criminal proceedings and that they received compensation. The IACHR noted that at the beginning of the criminal proceedings, Kevin Peralta was one year old, while his mother, Carina Farias, was 19 years old and therefore considered a "minor" under the domestic law in force at that time. Despite this, the judicial authorities did not take any measures, in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child, to ensure their participation in the proceedings.

722. With regard to the civil proceedings concerning the claim for compensation, the Commission considered that there were multiple elements to suggest that the court's decision failed to comply with standards relating to the rights to judicial guarantees, judicial protection, and the rights of the child. This was in light of Kevin Peralta's right to receive reparation for the death of Claudio Peralta, for which a State agent was responsible.

723. The Commission found that Kevin Peralta was deprived, without due justification or grounds, of access to an adequate and effective remedy to receive compensation for the death of his father, caused by a State agent. This was because the Supreme Court's decision made a rigid interpretation of the rules on filing the action and the statute of limitations, without adequately assessing Kevin Peralta's rights and his situation in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child and other related standards. In addition, the situation of poverty in which Kevin and his mother Carina Farias found themselves, which was confirmed domestically, when Carina Farias was granted the "benefit of litigation without costs" on "grounds of poverty" was not taken into account.

724. The Commission considered that this, coupled with the lack of other available remedies, placed Kevin and Carina Farias in a situation of legal vulnerability, as to date they have been prevented from obtaining a court decision awarding them compensation for the death of their father and partner, respectively, caused by a public official. Consequently, the Commission concluded that the Argentine State is responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection. It also concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of rights of the child.

725. Finally, with regard to the guarantee of a reasonable time, the Commission determined that, given the characteristics of the case, the four-and-a-half-year duration of the proceedings exceeded what could be considered a reasonable time. Consequently, it concluded that the Argentine State is responsible for violating the guarantee of a reasonable time.

726. Based on these findings of fact and law, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the rights to judicial guarantees, the rights of the child, and the right to judicial protection established in Articles 8(1), 19, and 25(1) of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1(1) of the same instrument, to the detriment of the persons identified in the sections of the report.

30. Ana Vilma Díaz et al. v. Guatemala [203]

727. The case concerns the international responsibility of the State of Guatemala for violations of the judicial guarantees and political rights of Ana Vilma Díaz Lemus, Vilma Tatiana Cabrera Alvarado, Estela Bailey Beltetón, Claudia Lissette Escobar Mejía, and Helen Beatriz Mack Chang, which occurred in the context of the selection process for judges of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Court of Appeals that took place in 2014 for the 2014-2019 judicial term, through the mechanism of Nominating Commissions.

728. The election of judges to the Supreme Court of Justice and the Court of Appeals in Guatemala is regulated by the Constitution, the Law on the Judiciary, the Law on Nominating Commissions, the Law on Judicial Careers, and the Regulations of the Nominating Commissions approved by the Supreme Court of Justice in 2009.

729. Article 12 of Law No. 19-2009 provides that, once formed, the Nominating Commissions shall draw up the desired professional profile for the respective judicial positions. They shall also approve a grading scale of 1 to 100 points, with the aim of numerically quantifying ethical, academic, professional, and human qualities. According to Article 13 of the aforementioned law, after receiving the nominations, the commissions shall verify that the participants meet the requirements.

730. On July 2, 2014, the two Nominating Commissions were formed to carry out the process of selecting candidates for the Supreme Court of Justice and the Court of Appeals for the 2014-2019 term. The Nomination Commission for the election of members of the Supreme Court of Justice was composed of a representative of the rectors of the country's universities, who chaired the Commission, eleven deans of the law or legal and social sciences faculties of each university in the country, eleven representatives elected by the General Assembly of the Bar Association of Attorneys and Notaries of Guatemala, and eleven representatives elected by the sitting judges of the Chambers of the Court of Appeals.

731. The Nominating Commission for the election of members of the Supreme Court of Justice established a scoring table to evaluate each candidate, awarding 25 points for academic merits, 70 points for professional merits, and 5 points for human qualities. The petitioner pointed out that, although the Commission established a minimum score of 50 points, it subsequently decided on September 12, 2014, to lower it to 40 points.

[203] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Edgar Stuardo Ralón Orellana, a Guatemalan national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

732. On July 21, 2014, the Commission published the call for applications. According to the information contained in the file, 208 people applied. In addition, the Supreme Court of Justice organized five-minute interviews for those applicants who obtained a score equal to or greater than 73, which was the sum of the evaluation of the shortlist and the score obtained in a psychometric test. The parties reported that interviews were conducted with 105 applicants out of a total of 208 candidates.

733. For its part, the Nominating Commission for the selection of members of the Court of Appeals was composed of one representative from the rectories of the universities of Guatemala, who chairs the Commission, eleven deans of the faculties of law or legal and social sciences of each university in Guatemala, eleven representatives elected by the General Assembly of the Bar Association of Attorneys and Notaries of Guatemala, and eleven representatives of the justices of the Supreme Court of Justice. This Commission established a grading scale awarding 20 points for academic merits, 75 points for professional merits, and 5 points for human qualities. The Commission established a minimum qualifying score of 48 points, but later, in the midst of evaluating the applications, decided to lower the average to 40 points.

734. On July 21, 2014, the Commission published the call for applications. According to the parties, 1,027 people applied. The parties also agreed that no interviews were conducted with the applicants during this process.

735. As for the method used to evaluate the applicants' files, the Nominating Commission for the selection of Court of Appeals judges decided to divide itself into groups or trios composed of a dean, a representative of the Bar Association, and a representative of the Supreme Court of Justice. Despite the provision contained in paragraph d of Article 2 of Law No. 19-2009, the nominating commissions decided that the session held on August 5, 2014, would take place without the participation of civil society or the media.

736. On August 25, 2014, both commissions published the lists of candidates who met the requirements and established a deadline for receiving objections or challenges. According to the information contained in the file, of the 77 objections filed against candidates for the Supreme Court of Justice, only three were admitted by the Nominating Commission. The petitioners argued that these decisions to reject objections were unjustified or issued without explanation.

737. Once the list of eligible candidates was finalized, the Nominating Commissions began evaluating and grading the files based on the grading tables. The petitioner argued that, at this stage, the commissions applied the aforementioned tables unevenly, resulting in scores without logical justification and placing applicants who had exclusively exercised judicial functions at a disadvantage. Furthermore, according to the petitioner, the Nominating Commission for the Court of Appeals did not evaluate the integrity of the candidates individually. It indicated that on the first day, this criterion was evaluated file by file, but subsequently, lists of 10, 20, 28, 50, and even 58 applicants were voted on at once.

738. Similarly, on September 21, 2014, the Nominating Commission for the Supreme Court of Justice began by individually evaluating the highest-scoring applications and agreed to include 10 of them on the final list. However, the following day, the evaluation and voting process was modified, and the applications were voted on block.

739. On September 22, 2014, after evaluating the applications and voting on the candidates, the Nominating Commissions finalized the lists of 26 candidates for the Supreme Court of Justice and 210 candidates for the Court of Appeals, sent them to the Congress of the Republic, and published them in the press on September 23, 2014. On September 25, the National Congress elected the justices of the Supreme Court of Justice. This election was held before the deadline for the submission and resolution of challenges before the Nominating Commission, which is established in Article 28 of Law No. 19-2009. Subsequently, on September 29, Congress elected the members of the Chambers of the Court of Appeals.

740. On the same day, after Congress had already elected the members of both courts, the Nominating Commission for the Supreme Court of Justice met to resolve some of the challenges that had been

filed against the process and the list submitted to Congress. At that session, it was decided to reject all the appeals filed by the candidates.

741. With regard to the victims in this case, Ms. Ana Vilma Díaz Lemus submitted her application to become a judge of the Court of Appeals on July 25, 2014. In its evaluation, the Nominating Commission awarded her a score of 50 points. Ms. Estela Bailey Beltetón submitted her candidacy for judge of the Supreme Court on July 29, 2014, and also for judge of the Court of Appeals. In the selection process for the Supreme Court, she obtained a score of 76 points and was not included in the list sent to the National Congress. On the other hand, in the process for the Court of Appeals, she obtained a score of 80 points and was included in the list sent to Congress, but that body did not elect her.

742. Ms. Vilma Tatiana Cabrera Alvarado submitted her application to become a Supreme Court Justice in July 2014. The Nominating Commission evaluated her with a score of 82 points, but she was not included in the list sent to the National Congress. Ms. Claudia Lissete Escobar Mejía submitted her application for the position of Supreme Court Justice and also to join one of the Chambers of the Court of Appeals. In the selection process for the Supreme Court, she obtained a score of 57 points and was not included in the list sent to Congress on September 22, 2014. On the other hand, in the selection process for the Court of Appeals, she obtained a score of 77 points and was included in the list sent to Congress.

743. Given the difference in the results of the evaluations in the two processes, on September 24, 2014, Ms. Escobar Mejía filed an appeal with the Nominating Commission for the Supreme Court of Justice. She alleged that her file had been altered because some documents she had submitted to prove that she met the requirements to be a judge were missing, which did not allow for an objective evaluation. On September 29, 2014, the Nominating Commission rejected the appeal.

744. Ms. Ana Vilma Díaz and Ms. Vilma Cabrera learned that they had not been included in the lists of eligible candidates for the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Justice, respectively, when these lists were sent to Congress and published, but they did not know the reasons why the Commissions had decided to exclude them. Estela Bailey and Claudia Escobar submitted their nominations for both courts but were only included in the final lists for the Court of Appeals. However, none of the Nominating Commissions explained the reasons for their decisions.

745. For her part, Ms. Helen Beatriz Mack Chang is president of the Myrna Mack Foundation and actively participated as an observer in the judicial elections. On October 7, 2014, Ms. Mack Chang filed an appeal with the Constitutional Court against the election of judges. On November 19, 2014, the Constitutional Court issued a final ruling, denying the appeal and ordering the inauguration of the persons elected as judges. The plaintiffs filed an appeal for clarification against this ruling on November 20, 2014, which was dismissed by the Constitutional Court on November 26, 2014.

746. In its Merits Report No. 116/24, the Inter-American Commission considered, first, that the State did not ensure that the 2014 selection process for judicial authorities selected candidates based on personal merit and professional ability. This was because internal regulations were not complied with, the Nominating Commissions failed in their duty to justify their decisions, the evaluation criteria were unclear, the impartiality of some commissioners was seriously compromised, and, in general, the process was conditioned by the implementation of a scheme that favored undue negotiation with political actors and other interested sectors.

747. Similarly, the Commission noted that the 2014 process for the election and appointment of judicial authorities was carried out in marked disregard for domestic law and international standards in this area, which did not allow for the election of judges based on merit and professional capacity, and in accordance with the principles of publicity, transparency, and equal conditions, seriously affecting judicial independence.

748. Consequently, the Commission found that the 2014 selection and appointment process for judicial authorities did not inspire confidence in ensuring a full separation of powers, nor did it provide

sufficient guarantees to those subject to trial regarding the formation of impartial, independent courts established in accordance with domestic law.

749. In addition, the Commission noted that the irregularities in the selection and appointment process were not remedied by the authorities who heard the administrative and judicial complaints filed by the victims, applicants, and civil society that monitored the process. This meant that, in practice, the Guatemalan judiciary did not exercise any control or review over the actions of the bodies in charge.

750. In this regard, the Commission considered that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to judicial independence, judicial guarantees, the right to have access, under conditions of general equality, to public functions in one's country, and the right to judicial protection.

751. Based on these findings of fact and law, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for violating the right to judicial independence and judicial guarantees, the right to have access, under conditions of general equality, to public functions in one's country, and the right to judicial protection established in Articles 8.1, 23.1.c, and 25.1 of the American Convention in relation to Articles 1.1 and 2 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Ana Vilma Díaz Lemus, Estela Bailey Beltetón, Vilma Tatiana Cabrera Alvarado, Claudia Lissete Escobar Mejía, and Helen Mack Chang.

31. Juan Carlos Jaguaco Asimbaya v. Ecuador

752. The case concerns the international responsibility of the Ecuadorian State for the illegal and arbitrary detention, torture, and extrajudicial execution of Juan Carlos Jaguaco Asimbaya by State agents in March 2001, as well as the situation of impunity in which the events remain.

753. At the time of the events, Juan Carlos Jaguaco Asimbaya was 23 years old, lived in the city of Quito, and worked for a construction company. On March 24, 2001, Mr. Jaguaco was returning home when he was detained by Sergeant Milton Fuentes, who accused him of stealing the radio from his car, proceeded to strike him in the face with a weapon, and attempted to handcuff him. Mr. Jaguaco managed to escape, but was detained moments later by police officers. Regarding the moment of the arrest, the officers stated that Sergeant Fuentes detained him and took him to patrol officers Cañar Chamba and Quishpe Visarrea, placing him in the back seat of the patrol car.

754. Officer Quishpe stated that the arrest was reported to the patrol radio center via his patrol car radio, while Officer Cañar stated that the report was made by Officer Quishpe from his cell phone. However, the arrest was not properly recorded in a police report and there is no evidence that it was reported to the police. In addition, according to the procedural documents of the investigation, it was not established that Mr. Jaguaco had Sergeant Fuentes' vehicle radio in his possession during his arrest, nor did the sergeant file a report of such theft.

755. According to the version of events given by police officers Cañar and Quishpe, while Mr. Jaguaco was being transported as a detainee to the corresponding police station, the officers observed the presence of two suspects in the distance who were carrying bunches of bananas while walking, so they slowed down the vehicle and Mr. Jaguaco proceeded to open the door and run away to the Machángara ravine.

756. Mr. Jaguaco's body was found lifeless on March 26, 2001, in the river ravine. The Medical-Legal Examination and Autopsy Protocol stated that "based on post-mortem characteristics, the autopsied body had been dead for approximately four to five days, victim of: laceration, cerebral hemorrhage, and traumatic brain injury, which constitute the obvious cause of death. The body shows signs of cadaveric anthropophagy".

757. The death of Mr. Jaguaco led to proceedings in both the ordinary criminal jurisdiction and the police criminal jurisdiction. With regard to the ordinary jurisdiction, Mr. Jaguaco's brother, Luis Alexander Jaguaco Asimbaya, filed a complaint with the Fourteenth Criminal Court of Pichincha. On June 5, 2001, this court issued an order formally opening the criminal proceedings and ordering the pretrial detention of the

three police officers under investigation—Sergeant Fuentes and Corporals Cañar and Quishpe—as well as Ms. Valdiviezo, who was with Sergeant Fuentes at the time of the events, and a third implicated individual.

758. On February 20, 2002, the court issued an order for a trial by jury for the crime of unintentional homicide against Messrs. Fuentes, Cañar, and Quishpe, concluding that the detainee's escape occurred because he was not being transported with the proper security measures and that there was negligence on the part of the police officers. Subsequently, appeals were filed against the court's decision, and on May 16, 2002, the First Chamber of the Superior Court of Quito issued a ruling declaring all proceedings null and void because the three accused were active members of the National Police, and therefore ordered the case file to be referred to the police jurisdiction.

759. In the police jurisdiction, on July 15, 2002, the Third Court of the First District of the National Police issued an order to proceed against the three police officers, revoked the preventive detention order, and ordered their immediate release. According to the petitioner, no significant investigative measures were conducted in the police criminal jurisdiction. On June 4, 2003, the police judge closed the preliminary investigation and referred the case to the police Public Prosecutor's Office for a ruling. On July 28, 2003, the prosecutor of the Third Court of the First District of the National Police issued a ruling refraining from charging them.

760. On October 20, 2003, the Third Court of the First District of the National Police issued an order to open the trial. It held that there were serious presumptions of responsibility against police officers Cañar and Quishpe and dismissed the case against Sergeant Fuentes. The petitioner stated that the private prosecutor filed an appeal, considering that there was sufficient evidence to indicate that Sergeant Fuentes was responsible for the murder of Mr. Jaguaco. The petitioner added that, after various procedural steps, on July 8, 2004, the Police Prosecutor of the First District Court charged the three police officers with responsibility for the death of Juan Carlos Jaguaco.

761. On September 27, 2004, the First District Court of Police Justice issued a ruling upholding the prosecutor's decision and confirming the order. With regard to Mr. Fuentes, the Court revoked his dismissal and called him to trial. By order of October 27, the detention of the accused persons was ordered and the file was referred to the Third Court of the National Police.

762. On December 28, 2005, the Criminal Court of the National Police issued an acquittal in favor of the three police officers involved in the murder, stating that there was insufficient evidence. In response to this decision, Mr. Jaguaco's relatives filed an appeal, arguing that the authorities had not properly assessed the evidence presented in the case. On October 17, 2006, the First District Court of the National Police, by majority vote, decided to uphold the ruling issued by the police criminal court.

763. In its Merits Report No. 99/22, the Commission found that Mr. Jaguaco's detention was illegal and arbitrary, since the officers who arrested him did not have a warrant and there was no flagrante delicto. In particular, the Commission noted that, in relation to the alleged theft of a radio from a police officer's vehicle, there is no document proving that a search was conducted and that this was not the reason why the police officers detained him. The Commission also observed that (i) the official arrest report contained irregularities in the information provided; and (ii) it was never corroborated that the arrest was duly communicated to the Patrol Radio Center. In addition, the Commission indicated that Mr. Jaguaco was not informed of the reasons for his arrest in accordance with the standards required by the American Convention and that the purpose of the arrest was not to bring him before a competent authority. Based on these considerations, the Commission concluded that the State violated the victim's right to personal liberty.

764. Likewise, with regard to the right to life and personal integrity, the Commission emphasized that Mr. Jaguaco was detained by police officers on March 24, 2001, and that two days later, his body was found lifeless with signs of torture, and that the last time he was seen alive, he was in the patrol car after his arrest, heading to an unknown destination. In this regard, it indicated that the State had not provided an adequate explanation to refute its responsibility for the torture and death of Mr. Jaguaco and concluded, therefore, that

his death constituted an extrajudicial execution and that the State was responsible for the violation of the right to life and personal integrity.

765. Additionally, the Commission referred to the right to judicial guarantees and judicial protection in relation to the proceedings followed in the ordinary courts and the police courts. The Commission emphasized that, in the case of human rights violations, and specifically violations of the rights to life and personal integrity, the acts cannot be considered in any way as crimes committed in the course of duty and, therefore, the investigation should have been conducted in the ordinary courts. The Commission noted that despite multiple requests by the relatives for the investigation to be referred to the ordinary criminal courts, these requests were denied, and that the proceedings before the police criminal courts concluded with the confirmation of the acquittal of the police officers involved, leaving the facts in a situation of total impunity.

766. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that, by applying police criminal justice to this case, the Ecuadorian State violated the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection, specifically the right to a competent, independent, and impartial authority, as well as the right to an adequate and effective judicial remedy. The Commission also considered that the lack of effective measures to prevent and punish torture in this case also constituted a violation of the obligations contained in the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture.

767. Finally, the Commission considered that, given that it was established that Mr. Jaguaco lost his life as a result of an extrajudicial execution committed by police officers, which constitutes a serious violation of human rights, and that the only conviction against those police officers was declared null and void, revoking the preventive detention order and ordering the immediate release of the accused police officers, the State violated the right to personal integrity of his relatives.

768. Based on these findings, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to life, personal integrity, personal liberty, judicial guarantees, and judicial protection, established in Articles 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 8.1, and 25.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights, in relation to Articles 1.1 and 2 of the same instrument; and Articles 1, 6, and 8 of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture.

- **Luis Herrera Corsi v. Argentina** [204]

769. The case concerns the international responsibility of the Argentine State for the discrimination suffered by Luis Antonio Herrera Corsi at the hands of authorities of the Province of Santiago del Estero, which was reflected in obstacles to obtaining promotions in his police career.

770. Mr. Luis Antonio Herrera Corsi graduated from the Coronel Lorenzo Lugones Police Academy in 1979 with the rank of Assistant Officer. According to information provided by the petitioning party, he is the brother of two leaders of the "Unión Cívica Radical–Loreto," a political force that, at the time of the events, identified itself as being in opposition to the government of the Province of Santiago del Estero.

771. On May 30, 1996, the Police Headquarters of Santiago del Estero set June 11 of that same year as the starting date for the Mandatory Training and Promotion Course for Principal Officers, and on November 12, 1996, a Board was convened for the purpose of evaluating police personnel to assign the vacant positions. On December 16, 1996, the Police of the Province of Santiago del Estero issued a communiqué informing of the rating obtained by Mr. Herrera Corsi. The Board assessed his performance as "very good," based on the score obtained of 86.82, noting that he was qualified for the immediately higher rank, subject to the availability of vacancies. According to the "order of merit" list, he ranked second among the 47 individuals who were evaluated.

[204] In accordance with Article 17.2.a of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, a Argentinean national, did not participate in the discussion or decision on this matter.

772. On June 5, 1998, the General Secretariat of the Governor's Office of Santiago del Estero promulgated Decree Series "E" No. 0.738, through which several Principal Officers were promoted to the rank of Deputy Commissioner. Mr. Herrera Corsi was not included in the list of promotions; however, among others, officials who had ranked 13th, 22nd, and 34th in the order of merit were promoted.

773. On November 19, 1998, the Evaluation Board for Subordinate Officers again issued its assessment of Mr. Herrera Corsi's performance, indicating that the petitioner was qualified for the immediately higher rank, subject to the availability of vacancies. In December 1999, the Evaluation Board assessed him once again and concluded that his performance had been excellent, assigning him a score of 90 points, subject to vacancies. In January 2002, the Evaluation Board for Subordinate Officers issued another evaluation report in which it assigned him a score of 95 points.

774. By Resolution No. 00596 of April 20, 2006, Mr. Herrera Corsi and other officers were separated from their positions in the police force for "falling within the provisions for Mandatory Retirement under Law No. 4.558 on Pensions, Retirement, and Benefits."

775. Mr. Herrera Corsi filed a complaint before the National Institute against Discrimination, which concluded that he had been the victim of discriminatory acts by the administrative authorities of the Province of Santiago del Estero. In that complaint, he stated that when his sister was a candidate for City Councilor for the Unión Cívica Radical, he was pressured to join the Justicialist Party; that when he refused, he was transferred to Police Precinct Section 34–Rivadavia, more than 400 kilometers from his residence; and that he was subsequently subjected to additional transfers.

776. Among other postings, he was transferred to the then Sub-Precinct 29–Tintina in the Mariano Moreno Department, more than 250 kilometers from his place of residence; to Police Precinct Section 27–Loreto, where he remained for a period of 14 months; and, on April 23, 1998, to Regional Unit No. 4–Quimilí, more than 300 kilometers from his home.

777. On April 23, 1998, a "Confidential and Secret Report" was prepared by the Provincial Police, Regional Unit No. 5 of Loreto, concerning Mr. Herrera Corsi. The report refers to the holding of a political meeting in which he allegedly participated and during which the Provincial Government of Carlos Arturo Juárez was reportedly criticized.

778. On October 14, 1998, the newspaper El Liberal published an article stating that the Chief of Regional Police Unit No. 5 referred to a political meeting that had allegedly taken place at the home of Councilor Herrera, the petitioner's brother, in which the petitioner was said to have participated. The press report indicates that the aforementioned Chief of the Regional Police Unit stated that, as a consequence of these events, the petitioner was transferred to Quimilí.

779. On February 22, 2012, Mr. Elvio Ernesto Coronel Díaz submitted a sworn statement before the Justice of the Peace of Loreto in which he indicated that in 1998, while serving as the head of Regional Unit No. 5–Loreto, he received express orders from the Chief of Police, a Commissioner General, and from the Provincial Undersecretary of Information to monitor and follow the work and private activities of then-officer Luis Antonio Herrera Corsi, on the grounds that he had been considered a political enemy of the Provincial Government and that "for this reason he was to be passed over in the promotions carried out annually, despite having the highest average score."

780. On July 3, 1998, Mr. Herrera Corsi filed an action for the protection of constitutional rights against the Government of the Police of Santiago del Estero as a result of the issuance of Decree Series "E" No. 0738 of June 5, 1998, through which the Government of the Province ordered the promotion of the police officers' corps. In that action, he alleged that he had been "illegitimately omitted" from the list of officers promoted. However, on September 22, 2011, the Superior Court of Justice of Santiago del Estero informed him orally that the action had been archived since 2005, and Mr. Herrera had not been notified of this.

781. Mr. Herrera Corsi also filed an administrative claim before the Police Headquarters of Santiago del Estero requesting the updating of his rank, alleging that other officers had been promoted without considering his record, his five years of seniority in the position, or the rating he obtained in 1996. On February 2, 1999, his claim was rejected, which led him to file additional administrative claims on August 3, 2001, and April 8, 2003.

782. Subsequently, on August 21, 2001, he filed a complaint before the Provincial Delegate of the National Institute against Discrimination alleging acts of ideological discrimination related to the postponement of his promotions and the arbitrary suspension of the Evaluation Boards. On March 17, 2003, the Institute concluded that the discriminatory nature of the reported acts had been convincingly established.

783. On March 10, 2004, he filed a habeas data action against the Department of Police Intelligence. In compliance with the judicial order issued as a result of that action, the D2 unit of the Provincial Police provided Mr. Herrera Corsi with an individual file containing his "morphological and chromatic profile," a press article regarding complaints he had filed against the administration for alleged acts of discrimination, a news item concerning the publication of a book he authored, and information regarding the activities and political affiliations of his brothers.

784. Finally, on April 16, 2004, he filed, together with another officer, a criminal complaint for the offenses of public intimidation, breach of the duties of a public official, and criminal association. In addition, he brought four administrative litigation actions challenging decrees of the provincial Executive Branch that ordered the promotion of other officers without taking him into account, none of which were admitted.

785. In its Admissibility and Merits Report No. 155/23, the Commission found that the postponement of Mr. Herrera Corsi's promotions despite his meeting the requirements established by law, the repeated transfers of his workplace, the surveillance and profiling carried out by the Provincial Police, as well as the investigation opened against him for allegedly participating in a political meeting organized by the opposition to the provincial government of Santiago del Estero at the time, constituted acts carried out for political reasons. The IACHR emphasized that the State did not present elements capable of refuting that these actions were carried out by state agents as a consequence of the victim's political orientation, nor did it offer alternative justifications for them beyond invoking administrative discretion.

786. The Commission indicated that this affected Mr. Herrera Corsi's right to work by subjecting him to arbitrary conditions related to the granting of promotions, the imposition of transfers, and acts of persecution that prevented the normal development of his career in the Provincial Police. The IACHR also considered that these circumstances are particularly serious insofar as they disregard the principles upon which a democratic society is founded and hinder the deliberative exercise of political oversight inherent to this type of political organization.

787. Moreover, the Commission observed that, in the present case, the administrative authorities responsible for determining promotions within the Provincial Police of Santiago del Estero interpreted and applied the domestic regulations governing the requirements for promotion and the selection process in a manner that produced effects contrary to the American Convention, which materialized, among other ways, in the violation of Mr. Herrera Corsi's human rights. As a consequence, the Commission considered that they failed in their duty to exercise conventionality control in order to ensure, at the domestic level, the effective application of the provisions of that treaty.

788. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the principles of equality and non-discrimination, the right of access to public service under conditions of equality, and the right to work.

789. Similarly, the Commission found that the monitoring and profiling activities directed at Mr. Herrera Corsi constituted restrictive measures affecting his rights to privacy and freedom of expression. In assessing their compatibility with the Convention, it recalled the requirements of legality, legitimate aim,

suitability, necessity, and proportionality. Although the Commission did not have sufficient elements to determine whether these measures were provided for by law, it concluded—based on the context and the body of evidence—that they did not pursue a legitimate aim recognized by the American Convention. On the contrary, it considered that they were applied as a form of harassment and persecution, as he, together with his family members, was perceived as an opponent of the provincial government. Consequently, the Commission indicated that these measures constituted arbitrary interferences in his private life and restrictions incompatible with the Convention with respect to his freedom of expression.

790. The Commission established that the statements made by Mr. Luis Antonio Herrera Corsi, in which he denounced alleged irregularities by the government and the Provincial Police, not only lacked State protection but also gave rise to acts of persecution and harassment against him, including the opening of an investigation into his alleged participation in a political meeting of the opposition. Consequently, it concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to protection of honor and dignity, as well as to freedom of thought and expression.

791. On the other hand, the Commission observed that, in the present case, the victim filed a series of remedies to challenge the decisions through which the alleged discriminatory acts were carried out. However, the domestic authorities did not rule on the merits of the claims brought by the victim. In particular, the Commission noted that the authorities asserted that the decision to grant promotions to police officers derives from the discretionary powers of the administration. From this, it follows that the domestic authorities consider that there are powers of the Executive not subject to any oversight by other branches of government, among which would be the granting of promotions within the Provincial Police. The Commission warned that this implies that there is no adequate and effective remedy to report possible irregularities in the context of promotion processes within the Provincial Police.

792. Additionally, the Commission noted that the victim was not properly notified of the decisions through which the judicial authorities ruled on the human rights violations he had alleged. The Commission observed that the judicial authorities that issued decisions in the context of the remedies filed by the victim emphasized the discretionary authority of administrative bodies to decree promotions, without analyzing whether such authority was being exercised in a discriminatory or arbitrary manner.

793. With regard to the guarantee of a reasonable time, after analyzing the relevant elements, the Commission noted that there were unjustified delays that violated his right to judicial guarantees. In this regard, the Commission found that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees and to access to justice.

794. Based on these findings of fact and law, the Commission concluded that the Argentine State is responsible for the violation of the rights established in Articles 8(1), 11(1), 11(2), 23(1)(c), 24, 25(1), and 26 of the American Convention, in relation to Articles 1(1) and 2 of the same instrument, to the detriment of Luis Antonio Herrera Corsi.

- **César Noé Castillo Castillo and members of his family v. Nicaragua**

795. The case concerns the international responsibility of the Nicaraguan State for the injuries inflicted by public agents against César Noé Castillo Castillo in the context of a protest in 2018, as well as his subsequent death and the situation of impunity in which the events remain.

796. At the time of the events, César Noé Castillo Castillo was 42 years old and worked as an employee in a factory. Between April 19 and 20, 2018, various demonstrations were convened in several cities in Nicaragua, including one in the city of Estelí. According to information provided by the petitioning party, the protests sought to challenge the decision of the government at the time regarding modifications to the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute (INSS).

797. The protest held on April 20 in Estelí took place peacefully; however, from the outset the demonstrators were harassed by individuals in civilian clothing who blocked their path. One block before reaching the Estelí City Hall, they began to be attacked by members of the National Police, individuals inside the City Hall, and groups dressed in civilian clothing, who used rubber bullets, tear gas, and stones. According to accounts from those present, the individuals in civilian clothing were employees of the City Hall and members of the organization "Juventud Sandinista". Later that evening, the demonstrators began to receive gunfire directed at the chest and head, and as a result two people died at the scene and others were injured, including Mr. Castillo Castillo. In particular, the petitioning party indicated that he was shot in the chest while assisting another injured person.

798. Mr. Castillo Castillo was admitted to the hospital with a diagnosis of a "gunshot wound that perforated his right lung and became lodged in the spinal column," and he was discharged on April 27, 2018. The petitioning party indicated that he depended on an oxygen supply and that he was in a serious state of health at the time he was discharged. It further stated that a few hours later he was readmitted to the hospital after suffering a seizure, and that in the emergency room there was a nurse who informed them that they did not wish to admit those injured on April 20 in order to "[not have] problems with the boss". The petitioner explained that after the insistence of his relatives he was admitted and that on April 28 he was discharged once again.

799. Mr. Castillo Castillo died at his home on May 12, 2018, after suffering a respiratory collapse. The postmortem medical examination concluded that the cause of Mr. Castillo Castillo's death had been "acute respiratory failure."

800. On May 12, 2018, his sister, Miriam Lizbeth Castillo Castillo, filed a complaint before the National Police for the killing, as a result of which the State indicated that case file No. A-0020-2018-01320 was opened. From the available sections of the postmortem medical report dated May 17, 2018, it appears that a "foreign material corresponding to a firearm projectile" was extracted from the spinal area and handed over to a police officer. In addition, the anatomicopathological diagnosis was "pulmonary hemorrhagic infarction, bilateral pulmonary hematoma, hepatic steatosis, and hepatic cholestasis."

801. The State indicated that 32 interviews were conducted in the course of the investigation and provided testimony from some of those individuals, all of whom were employees of the City Hall, many of whom were not present at the scene of the events on April 20, 2018. Miriam Lizbeth Castillo Castillo maintained that the family was never provided with information about the investigation, that their request to obtain copies of the case file was denied, and that they only had a copy of the autopsy because they knew the doctor who performed it. The petitioning party further reported that on April 21, 2018, individuals dressed in civilian clothing cleaned the scene of the events, and that on May 1 members of the National Police went to Estelí's Central Park to conduct forensic examinations without notifying Mr. Castillo Castillo's family.

802. For its part, the State reported that, as a result of the investigative activities carried out, the participation of the agents who had service weapons inside the Municipal City Hall at the time of the events was ruled out. According to the information provided by the State, it was concluded that the perpetrator of the shooting was of unknown identity, and therefore, on May 12, 2018, the Estelí Police Delegation requested that the case file be closed.

803. On June 8, 2019, the National Assembly of Nicaragua adopted Law No. 999, which ordered that all administrative and judicial proceedings initiated as a result of the events that occurred beginning on April 18, 2018, be archived. The Office of the Public Prosecutor subsequently closed the case file pursuant to the amnesty law.

804. Following the death of Mr. Castillo Castillo, his sister participated in social protests on May 30, in July, and on August 13, 2018, during which she reported having been violently repressed by state agents. Among other incidents, she indicated that during the protest of May 30 individuals fired shots from the Estelí City Hall and that a man on a motorcycle fired at her and her daughter, forcing them to hide; and that in July,

while she was wearing a T-shirt with her brother's face on it, armed men identified as "paramilitaries" began shooting at her. She also stated that her children were threatened and beaten, which forced them to change schools. In light of these attacks, the family decided to leave the country; Ms. Miriam Castillo left her children with her parents and stated that she cannot return to Nicaragua because she fears for her life and that of her family.

805. In its Admissibility and Merits Report No. 49/25, the Commission analyzed all the evidentiary, circumstantial, and contextual elements contained in the case file and found that the State had not succeeded in refuting that state agents fired shots at demonstrators, including Mr. Castillo Castillo. It also noted that the State did not submit documentation regarding the regulatory framework governing the use of lethal force by state agents during the protest, nor did it provide information on the legitimate purpose of the use of such force.

806. With regard to the necessity of the measure, the IACHR noted that there is no dispute between the parties that Mr. Castillo Castillo was not armed and that he did not resort to violent means during the demonstration. The IACHR further emphasized that he was a member of the civilian population and that no firearms were seized from any of the demonstrators, meaning that there were other less harmful measures available to disperse the protest. With respect to proportionality, the Commission highlighted that state agents fired multiple shots toward the place where Mr. Castillo Castillo was located, while he was unarmed, and concluded that the measure implemented was not proportionate.

807. For these reasons, the Commission found that the use of lethal force by the State against Mr. Castillo Castillo was arbitrary. Taking into account that he was injured as a result of a gunshot and that, as a consequence of that use of lethal force, he died days later, the IACHR concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of his rights to personal integrity and to life.

808. Similarly, the IACHR took note that the State asserted that, after Mr. Castillo Castillo was injured, state agents placed him in an ambulance to be taken to the hospital. In this regard, the Commission emphasized that the State did not submit any documentation to substantiate this claim. On the contrary, it noted that the audiovisual material presented shows that only civilians assisted him once he had been injured and that they placed him on a motorcycle to take him to a hospital.

809. The Commission emphasized that in cases in which a person is injured in the context of a social protest and the use of force may be attributed to state agents, the burden of proof rests with the State. Accordingly, the State should have initiated, ex officio and immediately, an impartial, independent, and thorough investigation, which was not demonstrated. In this regard, the Commission considered that the State failed to comply with its obligation to provide prompt medical assistance to a person who was the victim of the use of lethal force by public agents. Likewise, the Commission noted that the State did not submit any documentation demonstrating how medical care was provided, did not report on the type of treatment administered, and did not refute the allegations regarding why the victim had been discharged so quickly.

810. In addition, these events occurred within a context in which the IACHR identified that individuals who participated in the protests in April 2018, such as the victim, were deprived of receiving adequate health services. In particular, the Commission indicated that Mr. Castillo Castillo, while in a public hospital, was deprived of access to medical treatment in accordance with the applicable standards, and that this lack of treatment had a direct connection with his death.

811. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that, due to the lack of adequate medical care, the State is responsible for the violation of the right to health. The Commission also considered that the State did not refute that the victim's death occurred as a result of the lack of adequate medical care. Consequently, it determined that the State is responsible for the violation of the right to life.

812. The Commission also concluded that the State's actions to repress Mr. Castillo Castillo's exercise of the right of assembly through the use of lethal force were arbitrary. In that regard, it found that the State is responsible for the violation of the right of assembly.

813. Additionally, the Commission found that there were various shortcomings, omissions, and irregularities in the judicial investigation. In particular, among other elements, the Commission noted that there is no information indicating that initial actions were carried out following the victim's death in order to secure the crime scene, identify the type of weapon used, and compare the shell casings with the weapons of state agents. Likewise, the State did not report that, in the course of the investigation, testimonies had been collected from individuals who participated in the protest to determine whether public agents had fired shots at the demonstrators, and that the ballistic reports submitted were prepared in the context of another investigation and do not pertain to the projectile that struck Mr. Castillo Castillo.

814. In addition, the investigation conducted in the present case was archived pursuant to Law No. 999, and therefore the death of Mr. Castillo Castillo remains in impunity. This constitutes a failure by the State of Nicaragua to undertake diligent, impartial, and thorough investigations aimed at achieving justice for what occurred. In this regard, the Commission concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection.

815. Finally, the Commission found that the use of lethal force, the lack of medical care, and the subsequent death of a person in a context such as that described in the present case, as well as the absence of a complete and effective investigation—which in turn causes suffering and anguish due to not knowing the truth—constitute in themselves an impairment of the psychological and moral integrity of Mr. Castillo Castillo's family members. Consequently, the Commission concluded that the State violated the right to psychological and moral integrity.

816. The IACHR also took note that Ms. Castillo Castillo left Nicaragua as a consequence of the threats, harassment, and attacks she suffered, which resulted in family separation, as she has not returned to Nicaragua to see her son and daughter. In this regard, the Commission declared the State responsible for the violation of the rights to protection of the family and to freedom of movement and residence. Likewise, taking into account that at the time of the events A.L.C.C. and E.N.C.C. were adolescents, the IACHR declared the State responsible for the violation of their rights of the child.

817. Based on these findings of fact and law, the Commission concluded that the State of Nicaragua is responsible for the violation of the rights to life, personal integrity, assembly, and health, in relation to Article 1(1) of the American Convention, to the detriment of César Noé Castillo Castillo. The IACHR also concluded that the State is responsible for the violation of the rights to psychological and moral integrity, judicial guarantees, and judicial protection, enshrined in Articles 5(1), 8(1), and 25(1) of the American Convention, in relation to Articles 1(1) and 2 of the same instrument, to the detriment of the family members of César Noé Castillo Castillo identified in the report. Finally, the Commission concluded that the State violated the rights to protection of the family and to freedom of movement and residence, established in Articles 17(1) and 22(1) of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1(1) of the same instrument, to the detriment of Miriam Lizeth Castillo Castillo; and the rights of the child provided for in Article 19 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1(1) of the same instrument, to the detriment of the adolescents A.L.C.C. and E.N.C.C.

2. Interventions in response to requests for Advisory Opinions

818. On November 17, 2025, the Commission submitted its observations on the request for an advisory opinion submitted by the State of Guatemala on "Democracy and its protection in the Inter-American Human Rights System."

3. Submission of written observations in pending cases and in cases of supervision of compliance with judgments

819. During 2025, the IACHR submitted 200 written observations to the Inter-American Court related to active cases pending and in the stage of monitoring compliance with judgments, in accordance with Article 69 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Court.

4. Appearance and participation in public and private hearings

820. In 2025, the Commission participated in a total of 52 hearings, of which 26 were related to contentious cases pending and 26 to monitoring compliance with judgments. These hearings were:

a. Public hearings on contentious cases pending

No.	Case	Status	Date	Location	Period of Sessions
1	García Romero et al.	Ecuador	January 28	Costa Rica	172
2	Lalinde et al.	Colombia	January 29	Costa Rica	172
3	Ascensio Rosario et al.	Mexico	January 30	Costa Rica	172
4	Rodríguez Pighi	Peru	January 31	Costa Rica	172
5	Silva Reyes et al.	Nicaragua	February 3	Costa Rica	172
6	Chirinos Salamanca et al.	Venezuela	February 4	Costa Rica	172
7	Zapata et al.	Colombia	February 5	Costa Rica	172
8	Hernández Norambuena	Brazil	February 6 and 7	Costa Rica	172
9	Cley Mendes et al. (Chacina do Tapanã)	Brazil	March 24	Costa Rica	173
10	Zelaya	Honduras	March 25	Costa Rica	173
11	García Andrade et al.	Mexico	March 26	Costa Rica	173
12	Lynn	Argentina	March 27	Costa Rica	173
13	Guevara Rodríguez et al.	Venezuela	April 22	Virtual	175
14	Cuadra Bravo	Peru	April 23	Virtual	175
15	Rojas Riera	Venezuela	April 24	Virtual	175
16	Salango Community	Ecuador	May 20	Guatemala	176
17	Garifuna Community of Cayos Cochinos and its members	Honduras	May 21	Guatemala	176
18	Ramos Durand et al.	Peru	May 22	Guatemala	176
19	Zambrano, Rodríguez, and others	Argentina	June 25	Costa Rica	178
20	Puracal and others	Nicaragua	June 26 and 27	Virtual	178
21	Chavarría Morales et al.	Nicaragua	June 27	Virtual	178
22	Zuccolillo Moscarda	Paraguay	August 19	Costa Rica	179
23	Iglesias and others	Argentina	August 20	Costa Rica	179

24	Gamboa García et al.	Peru	September 24	Paraguay	180
25	Moliné O'Connor	Argentina	September 25	Paraguay	180
26	Mães de Cabo Frio	Brazil	September 26	Paraguay	180

b. Private hearings of contentious cases under supervision

No.	Case	Status	Date	Location
1	Kuna Indigenous Peoples of Madungandí and Emberá Indigenous Peoples of Bayano and their Members	Panama	February 6	Costa Rica
2	Moiwana Community	Suriname	February 6	Costa Rica
3	Saramaka People	Suriname	February 6	Costa Rica
4	Kaliña and Lokono peoples	Suriname	February 6	Costa Rica
5	Members and Activists of the Patriotic Union	Colombia	March 25	Virtual
6	Alvarado Espinoza et al.	Mexico	March 27	Costa Rica
7	Poblete Vilches et al.	Chile	May 5	Chile
8	Vera Rojas et al.	Chile	May 5	Chile
9	Pavez Pavez	Chile	May 5	Chile
10	Norin Catriman et al. (Leaders, members, and activists of the Mapuche indigenous people)	Chile	May 6	Chile
11	Rodríguez Revolorio et al.	Guatemala	May 19	Guatemala
12	Former employees of the Judiciary	Guatemala	May 19	Guatemala
13	Chinchilla Sandoval et al.	Guatemala	May 19	Guatemala
14	Cuscul Piraval et al.	Guatemala	May 23	Guatemala
15	Maya Kaqchikel Indigenous Peoples of Sumpango and others	Guatemala	May 23	Guatemala
16	Movilla Galarcio and others	Colombia	September 9	Colombia
17	Guzmán Medina et al.	Colombia	September 9	Colombia
18	Members and Activists of the Patriotic Union	Colombia	September 10	Colombia
19	Bedoya Lima et al.	Colombia	September 10	Colombia
20	Tabares Toro et al.	Colombia	September 11	Colombia
21	Members of the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CAJAR)	Colombia	September 11	Colombia
22	Yakye Axa Indigenous Community	Paraguay	September 22	Paraguay

23	Sawhoyamaxa Indigenous Community	Paraguay	September 22	Paraguay
24	Xákmok Kásek Indigenous Community	Paraguay	September 22	Paraguay
25	Leguizamón Zaván et al. v. Paraguay	Paraguay	September 23	Paraguay
26	Córdoba	Paraguay	September 23	Paraguay

E. Status of compliance with IACHR recommendations issued in the merits reports published under Article 51 of the American Convention on Human Rights or Article 47 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure

1. The mandate to follow up on the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

821. Full compliance with the decisions of the Commission is essential to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights in the OAS Member States and to strengthen the Inter-American Human Rights System. For this reason, this section includes an analysis of the status of compliance with the decisions contained in the merits reports published by the Commission since 2001, as well as an analysis of the recommendations whose follow-up was activated upon request by one of the parties in the case of reports published before 2001[205].

822. On several occasions, the OAS General Assembly has encouraged Member States to follow up on compliance with the Commission's recommendations. 1701 (XXX-O/2000) urged States to make their best efforts to implement the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission based on the principle of good faith (operative paragraph 5.d). The OAS General Assembly spoke similarly in resolution AG/RES. 2672 (XLI-O/11), which addresses observations and recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (operative paragraph 3.b).

823. Likewise, the Commission considers that the effectiveness of the inter-American human rights system rests mainly on compliance with the decisions of its organs, which include orders, recommendations and agreements regarding comprehensive reparations for victims of human rights violations, both in the judgments of the Inter-American Court and in the merits reports issued by the Inter-American Commission. In this regard, the will of the States is fundamental to fulfill the objectives of the American Convention and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man in the application of the principle of pacta sunt servanda, which establishes that States must meet in good faith the obligations assumed in treaties.[206]

824. Both the American Convention on Human Rights (Article 41) and the Statute of the Commission (Article 18) explicitly grant the Commission the power to request information from the Member States and to produce such reports and recommendations as it deems appropriate. Specifically, Article 48 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure provides as follows:

Follow-up

825. Once the Commission has published a report on a friendly settlement or on merits that contains recommendations, it may adopt the follow-up measures it deems appropriate, such as requesting information from the parties and holding hearings in order to verify compliance with friendly settlement agreements and its recommendations.

[205] The IACHR conducts ex officio follow-up on the recommendations of merits reports that have been published since 2001. With respect to the merits reports that have been published before this year, the IACHR follows up and prepares a file when one of the parties requests the activation of this mandate.

[206] Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, United Nations. Doc. A/CONF.39/27 (1969), Article 26: "Pacta sunt servanda". Every treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith.

826. The Commission shall report on progress in complying with those agreements and recommendations as it deems appropriate.

2. Methodology for following up on recommendations: actions carried out in the year 2025

827. In compliance with its conventional and statutory powers, and in accordance with the aforementioned resolutions and Article 48 of its Rules of Procedure, the Inter-American Commission requests information from the States regarding compliance with the recommendations included in the merits reports published under Article 51 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Article 47 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure. This practice began in 2001, and, since then, on an annual basis, the Commission requests information from the parties to the cases with published merits reports to follow up on its decisions and update the compliance status of each case. The Commission also receives information on compliance with recommendations in hearings or working meetings held during the year. Based on all the information collected, the Commission analyzes the status of compliance with the recommendations in each case.

828. The Commission has strengthened and consolidated its methodologies for collecting, systematizing and analyzing the information considered in the follow-up of its recommendations to optimize the development of this process and thus identify and draw attention to the individual and structural results of compliance with its decisions. This progress was achieved within the framework of the Special Program to Monitor IACHR Recommendations (Program 21) of the Commission's 2017–2021 Strategic Plan and Programs 8 and 9 of the Commission's 2023–2027 Strategic Plan on strengthening the follow-up of recommendations and the inter-American recommendations monitoring system (SIMORE), and on multilevel dialogue and working agenda with States, respectively.

829. To update the information contained in this chapter, from August 2025 onwards, the Commission has requested the parties to cases with published merits reports subject to follow-up to submit, within one month, information relevant to the implementation of the recommendations. To this end, the Commission has sent requests for information with specific questions regarding the recommendations in each case that have not been declared fully compliant. These questions were prepared based on the latest level of compliance determined by the Commission to obtain relevant information on the progress achieved and the areas of opportunity identified, considering the special features of each case. In this regard, since 2021, the Commission has begun to develop these specific questions in each request for information to guide the States involved and to ask the representatives of the victims to provide relevant, updated and valuable information to analyze compliance with each recommendation.

830. When each request for information was sent, the Commission gave the parties one month to submit information on the progress made and the challenges faced in complying with the recommendations. Although, in principle, that deadline was regarded as the cutoff for receiving inputs for the preparation of this chapter, the Commission considered information received after that date in the following situations: in cases in which, after that date, working meetings were held that led to additional actions agreed upon by the parties; when the Commission granted extensions requested by any of the parties; when the petitioner or the State sent complementary information to that provided on time; or in cases in which internal administrative situations allowed for processing information received after the closing date, considering the time limits set for the approval of this chapter. The information not included in the preparation of this chapter will be analyzed in the 2026 Annual Report of the Commission.

831. Following the follow-up model and methodology proposed in 2018, the Commission includes in this chapter:

(i) A summary of the follow-up activities carried out in 2025 concerning the published reports on the merits, which have included enhanced follow-up of some cases.

(ii) A table of the cases in the recommendations follow-up stage includes a follow-up factsheet for each case and, since 2018, provides greater detail on the progress made and challenges identified each year in relation to each recommendation subject to follow-up. In this regard, since 2023, the Commission has simplified the design and structure of these follow-up factsheets to present the information in a more accessible and practical manner.

(iii) A comprehensive presentation of the progress that, by 2025, the Commission identifies in terms of compliance with all the recommendations issued in the published merits reports, which include the compliance clauses of compliance agreements for those cases in which it is applicable. To present the results in terms of follow-up of and compliance with recommendations, the Commission highlights the relevant results concerning recommendations and cases based on the categories of full, substantial partial and partial compliance, which are described in the General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations and Decisions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which were published in 2019 and updated in 2023 (General Guidelines for Follow-up).[207]

832. Likewise, since 2023, in the exercise of its mandate to follow up on recommendations, the IACHR identified that, during the follow-up of published merits reports, the lack of response to requests for information from the victims or their representatives, especially for prolonged periods, is a serious obstacle to the development of this stage. In particular, the Commission has identified that this lack of response prevents it from knowing the current status of implementation of the recommendations and, therefore, of the reparation measures; it delays follow-up procedures of cases as a whole, considering that the number of published merits reports that enter the follow-up stage increases over time; it also interrupts the optimization of the follow-up of recommendations, which hinders the strengthening of the exercise of this mandate in cases where the victims or their representatives have a clear interest in the follow-up.

833. Archiving is a procedural option under Articles 41 and 42.1 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure that applies to petitions and cases under processing when the petitioner withdraws in writing or when unjustified procedural inactivity constitutes a serious indication of lack of interest in pursuing the petition[208]. In this regard, the Commission has begun to alert the parties to the possibility of archiving or deactivation of follow-up, with the objective of optimizing follow-up of the recommendations contained in published merits reports and strengthening follow-up methodologies, by focusing its efforts and institutional capacities on cases with active follow-up in which the victims' representatives have responded to the Commission's requests and have demonstrated a clear interest in follow-up by providing clear, comprehensive, and updated information that allows for an adequate assessment of the levels of compliance with the recommendations.

834. In this context, in 2025, the Commission identified 68 cases in which the victims' representatives had not submitted information in the two years before June 30, 2025. Based on that, the Commission sent a written communication to the relevant parties to alert them of the possibility of archiving their cases and grant them one month to submit updated information on the status of compliance with the recommendations.

835. In one of those cases, the petitioners contacted the follow-up team to request the reactivation of follow-up of the following case file, which has been reincorporated into the 2025 Annual Report together with the corresponding follow-up factsheet:

- Case 12.275, Denton Aitken (Jamaica)

836. Finally, since its inception in 2018, the Commission's Section for Follow-up of Recommendations and Impact (SSRI) has been tasked with analyzing the merits reports published under Article 51 of the American Convention on Human Rights or Article 47 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure. This has helped the Commission to conduct a more specialized follow-up on the matters under its responsibility.

[207] IACHR, General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations and Decisions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (second edition) (only available in Spanish), OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc.385/23, November 20, 2023.
[208] IACHR, Rules of Procedure of the IACHR, 2009.

The following is a separate and detailed description of the progress made in complying with the recommendations issued in merits reports. This description helps users to identify more clearly and quickly the status of each issue, the actions taken in each case, their individual and structural impacts, and the challenges and issues in which it is still necessary to continue taking steps to achieve their full implementation.

3. Categories of analysis

837. To provide the parties with objective information on the type of review carried out in each case, the Commission published the General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations and Decisions,[209] a technical instrument that contains categories of analysis of the information provided in the follow-up processes. The Guidelines were updated in November 2023 to strengthen the criteria for: (i) assessing the information received from the States, the civil society, victims, representatives and other stakeholders as regards the follow-up of recommendations; and (ii) analyzing and determining the level of implementation of those decisions.

838. These categories help the Commission to make a more detailed analysis of the information available and the parties to know whether the information submitted is relevant and timely for the Commission to assess compliance with the recommendations issued in published merits reports. In this regard, the following are the categories of information analysis that were defined in the General Guidelines for Follow-up and that were applied to the updating of this chapter:

- **Relevant information provided:** when the information was submitted to the Commission within the timeframe specified in the requesting the cases in which information was previously requested - and the information was pertinent, comprehensive, objective and updated.
- **Non-relevant information provided:** when the information was submitted within the timeframe specified by the Commission but (i) did not refer to measures adopted to comply with at least one outstanding recommendation, or (ii) was incomplete or outdated.
- **Information not provided:** when information on the measures adopted to comply with the recommendations issued was not provided; the Commission was expressly informed that the information would not be submitted; or the parties requested an extension(s) to provide information and, in the end, the information was not provided.

839. In addition, by means of its General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations and Decisions the Commission decided to expand the categories of analysis of its recommendations to raise the visibility of States' compliance efforts and to classify the status of compliance with each recommendation.[210] In that regard, the Commission approved the following categories for the individual analysis of recommendations:

- **Full compliance:** a recommendation is fully complied with when the State has initiated and successfully concluded the measures for its implementation. Full compliance is achieved when the following phases are completed:
- (i) initial phase, (ii) discussion phase, (iii) approval phase, and (iv) execution phase of the compliance measure.
- **Substantial partial compliance:** a recommendation reaches the level of substantial partial compliance when the State has adopted relevant measures for its implementation and has provided evidence of said measures, but the Commission considers that they have not been completed. In this case, the State has successfully completed the following phases: (i) initial phase, (ii) discussion phase, and (iii) approval phase; the (iv) compliance measure execution phase is still in progress and is beginning to produce significant effects.

[209] IACHR, General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations and Decisions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (second edition) (only available in Spanish), OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc.385/23, November 20, 2023.
[210] IACHR, General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations and Decisions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (second edition), OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc.385/23, November 20, 2023.

- **Partial compliance:** a recommendation is partially complied with when the State has taken some steps towards compliance, but additional measures are still required. This means that the State has successfully completed the following phases: (i) initial phase and (ii) discussion phase; the (iii) approval phase is in the process of implementation.

- **Pending compliance:** compliance with a recommendation is pending when the State has not yet adopted any measures to implement the recommendation or when the measures are at an early stage and their adoption is very recent and has not yet produced concrete results.

- **Non-compliance:** a recommendation that, due to the conduct of the State, was impossible to comply with or that the State has explicitly indicated it will not comply with.

4. Status of compliance with the merits reports published under Article 51 of the American Convention on Human Rights or Article 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR

840. On the basis of the goals established in Program 8 of the 2023–2027 Strategic Plan—on strengthening follow-up of recommendations—the Commission made efforts to disclose and provide more accessible information on the progress achieved in implementing the merits reports it has published under Article 51 of the American Convention on Human Rights or Article 47 of its Rules of Procedure. In that regard, the Committee updated individual follow-up factsheets with the information received in each case throughout the year, including its analysis of the status of compliance with the recommendations that have not yet been declared fully complied with. The Commission analyzed each recommendation issued in the published merits reports and identified the compliance measures that were undertaken, the individual and structural results that were achieved and the challenges that persist, according to the information submitted by the parties involved in each case.

841. In addition, during 2025, merits reports were published for the following cases, which entered the follow-up stage that year (the first follow-up factsheets thereof are included in this annual report):

- Case 13.092, Héctor Leonardo Kemelmajen and Rafael Chaikin
- Case 13.079, Diego Armando Pacheco
- Case 12.935, Hebe Sanchez de Amendola and daughters
- Case 12.692, M.E.F
- Case 13.055, Julio César Rito de los Santos et al.
- Case 12.704, Ramón Nicolás Guarino
- Case 12.936, Oscar Alfonso Morales Díaz
- Case 14.042, Anastasio Hernandez Rojas and family

842. It should be clarified that, in 2025, although the Report on Merits No. 37/25 (Case 12.952, Mariela del Carmen Echeverría de Sanguino, regarding Colombia), it was not included in the follow-up portfolio, inasmuch as the Commission declared full compliance with the recommendations issued therein.

843. Below is a list of merits reports published since 2001, including those that are no longer subject to active follow-up, as well as cases with reports published before 2001 for which activation of follow-up has been requested. Of the total 156 cases, 80 (51.28%) are open and have a 2025 follow-up factsheet, 14 (8.9%) are closed, and 62 (39.7%) are under review for archiving[211]. This table provides direct links to the

[211] See the archiving process described in paragraphs 10 to 13.

follow-up factsheets prepared by the Commission for each case in 2025. Accordingly, the follow-up status of merits reports published as of December 31, 2025 is as follows:

Case	Country	Link	To determine the level of compliance	Full	Partial	Pending compliance	Status
Case 11.732, Report No. 83/09, Horacio Aníbal Schillizzi	Argentina				X		Closed
Case 12.324, Report No. 66/12, Rubén Luis Godoy	Argentina				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.632, Report No. 43/15, Adriana Beatriz Gallo, Ana María Careaga, and Silvia Maluf De Christin	Argentina	Link			X		Open
Case 12.681, Report No. A108:A118268/21, Marcos Alejandro Martín	Argentina			X			Closed[9]
Case 12.692, Report No. 109/25, M.E.F.	Argentina	Link				X	Open
Case 12.704, Report No. 17/25 Ramón Nicolás Guarino	Argentina	Link			X		Open
Case 12.721, Report No. 460/21, Ángel Pedro Falanga	Argentina	Link			X		Open
Case 12.935, Report 110/25, Hebe Sanchez de Amendola and daughters	Argentina	Link			X		Open
Case 13.055, Report No. 45/25, Julio César Rito de los Santos et al.	Argentina	Link			X		Open
Case 13.079, Report No. 111/25, Diego Armando Pacheco	Argentina	Link			X		Open
Case 13.092, Report No. 112/25, Héctor Leonardo Kemelmajen and Rafael Chaikin	Argentina	Link				X	Open
Case 12.053, Report No. 40/04, Maya Indigenous Communities of the Toledo District	Belize	Link			X		Open
Case 10.301, Report No. 40/03, Parque São Lucas	Brazil	Link			X		Open
Case 11.517, Report No. 23/02, Diniz Bento da Silva	Brazil	Link			X		Open
Case 11.556, Report No. 32/04, Corumbiara	Brazil	Link			X		Open

Case 11.634, Report No. 33/04, Jailton Neri da Fonseca	Brazil	Link			X		Open
Case 12.001, Report No. 66/06, Simone André Diniz	Brazil	Link			X		Open
Case 12.019, Report No. 35/08 Antonio Ferreira Braga	Brazil	Link			X		Open
Case 12.051, Report No. 54/01, Maria da Penha Maia Fernandes	Brazil	Link			X		Open
Case 12.213, Report No. 7/16, Aristeu Guida da Silva and family members	Brazil	Link			X		Open
Case 12.308, Report No. 37/10, Manoel Leal de Oliveira	Brazil	Link			X		Open
Case 12.310, Report No. 25/09 Sebastião Camargo Filho	Brazil	Link			X		Open
Case 12.332, Report No. 31/20, Margarida Maria Alves and family members	Brazil				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.440, Report No. 26/09 Wallace de Almeida	Brazil				X		Under study for archiving
Cases 11.286, 11.406, 11.407, 11.412, 11.413, 11.415, 11.416, and 11.417, Report No. 55/01, Aluísio Cavalcante and others	Brazil				X		Under study for archiving
Case 11.661, Report No. 8/16, Manickavasagam Suresh	Canada				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.586, Report No. 78/11, John Doe	Canada				X		Under study for archiving
Case 11.725, Report No. 139/99, Carmelo Soria Espinoza	Chile	Link			X		Open
Case 11.771, Report No. 61/01, Samuel Alfonso Catalán Lincoleo	Chile	Link			X		Open
Case 12.142, Report No. 90/05, Alejandra Marcela Matus Acuña et al.	Chile			X			Closed
Case 12.469, Report No. 56/10, Margarita Barbería Miranda	Chile			X			Closed
Case 12.799, Report No. 48/16, Miguel Ángel Millar Silva and others (Radio Estrella del Mar de Melinka)	Chile	Link			X		Open
Case 12.880, Report 458/21, Edmundo Alex Lemun Saavedra et al.	Chile	Link			X		Open

Case 10.455, Report No. 45/17, Valentín Basto Calderón et al.	Colombia	Link			X		Open
Case 10.916, Report No. 79/11, James Zapata Valencia and José Heriberto Ramírez	Colombia	Link			X		Open
Case 11.010, Report No. 15/95, Hildegard María Feldman et al.	Colombia	Link			X		Open
Case 11.101, Report 36/00, "Caloto" Massacre	Colombia	Link			X		Open
Case 11.654, Report No. 62/01, Ríofrío Masacre	Colombia	Link			X		Open
Case 11.656, Report No. 122/18, Marta Lucía Álvarez Giraldo	Colombia	Link			X		Open
Case 11.710, Report No. 63/01, Carlos Manuel Prada González and Evelio Antonio Bolaño Castro	Colombia	Link			X		Open
Case 11.712, Report No. 64/01, Leonel de Jesús Isaza Echeverry	Colombia	Link			X		Open
Case 11.726, Report No. 96/ 19, Norberto Javier Restrepo	Colombia	Link			X		Open
Case 12.009, Report No. 43/08, Leydi Dayan Sanchez	Colombia			X			Closed
Case 12.414, Report No. 101/17, Alcides Torres Arias, Ángel David Quintero et al.	Colombia	Link			X		Open
Case 12.448, Report No. 44/08, Sergio Emilio Cadena Antolinez	Colombia			X			Closed
Case 12.713, Report No. 35/17, José Rusbel Lara et al.	Colombia				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.780, Report No. 25/20, Carlos Arturo Betancourt Estrada and Family	Colombia	Link			X		Open
Case 12.936, Report No. 89/25, Oscar Alfonso Morales Díaz	Colombia	Link				X	Open
Case 12.952, Report No. 37/25, Mariela del Carmen Echeverría de Sanguino	Colombia			X			Closed[14]
Case 12.127, Report No. 27/18, Vladimiro Roca Antunez et al.	Cuba					X	Under study for archiving
Case 12.476, Report No. 67/06, Oscar Elías Biscet et al.	Cuba	Link			X		Open

Case 12.477, Report No. 68/06, Lorenzo Enrique Copello Castillo et al.	Cuba	Link				X	Open
Case 13.639, Report No. 297/21, Yoani María Sánchez Cordero	Cuba					X	Under study for archiving
Case 14.196, Report No. 83/23, Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas et al.	Cuba	Link				X	Open
Case 11.444, Report No. 457/21, Amparo Constante Merizalde	Ecuador	Link			X		Open
Case 11.624, Report No. 92/19, Jorge Darwin and Family	Ecuador				X		Under study for archiving
Case 11.992, Report No. 66/01, Dayra María Levoyer Jiménez	Ecuador				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.393, Report No. 44/17, James Judge	Ecuador			X			Closed
Case 12.487, Report No. 36/08, Rafael Ignacio Cuesta Caputi	Ecuador	Link			X		Open
Case 12.525, Report No. 84/09, Nelson Iván Serano Sáenz	Ecuador	Link			X		Open
Case 12.931, Report 328/21, Daría Olinda Puertocarrero Hurtado	Ecuador			X			Closed[16]
Case 11.481, Report No. 37/00, Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez	El Salvador	Link			X		Open
Case 12.249, Report No. 27/09, Jorge Odir Miranda Cortez et al.	El Salvador				X		Under study for archiving
Case 11.765, Report No. 55/02, Paul Lallion	Grenada	Link			X		Open
Case 12.028, Report No. 47/01, Donnason Knights	Grenada	Link			X		Open
Case 12.158, Report No. 56/02 Benedict Jacob	Grenada	Link			X		Open
Case 10.626 Remigio Domingo Morales and Rafael Sánchez; Case 10.627 Pedro Tau Cac; Case 11.198 (A) José María Ixcaya Pixtay and others; Case 10.799 Catalino Chochoy and others; Case 10.751 Juan Galicia Hernández and others, and Case 10.901 Antulio Delgado, Report No. 59/01, Remigio Domingo Morales and others	Guatemala				X		Under study for archiving

Case 10.855, Report No. 100/05, Pedro García Chuc	Guatemala				X		Under study for archiving
Case 11.171, Report No. 69/06, Tomas Lares Cipriano	Guatemala				X		Under study for archiving
Case 11.382, Report No. 57/02, Finca "La Exacta"	Guatemala				X		Under study for archiving
Case 11.625, Report No. 4/01, María Eugenia Morales de Sierra	Guatemala	Link			X		Open
Case 11.658, Report No. 80/07, Martín Pelicó Coxic	Guatemala				X		Under study for archiving
Case 9.111, Report No. 60/01, Ileana del Rosario Solares Castillo et al.	Guatemala	Link			X		Open
Case 9.207, Report No. 58/01, Oscar Manuel Gramajo López	Guatemala				X		Under study for archiving
Case 9.961, Report No. 62/90, José María García Portillo	Guatemala	Link				X	Open
Case 12.264, Report No. 1/06, Franz Britton	Guyana					X	Under study for archiving
Case 12.504, Report No. 81/07, Daniel and Kornel Vaux	Guyana				X		Under study for archiving
Case 13.083, Report No. 8/24, Akawaio Indigenous Community of Isseneru and its members	Guyana	Link				X	
Case 11.335, Report No. 78/02, Guy Malary	Haiti					X	Under study for archiving
Case 12.069, Report No. 50/01, Damion Thomas	Jamaica				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.183, Report No. 127/01, Joseph Thomas	Jamaica				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.275, Report No. 58/02, Denton Aitken	Jamaica	Link			X		Open
Case 12.347, Report No. 76/02, Dave Sewell	Jamaica				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.417, Report No. 41/04, Whitley Myrie	Jamaica				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.418, Report No. 92/05, Michael Gayle	Jamaica				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.447, Report No. 61/06, Derrick Tracey	Jamaica				X		Under study for archiving

Case 13.095, Report No. 401/20, T.B. and S.H.	Jamaica	Link				X	Open
Case No. 13.637, Report No. 400/20, Gareth Henry and Simone Carline Edwards	Jamaica	Link				X	Open
Cases 11.826, 11.843, 11.846 and 11.847, Report No. 49/01, Leroy Lamey, Kevin Mykoo, Milton Montique, and Dalton Daley	Jamaica				X		Under study for archiving
Case 11.430, Report No. 43/96, José Francisco Gallardo Rodríguez	Mexico	Link			X		Open
Case 11.564, Report No. 51/16, Gilberto Jiménez Hernández et al. (La Grandeza)	Mexico	Link			X		Open
Case 11.565, Report No. 53/01, González Pérez Sisters	Mexico	Link			X		Open
Case 11.740, Report No. 130/99, Victor Manuel Oropeza	Mexico	Link				X	Open
Case 12.130, Report No. 2/06, Miguel Orlando Muñoz Guzmán	Mexico	Link				X	Open
Case 12.228, Report No. 117/09, Alfonso Martín del Campo Dodd	Mexico	Link			X		Open
Case 12.551, Report No. 51/13, Paloma Angélica Escobar Ledezma et al.	Mexico	Link			X		Open
Case 12.689, Report No. 80/15, J.S.C.H. and M.G.S.	Mexico			X			Closed
Case 11.381, Report No. 100/01, Milton García Fajardo	Nicaragua	Link			X		Open
Case 11.506, Report No. 77/02, Waldemar Geronimo Pinheiro and Jose Victor Dos Santos	Paraguay				X		Under study for archiving
Case 11.607, Report No. 85/09, Víctor Hugo Maciel	Paraguay				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.431, Report No. 121/10, Carlos Alberto Majoli	Paraguay			X			Closed
Case 11.800, Report No. 110/00, César Cabrejos Bernuy	Peru			X			Closed
Cases referred to in joint press release P-1193-CA, February 22, 2021	Peru	Link	X[23]				Open

Case 12.071, Report No. 459/21, Cuban and Haitian Nationals Detained at and Deported from the Carmichael Road Detention Center	The Bahamas	Link				X	Open
Case 12.231, Report No. 12/14, Peter Cash	The Bahamas				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.265, Report No. 78/07, Chad Roger Goodman	The Bahamas				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.513, Report No. 79/07, Prince Pinder	The Bahamas				X		Under study for archiving
Cases 12.067, 12.068, and 12.086, Report No. 48/01, Michael Edwards, Omar Hall, Brian Schroeter, and Jeronimo Bowleg	The Bahamas				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.269, Report No. 28/09, Dexter Lendore	Trinidad and Tobago					X	Under study for archiving
Case 10.573, Report No. 121/18, José Isabel Salas Galindo and others	United States	Link				X	Open
Case 11.140, Report No. 75/02, Mary and Carrie Dann	United States	Link				X	Open
Case 11.193, Report No. 97/03, Shaka Sankofa	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 11.204, Report No. 98/03, Statehood Solidarity Committee	United States	Link				X	Open
Case 11.331, Report No. 99/03, Cesar Fierro	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 11.575, 12.333, and 12.341, Report No. 52/13, Clarence Allen Lackey et al.; Miguel Ángel Flores, James Wilson Chambers	United States					X	Under study for archiving
Case 11.753, Report No. 52/02, Ramón Martinez Villarreal	United States	Link			X		Open
Case 12.240, Report No. 100/03, Douglas Christopher Thomas	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.243, Report No. 52/01, Juan Raúl Garza	United States					X	Under study for archiving
Case 12.254, Report No. 24/17, Víctor Hugo Saldaño	United States	Link				X	Open

Case 12.285, Report No. 62/02, Michael Domingues	United States			X			Closed
Case 12.412, Report No. 101/03, Napoleón Beazley	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.421, Report No. 91/05, Javier Suarez Medina	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.422, Report No. 13/14, Abu-Ali Abdur' Rahman	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.430, Report No. 1/05, Roberto Moreno Ramos	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.439, Report No. 25/05, Toronto Markkey Patterson	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.446, Report No. 264/23, Tracy Lee Housel	United States	Link				X	Open
Case 12.505, Report No. 462/21, Marlin Gray	United States					X	Under study for archiving
Case 12.534, Report No. 63/08, Andrea Mortlock	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.545, Merits Report No. 26/20, Isamu Carlos Shibayama, Kenichi Javier Shibayama, Takeshi Jorge Shibayama	United States	Link				X	Open
Case 12.626, Report No. 80/11, Jessica Lenahan González	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.644, Report No. 90/09, Medellín, Ramírez Cárdenas, and Leal García	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.719, Report No. 28/20, Orlando Cordia Hall	United States					X	Under study for archiving
Case 12.754, Report No. 27/20, Nvwtohiyada Idehesdi Sequoyah	United States					X	Under study for archiving
Case 12.776, Report No. 81/11, Jeffrey Timothy Landrigan	United States					X	Under study for archiving
Case 12.831, Report No. 78/15, Kevin Cooper	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case No. 12.832, Report No. 455/21, Gregory Thompson	United States	Link				X	Open
Case 12.833, Report No. 11/15, Felix Rocha Diaz	United States					X	Under study for archiving
Case 12.834, Report No. 50/16, Undocumented Workers	United States					X	Under study for archiving

Case 12.864, Report No. 53/13, Iván Teleguz	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.865, Merits Report No. 29/20, Djamel Ameziane	United States	Link				X	Open
Case 12.871, Report 333/21, Virgilio Maldonado Rodríguez	United States					X	Under study for archiving
Case 12.873, Report No. 44/14, Edgar Tamayo Arias	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 12.958, Report No. 71/18, Russell Bucklew	United States					X	Under study for archiving
Case 12.994, Report No. 79/15, Bernardo Aban Tercero	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Case 13.339, Report No. 453/21, Manuel Valle	United States					X	Under study for archiving
Case 13.352, Report No. 263/23, Jurijus Kadamovas et al.	United States	Link				X	Open
Case 13.356, Report No. 200/20, Nelson Iván Serrano Sáenz	United States	Link				X	Open
Case 13.361, Report No. 210/20, Julius Omar Robinson	United States					X	Under study for archiving
Case 13.394, Report No. 461/21, Pete Carl Rogovich	United States	Link				X	Open
Case 13.478, Report No. 451/21, José Trinidad Loza Ventura	United States	Link				X	Open
Case No. 13.570, Report No. 211/20, Lezmond C. Mitchell,	United States	Link				X	Open
Case 13.829, Report No. 456/21, Ramiro Ibarra Rubi	United States	Link				X	Open
Case 14.042, Report No. 60/25 Anastasio Hernandez Rojas and Family	United States	Link				X	Open
Case 9.903, Report No. 51/01, Rafael Ferrer Mazorra et al.	United States				X		Under study for archiving
Cases 12.561, No. 12.562, Report No. 81/10, Wayne Smith, Hugo Armendariz, et al.	United States	Link				X	Open
Case No. 11.500, Report No. 124/06, Tomás Eduardo Cirio	Uruguay			X			Closed
Case 12.553, Report No. 86/09, Jorge, José, and Dante Peirano Basso	Uruguay	Link			X		Open
Total: 156			1	**13**	**97**	**44**	

5. Activities carried out in the follow-up process in 2025

844. With regard to the follow-up of individual cases provided for in Article 48 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure, during 2025, the Commission focused on increasing the number of follow-up actions carried out throughout the year to build shared road maps for compliance with the recommendations and to re-establish or maintain contact with States, representatives of victims and victims of cases in relation to which it had not received information in recent years.

845. As part of the work to update the follow-up factsheets for inclusion in the 2025 Annual Report, the Commission sent 160 letters to the States and petitioners (two for each of the 80 cases under follow-up), requesting information on compliance with the recommendations during the year. As a result, 80 responses were received, representing 48.7% of the total requests sent to both parties. Of those responses, 18.9% (31 responses) were sent by the States and 29.8% (49 responses) by the petitioners.

846. In addition, the IACHR held bilateral videoconference meetings on different cases with petitioners, victims, and State representatives. In this regard, bilateral meetings were held regarding case 12.525, Nelson Iván Serrano Sáenz, regarding Ecuador (April 24, 2025); and case 11.101, "Caloto" Massacre, regarding Colombia.

847. In addition, during 2025, the Commission continued to promote portfolio review meetings, that is, coordination meetings with the States to discuss the progress achieved and the challenges faced in complying with the recommendations in the cases under follow-up. These meetings were held with the States of Chile (April 4), Guatemala (August 26), Argentina (April 29 and October 1), and Peru (November 6). In addition, at the request of the State, the IACHR held a working meeting on December 1, 2025, with the Mexican State, the petitioners, and the victim in Case 12.228, Alfonso Martín del Campo Dodd.

848. By way of requests for information to the parties to each case, working meetings, bilateral and portfolio meetings, and the relay of information between the parties, in 2025, the Commission monitored compliance in 100 percent of the open cases whose merits reports were published after 2001 pursuant to Article 51 of the American Convention on Human Rights or Article 47 of its Rules of Procedure.

6. Relevant results

a. Progress achieved in 2025 in the implementation of recommendations issued in published merits reports

849. Progress in complying with the recommendations issued by the Commission advanced significantly in 2025, driven by the importance that this mandate has acquired in the Commission's work agenda, particularly within the framework of Program 8 of the 2023–2027 Strategic Plan. The IACHR also recognizes the valuable commitment of the States and of the victims and their representatives in the follow-up processes, which has enabled favorable results to be achieved in levels of compliance.

850. The Commission notes that compliance with the recommendations and compliance agreements clauses is the result of a complex process that involves a sound and continuous interaction among the users of the inter-American human rights system. For this reason, the Commission reaffirms its commitment to implementing all measures within its reach to promote continuous and effective compliance with the recommendations issued to ensure greater enjoyment and safeguarding of human rights in the region.

851. In 2025, the Commission followed up on 80 cases in which merits reports have been published under Article 51 of the American Convention or Article 47 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure. These reports contained a total of 415 recommendations and 144 compliance agreements involving 18 States. During the period under review, no case experienced a change in its overall level of compliance; however, specific recommendations advanced in their level of compliance, as detailed below. In 2025, nine new cases had merits reports published and were incorporated into the follow-up portfolio, while 9 cases were submitted for

analysis for potential archiving due to the lack of procedural momentum on the part of the victims' representatives.

852. Based on the follow-up carried out in 2025, the Commission determined that 3 reparation measures reached full compliance, 5 reparation measures reached substantial partial compliance, and 2 reparation measures attained partial compliance. It also noted an increase in the number of measures implemented by States to advance fulfillment of their obligations: whereas 13 measures were implemented in 2024, 24 were documented in 2025 (adopted by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Jamaica, and Mexico). The following table provides a detailed description of these 24 measures and their specific contribution to compliance with the recommendations and clauses contained in the respective compliance agreements.

Case	Scope of the compliance measure	Recommendation or clause of the compliance agreement	Results reported	Level of compliance in 2025
Argentina				
Case 12.935 Hebe Sanchez de Amendola and daughters	Individual	Recommendation 2	Issuance of arbitration award on March 25, 2025.	Substantial partial compliance
Brazil				
Case 12.001, Simone André Diniz	Structural	Recommendation 5	1. Decree 12.514 of June 16, 2025, establishing the Mais Igualdade Program, strengthening SINAPIR, and establishing the Casas da Igualdade Racial. 2. MIR Regulatory Instruction No. 303 of August 21, 2025, governing the accession of intermunicipal consortia to the SINAPIR, expanding its territorial reach. 5. Action Plan of the Anti-Racism Strategy for Health, approved on February 21, 2025, by the Ministry of Health, defining pillars, indicators and goals to address institutional racism in the health system. 4. CNJ Regulatory Instruction No. 100 of April 10, 2025, governing the IPER and obligations for systematic annual training, data disaggregated by race and color, diversity committees, regular audits, and representativeness targets in the judicial branch.	Substantial partial compliance

			5. A Human Rights Council resolution against racism in sports presented by Brazil, approved by consensus on October 7, 2025, reinforcing commitments and international cooperation in this area. 6. First State Seminar on Public Policies to Combat Racism, Paraná. 7. Seminar "The role of the SUAS in protection and in addressing racism," organized by Sepromi, Bahia. 8. National seminar on public security, racism, and intersectionalities in Brazil, São Paulo. 9. Second National Course on the Racial Equity Statements of the CNJ, organized by the STJ, CJF, CNJ, and ENFAM, with support from the MIR, Salvador.	
Case 12.001, Simone André Diniz	Structural	Recommendation 3	1. Grant financial support to enable the victim to study and complete higher education.	Full compliance
Chile				
Case 11.725, Carmelo Soria Espinoza	Individual	Recommendation 1	Guillermo Salinas Torres was arrested and returned to prison in December 2024.	Substantial partial compliance
Case 12.880, Edmundo Alex Lemun Saavedra et al.	Individual	Recommendation 1	Signing of deeds for the delivery of land to the Lemún Saavedra family at a ceremony held in Temuco in March 2025.	Substantial partial compliance
Case 12.799, Miguel Angel Millar Silva et al. (Radio Estrella del Mar de Melinka)	Miguel Angel Millar Silva et al. (Radio Estrella del Mar de Melinka)	Recommendation 3	1. Program to promote citizen radio broadcasting in Regions X and XI, with emphasis on Chiloé and Guaitecas, in collaboration with the petitioners. 2. The creation of a permanent Roundtable to evaluate regulatory and development proposals, follow-up on the repeal of Article 36.b of the Telecommunications Law and the extension of the FM dial. 3. Participation in CHILEVALORA	Partial compliance

			to develop job profiles related to broadcasting. 4. Joint design of a Training and Certification Plan in the regions of Los Ríos, Los Lagos and Aysén. 5. Participation in the project "Strengthening public and community media in Mexico and Chile" 2023-2024. 6. Design of an International Seminar on International Standards on Access to Free and Inclusive Broadcasting and Implementation of Law No. 20.433 on the Creation of Community Broadcasting Services.	
Jamaica				
Case 13.637, Garreth Henry and Simone Carline Edwards	Structural	Recommendation 2	1. Jamaica Constabulary Force Policy on Diversity. 2. Revised National HIV Policy. 5. Vision for Health 2030. 4. Health and Family Life Education Curriculum.	Partial compliance
Mexico				
Case 12.228, Alfonso Martin del Campo Dodd	Individual	Recommendation 3	On August 11, 2025, the State published Report on Merits No. 117/09 in the Official Gazette of the Federation, thereby complying with clause 2.2 of the Compliance Agreement (recommendation 3).	Full compliance
Case 12.551, Paloma Angélica Escobar Ledezma et al.	Individual	Recommendation 9	Publication and distribution of the book "Justicia para Nuestras Hijas," in full compliance with Clause 9B of the Compliance Agreement in 2025.	Substantial partial compliance
Colombia				
Case 11.710, Carlos Manuel Prada González and Evelio Antonio Bolaño Castro	Structural	Recommendation	Indemnification of the victims' families under resolutions 4600, 4601, 4602, and 4603 of October 27, 2009.	Full compliance

853. The Commission applauds the steps taken by the States of Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia in 2025 to achieve full compliance with reparation measures, including recommendations issued in published merits reports and clauses of compliance agreements, and welcomes the progress made in the implementation of these decisions. At the same time, the Commission takes this opportunity to urge all OAS Member States to comply with the recommendations issued in its merits reports published under Article 51 of the American Convention on Human Rights, so that full compliance can be attained and progress can be made towards the cessation of follow-up of such matters.

854. In addition, eight cases included one recommendation that changed its status to noncompliant:

- Case 11.517, Diniz Bento Da Silva, Brazil.
- Case 11.556, Corumbiara, Brazil.
- Case 11.634, Jailton Neri Da Fonseca, Brazil.
- Case 12.019, Antonio Ferreira Braga, Brazil.
- Case 12.213, Aristeu Guida Da Silva and Family, Brazil.
- Case 12.310, Sebastião Camargo Filho, Brazil.
- Case 11.564, Gilberto Jimenez Hernández (La Grandeza), Mexico.
- Case 11.740, Victor Manuel Oropeza, Mexico.

b. Cases with no information submitted in 2025

855. The Commission indicates that it did not receive information from any of the parties to the 20 cases below as of the closing date of the present report, neither in response to the Commission's requests for information to be used as input for the Annual Report nor prior to that request:

- 11.430, José Francisco Gallardo Rodríguez, Mexico
- 11.481, Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero, El Salvador
- 12.158, Benedict Jacob, Grenada
- 11.765, Paul Lallion, Grenada
- 12.028, Donnason Knights, Grenada
- 11.771, Samuel Alfonso Catalán Lincoleo, Chile
- 13.095, T.B and S.H, Jamaica
- 12.275, Denton Aitken, Jamaica
- 11.381, Milton García Fajardo, Nicaragua
- 12.545, Isamu Carlos Shibayama, Kenichi Javier Shibayama, and Takeshi Jorge Shibayama, United States
- 11.753, Ramon Martinez Villarreal, United States
- 10.573, José Isabel Salas Galindo and others, United States
- 13.352, Jurijus Kadamovas et al., United States
- 12.832, Gregory Thompson, United States
- 11.140, Mary and Carrie Dann, United States

- 13.083, Isseneru Indigenous Community, Guyana
- 12.721, Angel Pedro Falanga, Argentina
- 13.079, Diego Armando Pacheco, Argentina
- 12.476, Oscar Elías Biscet and others, Cuba
- 11.444, Amparo Constante Merizalde, Ecuador
- 12.487, Rafael Ignacio Cuesta Caputi, Ecuador

856. The Commission urges the parties to submit updated information on the actions undertaken by the States to comply with the recommendations issued by the Commission in these cases.

F. Precautionary Measures

1. Introduction

857. Precautionary measures in the Inter-American Human Rights System are part of a protection mechanism of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), through which a State is required to protect one or more individuals who are at serious and urgent risk of suffering irreparable harm. Any person or organization may submit a request for precautionary measures in favor of an identified or identifiable individual or group of individuals who are at risk.

858. The precautionary measures mechanism has more than four decades of history in the inter-American system and has served as an effective tool to protect the fundamental rights of the people of the States under the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Commission. The capacity of the IACHR to request the adoption of precautionary measures shows a common practice in international human rights law. In the particular context of the region, it has operated as an effective instrument of protection and prevention against potential serious and irreparable harm to persons or groups of persons facing situations presenting an imminent risk.

859. The precautionary measures are part of the Commission's function of overseeing compliance with the human rights obligations set forth in Article 106 of the Charter of the Organization of American States. These general oversight functions are provided for in Article 41(b) of the American Convention on Human Rights, as well as in Article 18(b) of the Statute of the IACHR. The mechanism of precautionary measures is set forth in Article 25 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. In accordance with this Article, the Commission grants precautionary measures in serious and urgent situations in which these measures are necessary to avoid irreparable harm to persons. In the process of reaching a decision, according to Article 25(2) of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission considers that:

a. "serious situation" refers to a grave impact that an action or omission can have on a protected right or on the eventual effect of a pending decision in a case or petition before the organs of the inter-American system;

b. "urgent situation" refers to risk or threat that is imminent and can materialize, thus requiring immediate preventive or protective action; and

c. "irreparable harm" refers to injury to rights which, due to their nature, would not be susceptible to reparation, restoration or adequate compensation.

860. The nature and purpose of the precautionary measures granted by the Inter-American Commission differ from those available in national jurisdictions. Precautionary measures have a dual nature related to the protection of fundamental rights under the regulations of the inter-American system. The Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ("the Inter-American Court" or "I/A

Court H.R.") have repeatedly established that precautionary and provisional measures have a dual nature, both protective and precautionary.[212] With respect to their precautionary nature, these measures may be intended to prevent the enforcement of judicial, administrative or other measures that may render ineffective an eventual decision of the IACHR on an individual petition. These measures aim to safeguard the rights at risk until the petition pending before the inter-American system is resolved. In this way, they seek to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of an eventual decision on the merits, and, thus, avoid any further infringement of the rights at issue, a situation that may adversely affect the useful effect *(effet utile)* of the final decision. An example of this can be seen in those situations in which the IACHR has urged the State to suspend the application of the death penalty, in order to allow the Commission to later analyze in the petition or case the alleged violations reported by the applicants in relation to the applicable instruments.

861. With regard to the protective nature, the measures seek to prevent irreparable harm and thus preserve the exercise of human rights. These factors have led to the granting of precautionary measures in a wide range of situations, particularly in order to avoid irreparable harm against the life and personal integrity of the beneficiaries. To do this, the IACHR shall assess the problem raised, the effectiveness of state actions to address the situation described, and how vulnerable the proposed beneficiaries would be left in case the measures are not adopted.[213] For example, matters concerning disappearances, access to medical treatments, situations involving threats, harassment and persecution, including those connected to the beneficiary's work or affiliation, among several other circumstances.

862. Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR establishes that the granting of such measures and their adoption by the State shall not constitute a prejudgment on the violation of the rights protected under the American Convention on Human Rights or other applicable instruments. Furthermore, the IACHR emphasizes that, pursuant to Article 25(6) of its Rules of Procedure, the analysis of a request for precautionary measures is carried out taking into account the context, the particularities of each specific situation, and the nature of the risk and the harm that is sought to be avoided.

863. Precautionary measures have been sought to protect thousands of people or groups of people who are at risk. In 2025, these groups mainly included persons deprived of liberty, human rights defenders, missing persons, and persons in situations of human mobility.

2. Requests for precautionary measures

864. In 2025, the IACHR continued to implement Resolution 3/2018 "Strengthening of the processing of requests for precautionary measures," which has been strengthening the initial study methodology of the requests received. Resolution 3/2018 streamlined the processing of matters that, historically and consistently, the Commission has considered unsuitable for analysis through the mechanism of precautionary measures, as they would require an analysis of the merits of the matter itself, which is specific to the petition and case system.[214] In addition, Resolution 3/2018 established criteria that allow for the

[212] See in this regard: Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.), Matter of the Yare I and Yare II Capital Region Penitentiary Center (Yare Prison), Provisional Measures regarding the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Order of March 30, 2006, considerandum 5; Case of Carpio Nicolle et al. v. Guatemala, Provisional Measures, Order of July 6, 2009, considerandum 16 (Available only in Spanish).

[213] See in this regard: I/A Court H.R., Matter of Milagro Sala, Provisional Measures regarding Argentina, Order of November 23, 2017, considerandum 5 (Available only in Spanish); Matter of Capital El Rodeo I and El Rodeo II Judicial Confinement Center, Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of February 8, 2008, considerandum 9; Matter of the Criminal Institute of Plácido de Sá Carvalho, Provisional Measures regarding Brazil, Order of February 13, 2017, considerandum 6 (Available only in Spanish).

[214] In this regard, the Commission recalls that, in accordance with its established practice, the mechanism of precautionary measures is not suitable for addressing requests that deal strictly with matters or claims such as the following: i) alleged violations of due process and judicial protection in criminal or civil proceedings (Articles 8 and 25 of the ACHR and Article XVIII of the American Declaration); ii) determination of the compatibility, in abstract terms, of a regulation with the American Convention or other applicable instruments; iii) payment of pecuniary compensations, including civil and commercial proceedings, pensions, and other related issues; iv) allegedly unjustified dismissals of personnel of private or public companies not elected by popular vote, payment of salaries, determinations on promotions and vacations; v) commercial or civil attachment of property and evictions where no situations presenting a risk to life or personal integrity are alleged; vi) requests for resources or financial support; vii) strictly administrative proceedings,

deactivation of requests for precautionary measures in which no response was received from the applicants during the established deadlines.[215]

865. Thus, requests for precautionary measures continue to be assessed[216] per day and classified according to the information available regarding their respective urgency. This allows the IACHR to prioritize requests in which greater elements of urgency are identified, in accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, favoring more expeditious decision-making regarding matters that present indications of imminent risk.

866. During 2025, the Commission received **1969** new requests for precautionary measures, managing to evaluate 84.71% of them in the same year. That number represents an increase of 557 requests with respect to those received in the previous year, almost **40%**. This is a **record number of requests for precautionary measures received,** which has exceeded even the record of 2018, when 1,618 requests were registered in the context of the human rights crisis in Nicaragua. In 2025, requests increased by approximately **66%** compared to the average annual volume observed between 2020 and 2024.

867. In 2025, a higher number of requests were received with respect to different countries. In percentage terms, the countries with the most significant increases were El Salvador (208.3%), Cuba (166.6%), Argentina (113.4%), the United States (111.5%), Brazil (83.2%), Guatemala (59.2%) and Venezuela (56.2%; while in the number of requests received, the countries with the highest increases were Brazil (124 more requests than in 2024), Colombia (116 more requests), Argentina (101 more requests), the United States (51 more requests) and Venezuela (36 more requests). There were also increases in the number of requests received regarding other countries, although to a lesser extent.

868. In all these countries, the increase in requests received is due, in part, to requests for protection for persons facing risks to their lives, personal integrity and health in situations of deprivation of liberty, including situations involving persons with indications of forced disappearance and persons whose whereabouts are unknown. In the cases of the United States and El Salvador, the increase is due in part to requests regarding people in situations related to human mobility (as a result from the immigration and asylum policies and measures implemented by the current administration in the United States.[217] In Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador and Venezuela requests regarding human rights defenders who face risks in the development of their work also explain the increase registered. In Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico there have been complaints alleging violations of ESCER. Lastly, the IACHR continued to receive requests regarding missing persons in Venezuela since the intensification of persecution against human rights defenders and political opponents in the post-election context.

869. At the same time, in 2025, the IACHR continued to review the requests for precautionary measures pending a final decision based on chronological criteria. In this regard, the processing of all the precautionary measures registered for 2022 was concluded, taking a final decision, as well as 99.38% of the requests registered in 2023, and 97.59% of those registered in 2024.

870. As a result of the evaluations carried out, in 2025 the IACHR granted and/or extended 73 precautionary measures through 65 resolutions, for the protection of more than 7681 people. The scenario of increased requests for precautionary measures this year implied an additional effort to guarantee the success in the opportunity of responses to high-risk requests, such as those related to the protection of people whose

including the issuance of certificates, expediting proceedings, and declaratory resolutions. For more information, see Resolution 3/2018 on "Strengthening the processing of precautionary measures."

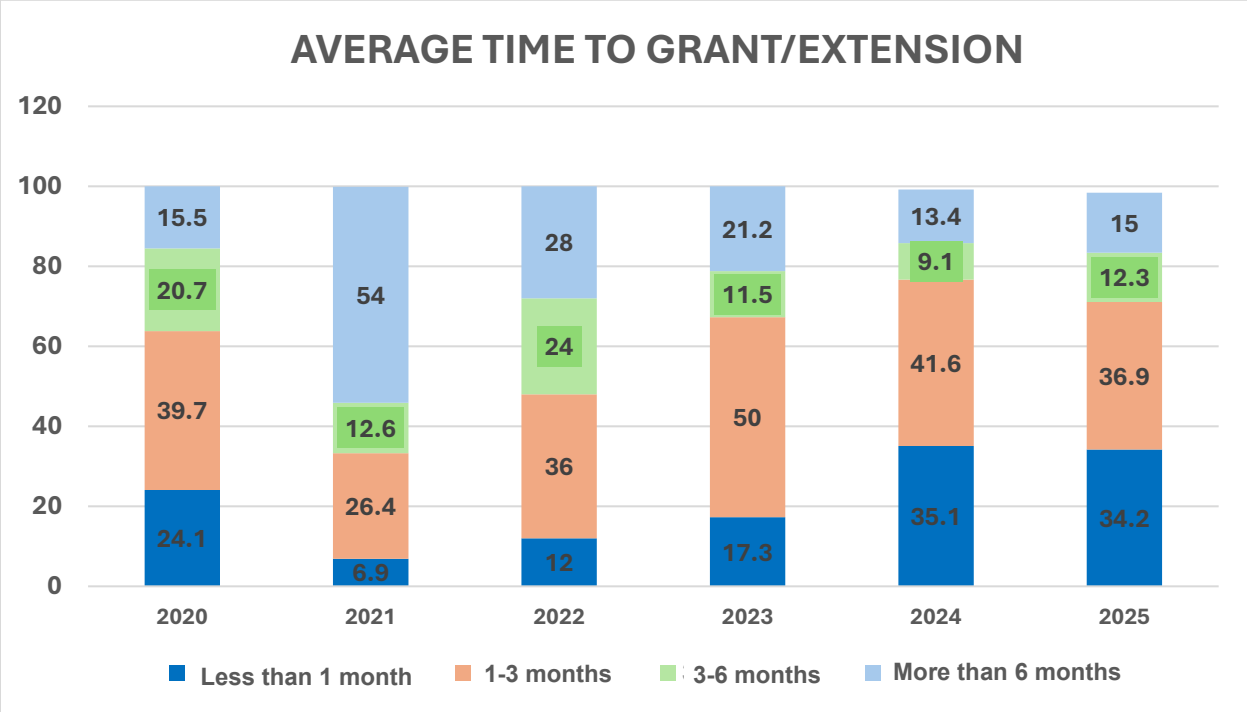
[215] The Commission recalls that a new request for precautionary measures may be filed.

[216] The initial diagnosis evaluates what the matter is about and assesses its degree of urgency, allowing the Commission to prioritize situations of greater risk. This diagnosis is different from the legal evaluation of the matter, which refers to the technical analysis of whether a request meets the procedural requirements for the granting of a precautionary measure.

[217] IACHR, Press Release 37/25, IACHR expresses concern over recent migration and asylum policies and measures in the United States, February 12, 2025.

whereabouts or destination is unknown.[218] In some cases, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in exceptionally short terms, such as only two days for the human rights defender and executive director of Espacio Público, Carlos José Correa Barros, who was reportedly detained on January 7, 2025, in Venezuela, and whose whereabouts were unknown.[219]

871. As a result of this effort, the Commission managed to grant 71.1% of precautionary measures in less than 90 days after their registration, guaranteeing the opportunity to attend to imminent situations. In previous years, the figures were as follows: in 2020, 63.8% of the measures granted were processed in less than 90 days; in 2021, 34.9%; in 2022, 48%; 67.3% in 2023; and 76.81% in 2024.



872. Finally, it should be noted that, in 2025, the IACHR's action regarding precautionary measures was impacted by the financing crisis faced by international human rights organizations. Despite the loss of workforce, the Commission managed to deliberate on precautionary measures through 1525 consultations submitted for its consideration.

3. Follow-up on the precautionary measures in force

873. In light of Resolution 2/2020 - "Strengthening of the Monitoring of Precautionary Measures in Force," in 2025, the Commission continued its commitment to States, beneficiaries, and their representatives to strengthen the monitoring of precautionary measures in force, as well as to promote transparency, predictability, and legal certainty in decisions. Resolution 2/2020 provides for the possibility that the IACHR may issue Follow-up Resolutions that warrant a pronouncement to promote compliance with protection measures; as well as to hold working meetings outside of the Periods of Sessions; and to conduct on-site visits to establish closer contact with the beneficiaries and their representatives and state authorities, and to directly assess the status of implementation of the measures and evaluate the current risk.

[218] In 2025, 32.8% of the requests granted/extended seek protection for persons whose whereabouts or destination are unknown.

[219] IACHR, Resolution 3/25, Precautionary Measure No. 16-25, Carlos José Correa Barrios regarding Venezuela, January 10, 2025.

874. In view of the above, and in order to continue improving the monitoring of the measures in force, the Commission adopted a working methodology that allows it to periodically evaluate the precautionary measures in force, both on the suitability and effectiveness of the protection measures adopted by the States, and on the whether the procedural requirements remain met. In this way, the Commission continues to focus on those matters that, due to the ongoing risk under the terms of Article 25, require its due attention.[220] In this regard, the IACHR continued to adopt, at the same time, Resolutions to Lift Precautionary Measures in matters where it no longer finds compliance with the procedural requirements.[221] This work has been carried out since 2020 with the support of the Special Protection Oversight Group (GESP).

875. The portfolio of precautionary measures in force amounts to 655, which cover 85,449 beneficiaries in the region. Regarding the year 2025, **the Commission carried out at least one supervisory action** (working meetings, bilateral meetings, public hearings, follow-up resolutions, on-site visits, requests for information, among others) **in 99% of the precautionary measures in force**. This achievement reflects a change in the model for monitoring measures in force, initiated in 2020, which allows for more regular and comprehensive follow-up on precautionary measures, as well as more timely updates to the IACHR regarding the continuity of threatening events. In the same vein, **the IACHR also managed to ensure that the parties' reports were forwarded at least once a year in 98.77% of the precautionary measures in force.**

876. In 2025, the IACHR was able to execute its strategy of carrying out **on-site visits** to follow up on precautionary measures in force on five occasions:

- **Colombia. From April 22 to 25, 2025, the IACHR visited the cities of Bogotá and Cali to monitor the Colombian State's progress in implementing reparations measures under friendly settlement agreements (ASA) and agreements to comply with recommendations in transition cases, and to meet with authorities and parties involved in precautionary measures.** The delegation was led by the President and Country Rapporteur, Commissioner José Luis Caballero, and the Executive Secretary, Tania Reneaum Panszi. During the visit, meetings were held with authorities, working meetings, and training sessions.[222]
- **Guatemala. From June 4 to 6, 2025, the IACHR visited Guatemala City to hold bilateral and working meetings on precautionary measures and cases in the stage of follow-up of recommendations, as well as to provide training workshops for civil servants and civil society.** The delegation was led by Vice-President and Country Rapporteur Commissioner Andrea Pochak, accompanied by Executive Secretary Tania Reneaum Panszi and a technical team.[223]
- **Brazil. From August 4 to 8, 2025, the IACHR visited Vale do Javari, in the state of Amazonas, Brazil, to monitor compliance with the commitments made within the framework of the Joint Working Group for the implementation of PM 449-22 Bruno Araújo Pereira and Dom Phillips; and 11 members of UNIVAJA.** The delegation was led by Executive Secretary Tania Reneaum Panszi, accompanied by the technical team. In Manaus, Tabatinga, and Atalaia do Norte, the IACHR delegation met with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Police, the Federal Prosecutor's Office, social communicators, beneficiaries, and civil society. It also held a working meeting on the precautionary measure and attended meetings on journalism, communication and disinformation in the Amazon, as well as on the protection of human rights

[220] IACHR, Press Release 201/20, IACHR Reports Implementation of Resolution 2/2020 on Strengthening of the Monitoring of Precautionary Measures in Force, August 17, 2020.

[221] According to Article 25, paragraph 9, of the IACHR Rules of Procedure: The Commission shall evaluate periodically, at its own initiative or at the request of either party, whether to maintain, modify, or lift the precautionary measures in force. At any time, the State may submit a well-founded request for the Commission to revoke the precautionary measures in force. The Commission shall request observations from the beneficiaries before deciding on the State's request. The submission of such a request shall not suspend the precautionary measures in force. IACHR, Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 2013.

[222] IACHR, Press Release 83/25, IACHR concludes working visit to Colombia on friendly settlements and precautionary measures, April 29, 2025.

[223] IACHR, Press Release 120/25, IACHR completes working visit to Guatemala to address precautionary measures and compliance with recommendations, June 13, 2025.

defenders, in addition to visiting the Monument of the Crosses in tribute to Bruno Araújo Pereira and Dom Phillips.

- **Honduras. From October 8 to 10, 2025, the IACHR carried out a working visit in Tegucigalpa with the aim of holding bilateral meetings and working sessions related to precautionary measures.** It also conducted training for representatives of civil society, as well as officials of state institutions. The delegation was led by the Vice-President of the IACHR and Rapporteur for Honduras, Commissioner Andrea Pochak, who was accompanied by the technical team of the Executive Secretariat.[224]
- **Bahamas. On December 3 and 4, 2025, the IACHR conducted a working visit to Nassau, during which the Commission could follow up, on the ground, on precautionary measure 535-14, which protects the people in the Carmichael Road immigration detention center.** The IACHR delegation was led by Commissioner Andrea Pochak, country rapporteur and rapporteur on Human Mobility, and was supported by the Executive Secretariat team.[225]

877. The IACHR also highlights additional follow-up actions in 2025 to bring the parties closer together. A total of 2969 letters were sent to States and representatives, requesting specific information to monitor the implementation of such measures. The IACHR also held bilateral meetings with some of the parties, working meetings with both parties, and public hearings. In 2025, a high number of bilateral meetings were held, with 73 meetings in relation to 102 precautionary measures. In 2024, there were 103 meetings on 137 precautionary measures; in 2023, 107 bilateral meetings on 111 precautionary measures; and in 2022, 75 bilateral meetings on 80 precautionary measures.[226] Additionally, in 2025, 32 working meetings were held with both parties regarding 31 precautionary measures, as well as two public hearings[227] regarding 45 precautionary measures. Likewise, in 2025, the practice of holding working meetings outside the Periods of Sessions was maintained, with 13 such meetings having been held. In addition, the IACHR held six portfolio meetings with the States of Argentina, the Bahamas, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico, in which the requests under analysis and the precautionary measures in force with respect to these States were addressed.

192nd Period of Sessions			
Working Meetings			
No	**PM**	**Beneficiaries**	**State**
1	97-10	Families from the villages of El Vergel and El Pedregal	Colombia
2	235-19	M.R.M.	Colombia
3	649-20	Leyner Palacios Asprilla and his nuclear family	Colombia
4	61-23	Members of the Pataxó Indigenous People located in the Barra Velha and Comexatibá Indigenous Lands	Brazil
5	772-17	Locals who consume water from the Mezapa River	Honduras

[224] IACHR, Press Release 215/25, IACHR completes working visit to Honduras about precautionary measures, October 23, 2025.
[225] IACHR, Press Release 269/25, IACHR concludes visit to The Bahamas, December 17, 2025.
[226] This decrease in the number of bilateral meetings (but not in the precautionary measures addressed in those meetings) is explained by the strategy of holding meetings on several precautionary measures; for example, a meeting was held on 36 precautionary measures regarding Venezuela, in preparation for the hearing to be held during the 194th Period of Sessions.
[227] IACHR, Hearings on Precautionary Measures.

193rd Period of Sessions			
Working Meetings			
No	**PM**	**Beneficiaries**	**State**
6	359-10	Corporación Justicia y Dignidad	Colombia
7	50-24	Members of the Tapeba Indigenous People of Caucaia	Brazil
8	48-18	Adolescent "M"	Mexico
9	458-19	Members of the Guyraroká Community of the Kaiowá Guaraní Indigenous People	Brazil
10	638-24	Gustavo Yaxón Meletz and his family	Guatemala
11	382-10	Traditional Communities of the Xingu River Basin, Pará - Belo Monte	Brazil
12	449-22	Bruno Araújo Pereira and Dom Phillips; and 11 members of UNIVAJA	Brazil

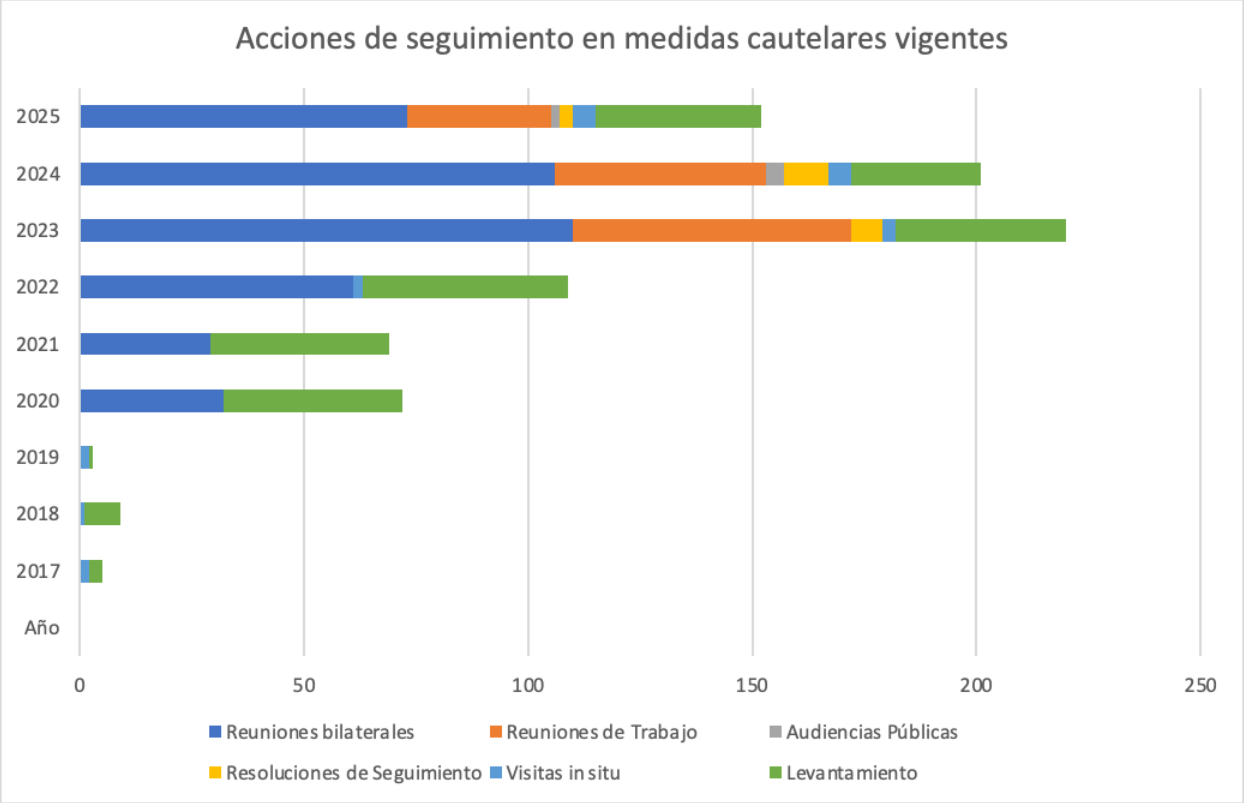
194th Period of Sessions			
Working Meetings			
No	**PM**	**Beneficiaries**	**State**
13	1113-21	Abencio Caicedo and Edinson Valencia	Colombia
14	799-21	John Fernando Marín Marín, Fredemyr Alberto Marín Marín, and family	Colombia
15	210-17	Members of Marcha Patriótica	Colombia
16	412-17	Residents of the Laguna Larga Petén community	Guatemala
17	42-23	Ricardo Lagunes and Antonio Díaz	Mexico
18	61-23	Members of the Pataxó Indigenous People located in the Barra Velha and Comexatibá Indigenous Lands	Brazil
19	112-16	Relatives of Berta Cáceres and others	Honduras

Working Meetings outside the POS				
No	**PM**	**Beneficiaries**	**State**	**Date**
20	973-22	Members of the Board of Directors of the Association of Displaced Persons of Catatumbo (ASODESCAT)	Colombia	4/24/2025
21	705-03	Colombian Commission of Jurists	Colombia	4/24/2025
22	21-05	Members of the Wiwa indigenous people of the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta	Colombia	4/24/2025
23	892-22	Pascuala López López (or Pascuala López Gómez) and her immediate family (her husband, Mario Gómez López; her son, Agustín Gómez López; and his wife, Silvia Mercedes Díaz Gómez).	Mexico	5/21/2025
24	52-10	Members of the Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas Human Rights Center	Mexico	5/21/2025
25	708-19	Inhabitants of the areas near the Santiago River in the municipalities of Juanacatlán and El Salto in the state of Jalisco	Mexico	5/21/2025
26	42-23	Ricardo Arturo Lagunes Gasca and Antonio Díaz Valencia	Mexico	5/23/2025
27	454-18	Marbeli Vivani González López and family members of Yaneth González López	Mexico	5/23/2025
28	487-19	Quelvin Otoniel Jiménez Villata	Guatemala	6/4/25
29	416-13	Tolupan Indians members of the Broad Movement for Justice and Dignity	Honduras	10/8/25
30	137-23	Identified members of the Comité Municipal de Defensa de los Bienes Comunes y Públicos de Tocoa et al.	Honduras	10/8/25
31	937-22	(1) Pedro de Jesús Pinto Cabrera and his family unit: (2) Blanca Elena Mejía —wife—, (3) Mirian Waleska Pinto Mejía —daughter—, (4) Claudia María Pinto Mejía —daughter—, and (5) José Alexander Pinto Mejía —son—.	Honduras	10/8/25
32	322-11	Miriam Miranda	Honduras	10/8/25

878. Public hearings allow the parties to dialogue with the plenary of the IACHR and discuss identified challenges and progress in the implementation of precautionary measures.

192nd Period of Sessions			
Public Hearings			
No	**PM**	**Beneficiaries**	**State**
1	70-99, 21-05, 12-09, 355-10 21, 61-11, 255-11, 140-14, 152-14, 395-18, 858-21	Follow-up on precautionary measures for ethnic communities in the context of armed conflict (Ex officio)	Colombia

194th Period of Sessions			
Public Hearings			
No	**PM**	**Beneficiaries**	**State**
2	862-24, 533-17, 1426-24, 883-24, 900-24, 899-24, 907-24, 937-24, 931-24, 941-24, 1042-24, 1043-24, 25-25, 26-25, 45-25; 304-25, 1084-25, 359-16, 928-24, 1150-24, 1432-24, 897-25, 939-25, 1237-24, 247-25, 334-25, 492-25, 1224-25, 549-25, 688-25, 1438-24	Follow-up on precautionary measures for detained persons and persons whose whereabouts are unknown in the post-election context	Venezuela



879. In 2025, the IACHR continued to follow up on the Joint Working Group on the implementation of precautionary measures in favor of Bruno Araújo, Dom Phillips, and members of UNIVAJA in Brazil, created in 2023. The Joint Working Group operates within the framework of the follow-up process for Precautionary Measure 449-22 and aims to contribute to full compliance with the precautionary measures, ensuring coordination and complementarity between national authorities and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Working Group includes an Action Plan developed by the parties and approved by the

IACHR through Follow-up Resolution 76/23.[228] The Working Group is expected to last two years. In 2025, the IACHR issued a press release recognizing the progress made in the implementation of the Joint Working Group,[229] including: the adoption of collective indigenous protection measures in the Javari Valley; the inclusion of UNIVAJA members in the Protection Program for Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, and Environmentalists, which has a federal technical team in Amazonas; the development of the National Plan for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders; and progress in the criminal proceedings against the perpetrators of the murder of Bruno Araújo Pereira and Dom Phillips, as well as the indictment of the alleged mastermind and third parties involved in the concealment of the victims' corpses. Likewise, as detailed above, the IACHR carried out an *on-site* visit to monitor the implementation of the commitments assumed within the framework of the Working Group from August 4 to 8, 2025 at Vale do Javari.

880. Follow-up Resolutions are a practice that the IACHR consolidated through the aforementioned Resolution 2/2020. They provide an opportunity for the Commission to evaluate the implementation and mitigation measures adopted by the State and to delve into the specific aspects of each matter, taking into account the criteria established in the aforementioned Resolution. In 2025, the IACHR adopted three follow-up resolutions regarding three precautionary measures, which are detailed below:

- Resolution No. 13/25 – PM 1581-18 – Jorge David Glas Espinel (Extension and Follow-up)

  On February 10, 2025, the IACHR adopted Follow-up and Extension Resolution 13/2025 regarding the situation of Jorge Glas in Ecuador. After conducting a follow-up visit to Ecuador in November 2024 to assess the beneficiary's situation, the IACHR considered that Jorge Glas continues to be at risk following his detention in April 2024. It noted that his mental health was in a particularly serious state, despite the medical care provided by the State in 2024, and that both his conditions of detention and the violent incidents that have occurred in the prison where he is currently held are impacting the deterioration of the beneficiary's mental health and could impact his physical integrity. Upon analyzing the submissions of fact and law, in accordance with Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission concluded that the situation of Mr. Jorge David Glas Espinel in Ecuador remains in force and decided the following:

  a. Continue to follow up on the situation of Jorge David Glas Espinel.

  b. In light of the assessments made in this resolution, extend the scope of the precautionary measures in force to include the beneficiary's right to health. Consequently, the State of Ecuador is requested to adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Jorge David Glas Espinel. In particular, assessing and implementing those most appropriate to his personal circumstances, and that allow for the creation of conditions that ensure and respect his rights, and compliance with the extension of the precautionary measure. This must include, at least, that the State:

     i. Maintain the continuous operation of the independent Technical Table that will have the following functions: 1. to be an instance of dialogue that allows reaching scientific medical consensus in case of discrepancies; and 2. to resolve any medical discrepancies that may arise between the trusted doctors of the beneficiary of the precautionary measure and the doctors in charge of the treatment of Mr. Jorge David Glas Espinel.

[228] IACHR, Press Release 286/23, IACHR welcomes installation of the Working Group for the precautionary measures of Bruno Araújo, Dom Phillips and UNIVAJA regarding Brazil, December 11, 2023.
[229] IACHR, Press Release 68/25, IACHR acknowledges progress on implementation of Joint Working Group on precautionary measures for UNIVAJA, Bruno Pereira, and Dom Phillips in Brazil, April 2, 2025.

ii. In light of the available medical documentation, to carry out a complete medical evaluation immediately in a hospital center, and to draw up a protocol that, without endangering the life or personal integrity of the beneficiary, establishes the appropriate protocol for admission to and discharge from a hospital whenever it is necessary to provide hospital treatment that cannot be provided in the detention center or to attend to a physical or mental health emergency of Mr. Jorge David Glas Espinel.

c. Following the medical evaluation and the recommended treatment, the State must act with absolute diligence and take into account the scientific evaluations of the Technical Table and ensure that the conditions of detention, whether in a detention center or in a hospital if the beneficiary is receiving hospital treatment, must be compatible with applicable international standards in this area, including:

i. Mr. Jorge David Glas Espinel should be immediately transferred to a detention center other than the Guayas No. 3 Detention Center (CPL);

ii. That the new detention center has at least the following characteristics and conditions of detention:

- An adapted cell without objects that can be used for self-injury
- Illuminated, ventilated, clean and not overcrowded spaces, with access to basic services.
- Trained personnel with specialized training in mental health, suicide risk detection and psychological first aid.
- Avoid conditions of extreme isolation, allowing safe social interactions.
- Access to support networks, family visits, contact with lawyers and religious assistance if desired. All in private spaces.
- Allow for the access to independent monitoring mechanisms and accredited and specialized external institutional organizations to monitor detention conditions.
- Keep logs of the actions taken for the protection of the beneficiary, which are accessible and transparent.
- Ensure clear intervention protocols to respond to emergencies in situations presenting a risk to the life and integrity, and care for people with suicidal intentions and/or attempts.
- Ensure the timely and regular flow of medical information from the beneficiary and visits and participation of the beneficiary's trusted doctors.
- Guarantee specific treatments for Mr. Jorge David Glas Espinel including therapies and medication. In case of discrepancy of opinion on the part of the beneficiary's trusted physicians, such discrepancies shall be known and resolved by the Independent Technical Table.

- Access to the care of psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers who must be available in order to be able to comply with the medical treatment prescribed.

- Constant monitoring through uninterrupted supervision by trained personnel, which must be documented in a transparent recording mechanism.

d. Consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives, in accordance with the assessments and scope delimited in this resolution. In particular, strengthen the existing internal consultation mechanisms, taking into account the assessments and scope delimited in this resolution; and

e. Report on the actions taken to investigate the facts that gave rise to the adoption and continuity of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring. In particular, send the IACHR periodic information on the status of the investigation into the claims of ill-treatment and torture made in the context of this matter.

- Resolution No. 37/25 – PM 137-23 - Identified members of the *Comité Municipal de Defensa de los Bienes Comunes y Públicos de Tocoa* and *Bufete Justicia para los Pueblos* regarding Honduras (Follow-up, Extension and Partial Lifting).

  On May 1, 2025, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decided to issue Follow-up, Extension and Partial Lifting Resolution 37/2025, regarding precautionary measures 137-23 in favor of members of the Municipal Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods of Tocoa (*Comité Municipal de Defensa de los Bienes Comunes y Públicos de Tocoa*) and the Justice for the People Law Firm (*Bufete Justicia para los Pueblos*) in Honduras.

  In the resolution, the IACHR decided to maintain the precautionary measures, lift them with respect to Juan López following his assassination in September 2024, and to extend them in favor of 13 defenders and/or members of the Committee and relatives of Juan López, due to the serious and urgent risk arising from their activities in defense of the environment in the context of mining projects in the Bajo Aguán region, as well as the search for justice following the murder of Juan López.

  Consequently, in accordance with Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided:

  a. Keep the precautionary measures granted in favor of Juana Ramona Zúniga Martínez, Gabriela Ofelia Sorto Cruz, David Lemus, J.M., D.M., Olayo Méndez, Juana Esquivel, A.C., D.S., Esly Emperatriz Banegas Ávila, Rita Isabel Romero, Aida Rodríguez, Mario López, Gregorio Vásquez, Ernesto López, Dinora Castro, A.A., José Abelino Cedillo, Reynaldo Domínguez, Eugenio Esquivel, J.S.H., O.H, José Daniel Márquez, Marco Tulio Ramos, Kelvin Romero, Porfirio Sorto, Edy Alexander Tábora Gonzales, Kenia Oliva, and Carlos Jiménez;

  b. Extend the precautionary measures granted in favor of Telma Pena, Claudia López, Julia López, Melvin Darvin Espino López, Enma Iveth Gutiérrez Velásquez, Roxana Yamileth Romero Ruiz, Gloria Dubon, Antonio Alvarado, Miguel Ángel Vásquez, José Nuncio Veliz Alfaro, Limbor Otoniel Velásquez Sarmiento, Jose Juan Cedillo Martínez, and Angel Augusto Centerero;

  c. Lift the precautionary measures granted to Juan Antonio López;

d. Strengthen the implementation of measures to protect the beneficiaries and assess the situations that place them at risk, as soon as possible, with a view to adopting appropriate and effective measures to protect their lives and personal integrity;

e. Strengthen the presence of state institutions in the area within the framework of environmental and disarmament policies as part of the measures to be implemented to mitigate the risk to the beneficiaries; and

f. Investigate with due diligence the alleged acts of risk and thus prevent impunity and the repetition of such acts, in particular the murder of human rights defender Juan Antonio López.

- Resolution No. 95/25 - PM 990-21 - Vicente Iván Suástegui Muñoz and his family regarding Mexico (Extension, Follow-up, and Partial Lift)

  On December 20, 2025, the IACHR adopted Follow-up, Extension, and Partial Lifting Resolution No. 95/2025 regarding the situation of Vicente Iván Suástegui Muñoz and family in Mexico (PM-990-21). The IACHR considered that the situation of risk noted in relation to Vicente Iván Suástegui Muñoz, following his disappearance on August 5, 2021, as well as in relation to his family members, continues. It also considered that the family members of Samantha Colón, Vicente Iván Suástegui Muñoz's partner, share the situation of risk, and therefore extended the measures in their favor. Finally, the Commission lifted the measures in relation to Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz, following his murder in April 2025. The IACHR positively assessed the search and investigation actions carried out by the State in relation to Vicente Iván Suástegui Muñoz, as well as the implementation of various protection and support measures for his beneficiary family members. Under the terms of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested that Mexico:

  a. To maintain the precautionary measures granted to all the persons indicated in Resolution No. 93/2025 of November 23, 2021;

  b. Strengthen the search actions and investigations, as well as advance the judicial processes regarding the disappearance of Vicente Iván Suástegui Muñoz;

  c. Strengthen the protection measures in relation to Samantha Valeria Colón Morales;

  d. Extend the precautionary measures in favor of Faustino Colón Delgado, Ignacia Morales Salmerón, Sandra Paola Téllez Colón; J.A.S.T. and P.M.T.C., as relatives of Samantha Valeria Colón Morales;

  e. Lift the precautionary measures granted in favor of Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz;

  f. Investigate alleged acts of risk with due diligence in order to prevent impunity and the repetition of such acts, in particular the murder of Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz.

881. In the periodic evaluation of its precautionary measures, the IACHR analyzes whether they continue to meet the requirements of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, and may decide to lift them when there is no longer a serious and urgent risk of irreparable harm. In the process of monitoring the implementation of the measures, the IACHR also considers contextual information and a differentiated approach in the case of groups in situations of particular vulnerability, as well as a gender, intercultural, and age perspective, taking into account the risk that persons belonging to these groups may face in certain contexts.

882. On the other hand, it should be noted that the granting of precautionary measures has a temporary nature. In view of the foregoing, and under Article 25, paragraph 9, of its Rules of Procedure, the

IACHR shall evaluate periodically, at its own initiative or at the request of either party, whether to maintain, modify, or lift the precautionary measures in force. In this regard, in 2025, the Commission issued 36 resolutions regarding 38 precautionary measures (see details of each Resolution below).

883. In 2025, the IACHR decided to fully lift 34 precautionary measures in force and partially lift two. The liftings refer to inactive matters, that have been rendered moot, or, in general, in which no risk factors were identified that would justify keeping them in force. As indicated in Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, decisions to lift precautionary measures are issued through reasoned resolutions (see summaries below). Among other aspects, the following are taken into account: i) the existence or continuation of the risk; ii) whether it has changed during implementation; iii) the effectiveness of the measures adopted by the State; iv) risk mitigation; v) whether the beneficiaries continue to reside or have a presence in the State in question; vi) inactivity or lack of response by representatives to requests for information made by the IACHR, such that there is no information to justify keeping the precautionary measures in force. The foregoing is part of the strategy of keeping the portfolio of precautionary measures more focused on those matters that, due to their current level of risk, require special attention from the IACHR.

884. The IACHR particularly highlights the lifting of precautionary measures in matters where States have complied with its recommendations. On the one hand, the IACHR lifted precautionary measures in which it assessed the suitability and effectiveness of the protection measures implemented by the States. In this sense, it lifted PM 729-22, granted on February 6, 2023, in favor of Liz Patricia Benavides Vargas and her family unit in Peru. In assessing compliance with the procedural requirements, the IACHR found that the factual situation regarding Liz Patricia Benavides Vargas had changed, as she no longer held the position of Attorney General of the Nation, and that the security details and investigative measures adopted by the State were adequate and effective.[230] In the same sense, it lifted PM 1123-19, granted on December 25, 2019, in favor of María Patricia Arce Guzmán and her children, in Bolivia. In evaluating compliance with the procedural requirements, the IACHR found that the factual situation had changed in relation to the beneficiary, particularly due to the adequacy and effectiveness of the security details and investigative measures adopted by the State.[231]

885. The IACHR also lifted PM 251-15 granted on June 30, 2015, in favor of "Alejandro" and his family unit, in Michoacán, Mexico. The IACHR assessed that the factual situation regarding "Alejandro" and his family members had changed, in part due to the provision of protection measures and medical care required by the IACHR.[232] Also in relation to Mexico, it lifted PM 250-09 granted on April 23, 2010, in favor of José Alejandro Solalinde Guerra, David Álvarez Vargas, Areli Palomo Contreras, Mario Calderón López, and Norma Araceli Doblado Abrego, who worked or were staying at the "Hermanos en el Camino" Migrant Shelter, in the municipality of Ixtepec, state of Oaxaca. The IACHR assessed the measures adopted by the State, mainly the adequacy and effectiveness of the security details and investigative measures, which have allowed the beneficiary and the shelter to carry out their work in defense of human rights.[233]

886. On the other hand, the IACHR lifted precautionary measures that protected people at risk from possible deportations or expulsions. In this sense, it lifted PM 330-24 granted on November 25, 2024, in favor of Reinaldo Picado Miranda in Costa Rica. On that occasion, it was decided that Costa Rica be requested to refrain from deporting, expelling, or extraditing the beneficiary to Nicaragua until the competent administrative and/or judicial authorities have duly assessed, in accordance with applicable international standards and the principle of non-refoulement, the alleged risk the individual would face if deprived of liberty in the current context in Nicaragua. As a result of the State's decision to grant refugee status to the beneficiary, the IACHR understood that it did not have the elements to find that the requirements of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure were met.[234] It also lifted PM 490-18, granted on October 15, 2018, in favor of M.B.B.P., a Venezuelan woman living in Panama who faced risks in a deportation proceeding initiated after it was

[230] IACHR, Resolution 5/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 729-22, January 12, 2025.
[231] IACHR, Resolution 11/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 1123-19, February 1, 2025.
[232] IACHR, Resolution 41/25, Precautionary Measure No. 251-15, May 11, 2025.
[233] IACHR, Resolution 42/25, Precautionary Measure No. 250-09, May 12, 2025.
[234] IACHR, Resolution 68/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 330-24, September 29, 2025.

discovered that she was living with HIV. The Commission requested that Panama refrain from deporting or expelling her to Venezuela until the domestic authorities had duly assessed the alleged risk she faced with regard to her health situation. The IACHR decided to lift these precautionary measures after assessing the actions taken by the State of Panama, in particular, the order not to deport or expel the beneficiary, the granting of a visa on humanitarian grounds, and the provision of medical treatment for her health condition, which modified the beneficiary's legal and factual situation, thereby no longer verifying compliance with the requirements of Art. 25 of the Rules of Procedure.[235]

Resolutions			
PM	**Type of resolution**	**Beneficiaries**	**State**
729-22	Lift	Liz Patricia Benavides Vargas and her family unit regarding Peru Her family unit consists of her spouse, Luis Hernán Misael Espinoza Quiroz, and her three minor children of initials H.R.E.B., A.C.E.B. and A.C.E.B.	Peru
1123-19	Lift	María Patricia Arce Guzmán and her children	Bolivia
105-11	Lift	Kuna of Madungandí and Emberá of Bayano Indigenous Peoples of Panama	Panama
13-15	Lift	Norma Mesino Mesino et al.	Mexico
113-07	Lift	Corporation for Peace and Social Development (CORPADES)	Colombia
693-03	Lift	Chinche Buenavista (Coyaima), Chinche Amarayco Community, Santa Marta Diamante Community, Communities of the Pijao indigenous people (Tolima), Pijao Cacique Ibagué Communities, Nueva Esperanza (Coyaima), Resguardo Potrerito (Coyaima), Tuluny los Pijaos Chaparral	Colombia
113-16	Lift	"Tres Islas" Native Community of Madre de Dios	Peru
83-14	Lift	Garvin Sookram and Keron Lopez	Trinidad and Tobago
833-24	Lift	Adolescent S.J.C.A.	Colombia
110-99	Lift	Rural Association of the Cimitarra River Valley	Colombia
1214-24	Lift	Jhon Fernando Paladines Rubio	Nicaragua
1-01	Lift	Members of ECOPETROL-USO	Colombia
448-10	Lift	Víctor Ayala Tapia	Mexico
917-20	Lift	José Ángel Peñaloza Hernández et al.	Mexico
87-11	Lift	Blanca Estela Puac Menchú and her family unit	Guatemala
137-23	Extension, Follow-up and Partial Lift	Identified members of the Municipal Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods of Tocoa et al.	Honduras

[235] IACHR, Resolution 81/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 490-18, November 16, 2025.

251-15	Lift	Alejandro and his family unit	Mexico
250-09	Lift	Human rights defenders of the "Hermanos en el Camino Migrant Shelter," Members of the Migrant Shelter, Father Alejandro Solalinde and his team of collaborators	Mexico
157-13	Lift	Jean Guernal Degand, Jimmy Simplis, Marieclaude Marcelin, Réginald Henry, and Saintilma Verdieu	Haiti
540-15	Lift	Maria and her son	Argentina
799-20	Lift	Maikel Herrera Bones	Cuba
688-16	Lift	Érick Pérez et al. (Staff of the coordinating team of Oposición Indignada)	Honduras
402-23	Lift	E.R.L.	Colombia
330-24	Lift	Reinaldo Picado Miranda	Costa Rica
218-11	Lift	Yris Tamara Pérez Aguilera	Cuba
176-23	Lift	Michael Tisius	United States
999-23	Lift	Juan Carlos Hollman	Argentina
490-18	Lift	M.B.B.P	Panama
77-15	Lift	Esperanza Hernández, defender "K", and their family units	Mexico
68-17	Lift	Matter of Panambi	Paraguay
70-19	Lift	Juan Gerardo Guaidó Márquez, his family, and others	Venezuela
388-12	Lift	Edgar Ismael Solorio Solís and thirteen other persons	Mexico
706-16	Lift	Fred Smith, Joseph Darville, Romauld Ferreira, Kirkland Bodie, Francisco Núñez, and their families	Bahamas
990-21	Follow-up, Extension and Partial Lift	Vicente Iván Suástegui Muñoz and his family unit	Mexico
350-12, 420-12, 34-13	Lift	Yoani María Sánchez Cordero, Antonio G. Rodiles, and "X"	Cuba
175-18	Lift	Giomar Patricia Riveros Gaitán	Colombia

4. Resolutions adopted

887. Next, reference is made to the 99 resolutions on precautionary measures adopted during 2025, concerning: 69 precautionary measures granted; one precautionary measure extended; one precautionary measure extended with a follow-up resolution; two precautionary measures extended with follow-up resolution and lifting; and 37 measures lifted.

ARGENTINA

Resolution No. 52/25 (LIFTED)
PM 540-15 - María and Mariano, Argentina

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of María and Mariano, in Argentina. Given that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.) issued a decision on the merits regarding the Matter of María et al. v. Argentina in 2023, the Commission considers that it is appropriate to lift these precautionary measures and continue to participate in the monitoring of compliance with this judgment. In particular, in the reparation measures concerning Mariano's legal situation and the development of the relationship between María and Mariano, elements that were the focus of the precautionary measures in their favor.

Resolution No. 63/25 (GRANTED)
PM 702-25 - Mariano Javier Oteiza Hernández, Argentina

On September 15, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Mariano Javier Oteiza Hernández, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his rights to life, personal integrity, and health are at risk of irreparable harm in Argentina.

According to the request, the beneficiary is deprived of his liberty and is at risk of having his left leg amputated, allegedly as a result of repeated lack of access to adequate and timely medical care. For its part, the State mentioned that there has been an improvement in the infection, that the beneficiary is walking with crutches, and that he has been provided with ongoing support and care. The Commission assessed that the beneficiary would continue to suffer from conditions resulting from the lack of adequate medical care and that, despite court decisions in favor of the beneficiary to receive all the medical care required for his diagnosis, this had not been implemented. Therefore, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Argentina:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of the beneficiary. In particular, provide the prescribed medical treatment in a timely and appropriate manner, as well as the effective management of the required medical appointments;
b. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representative;
c. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 77/25 (LIFTED)
PM 999-23 - Juan Carlos Hollman, Argentina

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Juan Carlos Hollman, in Argentina. In 2024, the parties confirmed the beneficiary's death. The Commission expressed its regret over the incident, and observed that the precautionary measures are ineffective in the absence of the person they were intended to safeguard. Therefore, it has decided to lift these measures.

BAHAMAS

Resolution No. 88/25 (LIFTED)
PM 706-16 - Fred Smith, Joseph Darville, Romauld Ferreira, Kirkland Bodie, Francisco Núñez, and their families, Bahamas

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Fred Smith, Joseph Darville, Romauld Ferreira, Kirkland Bodie, Francisco Núñez, and their families, in The Bahamas. The Commission assessed the information submitted by the parties regarding the

implementation of the precautionary measures. Following the request for lifting submitted by the State, and in the absence of a response from the beneficiaries' representation in nearly six years, the Commission does not have elements to continue to find that a situation presenting a serious and imminent risk exists. After failing to identify compliance with the requirements of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the IACHR decided to lift the precautionary measures at hand.

BOLIVIA

Resolution No. 11/25 (LIFTED)
PM 1123-19 - María Patricia Arce Guzmán and her children, Bolivia

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decided to lift these precautionary measures in favor of María Patricia Arce Guzmán and her children in Bolivia. At the time of making the decision, the Commission recognized the measures taken by the State during the implementation, as well as the passage of time without threatening events. After several requests for information to the representation and the State's request to lift the measures, no response has been received from the representation in a period of time. Taking into account the nature of the precautionary measures and in light of the information available, the Commission considered that at this time it is not possible to establish a threatening situation under the terms of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, and decided to lift the measures.

CHILE

Resolution No. 48/25 (GRANTED)
PM 19-25 - Julia Chuñil Catricura, Chile

On July 14, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Julia Chuñil Catricura, after considering that she is in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to her rights in Chile. It was alleged that the beneficiary is the president of the Putreguel Mapuche Community, and a leader in the defense of the ancestral territory in the Los Ciruelos sector, Máfil commune, Los Ríos region, Wallmapu. Since November 8, 2024, her whereabouts have been unknown. Despite the complaints filed after her disappearance and the search and tracing procedures carried out by the state authorities, to date the beneficiary's whereabouts remain unknown. The Commission also assessed the search efforts and actions implemented by the State. However, after more than seven months since the disappearance of the beneficiary, her whereabouts have not been found and there is no information available to clarify the facts. In accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Chile:

a. redouble its efforts to determine the situation and whereabouts of Julia Chuñil Catricura; and
b. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent them from reoccurring, keeping the beneficiary's family informed, as appropriate.

COLOMBIA

Resolution No. 18/25 (LIFTED)
PM 113-07 – Luis Fernando Quijano and eleven other persons, Colombia

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decided to lift these precautionary measures in favor of twelve persons identified as members of the Corporation for Peace and Social Development (CORPADES). The Commission evaluated the actions taken by the State during implementation as well as the observations of the beneficiaries' representation. Based on several requests for information, the Commission understands that the circumstances for which the precautionary measures were granted have changed significantly. In this regard, taking into account the nature of the precautionary measures mechanism and in light of the information available, the Commission considered that it did not have the elements to find that the

requirements of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure were met. Consequently, the IACHR decided to lift these precautionary measures.

Resolution No. 19/25 (LIFTED)
PM 693-03 – Members of councils and reservations of the Pijao indigenous people in the department of Tolima, Colombia

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of members of 15 cabildos and reservations (resguardos) of the Pijao indigenous people in the department of Tolima, Colombia. Upon receiving a request to lift the measures submitted by the State, the Commission assessed the actions taken by the State during the implementation, as well as the lack of concrete, current, and specific events against the beneficiaries that would allow it to identify a situation of serious and imminent risk. Taking into account the nature of precautionary measures and in light of the information available, the Commission considered that it is currently not possible to establish a situation that presents a risk under the terms of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure. Consequently, the IACHR decided to lift the measures.

Resolution No. 23/25 (LIFTED)
PM 833-24 – Adolescent S.J.C.A., Colombia

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decided to lift these precautionary measures in favor of the adolescent S.J.C.A. with respect to Colombia. At the time of making the decision, the Commission considered the State's request to lift and the observations provided by the representation. The Commission warned that the location of the beneficiary represents a significant change in the factual circumstances. Consequently, the IACHR decided to lift these precautionary measures.

Resolution No. 24/25 (LIFTED)
PM 110-99 – Edgar Quiroga, Gildardo Fuentes, and other persons, Colombia

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Edgar Quiroga, Gildardo Fuentes et al., in Colombia. At the time of making the decision, the Commission assessed the actions taken by the State during implementation, as well as the lack of events that put the beneficiaries at risk since 2022. Upon not identifying compliance with the procedural requirements, the IACHR has decided to lift these precautionary measures.

Resolution No. 29/25 (LIFTED)
PM 1-01 – ECOPETROL employees who are also members of the Oil Industry Workers' Union (USO), Colombia

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has decided to lift the precautionary measures in favor of ECOPETROL employees in Colombia who are also members of the Oil Industry Workers' Union (Unión Sindical Obrera de la Industria del Petróleo, USO). At the time of making the decision, the Commission evaluated the actions taken by the State during implementation as well as the observations of the beneficiaries' representation. Despite several requests for information, the representation has not provided a response since 2021. In this regard, taking into account the nature of the precautionary measures mechanism and in light of the information available, the Commission considered that it does not have the elements to find that the requirements of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure were met. Consequently, the IACHR decided to lift these measures.

Resolution No. 49/25 (GRANTED)
PM 262-24 - Dumar Eliecer Blanco Ruiz, Colombia

On July 21, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Dumar Eliecer Blanco Ruiz, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his rights to life and personal integrity are at

risk of irreparable harm in Colombia. According to the request, the beneficiary had reported corruption by authorities and criminal acts by non-state armed groups in the country. Consequently, it was alleged that he was the target of dangerous events attributed to non-state actors. The measures implemented by the State for his protection were also questioned. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested that Colombia:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and integrity of the beneficiary;
b. implement the necessary measures so that Dumar Eliecer Blanco Ruiz can carry out his activities as a political actor or human rights defender, as appropriate, without being subjected to threats, harassment, or other acts of violence in the exercise of his work;
c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 50/25 (GRANTED)
PM 834-25 - Wendy Vanessa Quintero Guerrero, her mother and son, Colombia

On July 24, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Wendy Vanessa Quintero Guerrero, her mother, and her son in Colombia, considering that they are in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to their rights. The applicant indicated that the beneficiary is a social leader in the Catatumbo region and that, after being temporarily detained by the ELN in January 2025 and declared a military target by that group, she has been the subject of death threats, harassment, break-ins at her home, and kidnapping attempts. She is currently displaced. The State reported on the state of internal unrest declared in the Catatumbo region, the status of investigations into the alleged events, and the security arrangements for the beneficiary. The IACHR assessed the alleged risks, as well as the inadequacy and ineffectiveness of the measures taken by the State to mitigate them.

Therefore, the IACHR, in accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, requested that Colombia:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and integrity of the beneficiaries;
b. implement the necessary measures, with a gender perspective, so that Wendy Vanessa Quintero Guerrero can carry out her activities as a social leader without being subjected to threats, harassment, intimidation, or other acts of violence in the exercise of her duties;
c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this precautionary measure, so as to prevent them from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 58/25 (GRANTED)
PM 813-25 - Juan Camilo Castaño Gutiérrez and his mother Gloria Nancy Gutiérrez, Colombia

On August 18, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Juan Camilo Castaño Gutiérrez and his mother Gloria Nancy Gutiérrez, after considering that they are in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to their rights in Colombia. The request alleged that Juan Camilo Castaño Gutiérrez has been missing since March 25, 2025, after being intercepted by four armed men who approached him and took him away to an unknown destination in Colombia. Since then, the beneficiary's mother has been subjected to threats and extortion by members of a criminal group while attempting to locate him. Despite the complaints filed, his whereabouts remain unknown to date. The Commission took into account the facts alleged in light of the context and assessed the actions taken by the State in this case. However, it noted with concern the lack of information on progress in the search for Juan Camilo Castaño Gutiérrez. Nor was there any evidence that protective measures had been implemented on behalf of Juan Camilo Castaño Gutiérrez's mother. Therefore, in accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the IACHR requested that Colombia:

a. take the necessary measures to determine the situation and whereabouts of Juan Camilo Castaño Gutiérrez, in order to protect his rights to life and personal integrity;
b. implement the necessary measures to protect Gloria Nancy Gutiérrez from threats, extortion, or other acts of violence while she continues to denounce and search for her son;
c. consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented with Gloria Nancy Gutiérrez and her representatives; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 60/25 (LIFTED)
PM 402-23 - E.R.L., Colombia

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of E.R.L. in Colombia. At the time of making the decision, the Commission evaluated the actions taken by the State during implementation as well as the observations of the beneficiaries' representation. In 2025, the parties confirmed the beneficiary's death in December 2024. As a result of his death, the Commission considered that the measures had been left without the person under protection, so it decided to lift the precautionary measures.

Resolution No. 73/25 (GRANTED)
PM 516-25 - Juan Pablo Galvis Arango, Colombia

On October 10, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Juan Pablo Galvis Arango, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm in Colombia. According to the request, the beneficiary is at risk because of his work as a human rights defender. To date, he does not have effective and sufficient protection measures from the State. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Colombia:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and integrity of Juan Pablo Galvis Arango;
b. implement the necessary measures so that the beneficiary can carry out his activities as a human rights defender without being subjected to threats, harassment, or other acts of violence in the exercise of his work;
c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 78/25 (GRANTED)
PM 673-25 - Moisés Elías Payares Bolaño, his immediate family, and Jesús David Brun Gazabon, Colombia

On November 16, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Moisés Elías Payares Bolaño, his immediate family, and Jesús David Brun Gazabon, after determining that they are in a serious and urgent situation, given that their rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm in Colombia. According to the request, the beneficiaries are the target of threats attributed to illegal armed groups, which originated after they were publicly linked to criminal organizations in a military operation on November 19, 2024, at Finca El Paraíso, where they live and work. In the absence of adequate state protection measures, they were forced to flee. The State reported that preventive measures have been implemented by the police and that the request for a risk analysis by the UNP is still under review. It also indicated that it has no knowledge of any open investigations into the reported threats. The IACHR observed that the farm continues to be the target of armed incursions and that the beneficiaries remain displaced, as well as the inadequacy of preventive measures to repel such events and the delay in comprehensively assessing the situation reported. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Colombia:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and integrity of the beneficiaries;

b. consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and

c. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 80/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1314-25 - Andrés Felipe Hio Paniagua and Didier Alexander Villegas Soto, Colombia

On November 16, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Andrés Felipe Hio Paniagua and Didier Alexander Villegas Soto, who are in a serious and urgent situation of irreparable harm to their rights in Colombia.

According to the request, the beneficiaries are members of the Ad Gentes Missionary Priestly Fraternity and the International Defense Corporation CORPAZ. They are at risk due to their work as human rights defenders in territories affected by the presence of criminal groups and due to the exercise of their pastoral duties as bishops. The State reported that the respective risk level studies have been carried out and are ongoing. Although it was indicated that the beneficiaries have security measures implemented by the UNP and the National Police, the schemes implemented would operate as provisional measures, derived from a court order. In this regard, it is alleged that these security measures are ineffective, as they have restricted their movements and affected their ability to carry out their work in the territory.

Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Colombia:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and integrity of Andrés Felipe Hio Paniagua and Didier Alexander Villegas Soto;

b. implement the necessary measures so that the beneficiaries can carry out their pastoral and human rights defense work without being subjected to threats, harassment, or other acts of violence;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and

d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 89/25 (GRANTED)
PM 548-25 - L. E. C. V., J. E. M., and D. F. P. M., members of CONPAZCOL, Colombia

On November 30, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to L.E.C.V., J.E.M., and D.F.P.M., members of the board of directors of the Association of Afro-descendant, Indigenous, and Peasant Communities Building Peace in Colombia (CONPAZCOL), who are in a serious and urgent situation, as their rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm in Colombia. According to the request, the beneficiaries are at risk because of their work as human rights defenders in rural and urban areas affected by armed conflict. As a result, they have been the target of multiple threats against them so far in 2025, such as threats, surveillance, harassment, and acts of armed violence against them, which have not ceased over time . The State reported on the implementation of self-protection and preventive measures, such as courses, patrols, and educational campaigns. The Commission notes that the continuity and seriousness of the events that have affected the beneficiaries demonstrate the persistence of the risks and methods used by non-state actors to prevent them from carrying out their work in defense of human rights. The protection measures currently in place are not

adequate to address the risks to which one of the beneficiaries is exposed. Likewise, the other two beneficiaries do not have any state protection measures in place.

Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Colombia:

a. take the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and integrity of the beneficiaries;

b. implement the relevant measures so that the beneficiaries can carry out their work as human rights defenders without being subjected to threats, harassment, or other acts of violence in the exercise of their duties;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and

d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 98/25 (LIFTED)
PM 175-18 - Giomar Patricia Riveros Gaitán, Colombia

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Giomar Patricia Riveros Gaitán in Colombia. At the time of making the decision, the Commission assessed the actions taken by the State during implementation, and the change in the factual circumstances assessed in 2018, as well as the absence of events that would be sufficient to continue to find a situation presenting a risk under the terms of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure. Consequently, the IACHR decided to lift these measures.

COSTA RICA

Resolution No. 68/25 (LIFTED)
PM 330-24 - Reinaldo Picado Miranda, Costa Rica

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Reinaldo Picado Miranda in Costa Rica. At the time of making the decision, the Commission assessed the actions taken by the State to comply with these precautionary measures, which include a change in the beneficiary's legal and material situation. Consequently, upon analyzing the information available to the parties and not identifying compliance with the requirements set forth in Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the IACHR has decided to lift these measures.

CUBA

Resolution No. 9/25 (GRANTED)
PM 393-24 - Luis Wilber Aguilar Bravo Rivera and his family, Cuba

On January 30, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Luis Wilber Aguilar Bravo Rivera and his family, upon considering that he is at serious and urgent risk of irreparable harm to his rights in Cuba. According to the request, the beneficiary is the father of Walnier Luis Aguilar Rivera, a person with a disability who is deprived of liberty and a beneficiary of precautionary measures. Since his son's detention, the beneficiary has been protesting and filing complaints regarding human rights violations against political prisoners in Cuba. Due to this, since 2022, the beneficiary has been subjected to constant surveillance by state agents. He has also been subjected to repeated detentions, during which there have been reports of episodes of isolation from his family, inadequate detention conditions, such as lack of access to water and food, and repeated threats by state agents. The frequency and incidence of events intensified from 2024, including

restrictions on freedom of movement and freedom of expression. Consequently, under the terms of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, it requested that Cuba:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of the beneficiaries;

b. implement the necessary measures to enable them to carry out their human rights activities without being subjected to threats, harassment, or acts of violence;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and

d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 28/25 (GRANTED)
PM 671-23 - Mario Alberto Hernández Leyva, Cuba

On March 27, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Mario Alberto Hernández Leyva, considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to his rights in Cuba. According to the request, the beneficiary is the vice-president of the Opposition Movement for a New Republic (MONR) and promoter of the citizens' campaign Cuba Decide. Since 2023, he has been subjected to repeated detentions, during which episodes of incommunicado detention, beatings, inclusion in punishment cells and restriction of rights and benefits, such as visits and contact with the outside world, have been reported. This situation, added to the lack of adequate medical attention, and the mental health problems that he is already facing, reflect that he would be in a situation of lack of protection against the risk events that he is facing.

Given the lack of response from the State, the Commission has no elements to assess the actions that have been purportedly initiated in his favor.

Consequently, under the terms of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, it requested that Cuba:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of the beneficiary;
b. take the necessary measures so that his detention conditions comply with applicable international standards. In particular, ensuring that the corresponding medical diagnoses are made, as well as the definition of his medical treatment;
c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 54/25 (LIFTED)
PM 799-20 - Maikel Herrera Bones, Cuba

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Maikel Herrera Bones in Cuba. On December 8, 2024, the representatives reported that the beneficiary had died due to lack of adequate medical care. Consequently, the Commission expressed its regret over the occurrence, observing that the protection measures are ineffective in the absence of the person they were intended to safeguard. It has therefore decided to lift these measures.

Resolution No. 71/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1303-25 - Juan Enrique Pérez Sánchez, Cuba

On October 4, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Juan Enrique Pérez Sánchez, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his rights to life, personal integrity, and health are at risk of suffering irreparable harm in Cuba.

According to the request, the beneficiary has been deprived of his liberty since 2021 and is at risk due to a fever and possible tuberculosis, among other medical conditions, which are not being treated. In particular, it is alleged that the State has used the denial of medical treatment and access to medication as a form of punishment and has also prevented the verification of injuries and physical assaults. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR.

Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Cuba:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Juan Enrique Pérez Sánchez;
b. implement the necessary measures so that his detention conditions comply with applicable international standards;
c. immediately carry out a comprehensive medical assessment of his health status, and guarantee adequate health care through the precise definition of medical treatment, timely access to the required medications, and the medical information that occurs;
d. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives;
e. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 75/25 (LIFTED)
PM 218-11 - Yris Tamara Pérez Aguilera, Cuba

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Yris Tamara Pérez Aguilera in Cuba. Despite several requests for information, the IACHR has not received a response from the representation since 2013. The State did not respond to the requests. Upon not identifying compliance with the requirements set forth in Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, and given that 12 years have elapsed without information from the beneficiary, the IACHR has decided to lift these precautionary measures.

Resolution No. 94/25 (LIFTED)
PM 350-12, 420-12 y 34-13 - Yoani María Sánchez Cordero, Antonio G. Rodiles, and "X", Cuba

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift the precautionary measures in favor of Yoani María Sánchez Cordero, Antonio G. Rodiles, and "X" regarding Cuba. The IACHR identified that the State of Cuba did not comply with its duty to provide information to this body. However, the representation did not respond during the time the precautionary measures were in force, which would have allowed this Commission to consider the requirements of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure to have been met. Consequently, the IACHR has decided to lift these precautionary measures.

ECUADOR

Resolution No. 13/25 (EXTENSION AND FOLLOW-UP)
PM 1581-18 – Jorge David Glas Espinel, Ecuador

On February 10, 2025, the IACHR adopted Follow-up and Extension Resolution 13/2025 in relation to the situation of Jorge Glas in Ecuador. After carrying out a follow-up visit to the beneficiary's situation in November 2024 in Ecuador, the IACHR considered that Jorge Glas's risk continues, after his detention in April

2024. It warned that his mental health is going through a state of special gravity, despite the medical care provided by the State in 2024, and that both his detention conditions and the events of violence that have occurred in the prison where he is currently, in addition to the detention conditions, are allegedly impacting the deterioration of the mental health of the beneficiary, and could impact his physical integrity. Having analyzed the submissions of fact and law, in accordance with Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission concluded that the situation of Mr. Jorge David Glas Espinel in Ecuador remains in force and decided:

a. Continue to follow up on the situation of Jorge David Glas Espinel.

b. In light of the assessments made in this resolution, extend the scope of the precautionary measures in force to include the beneficiary's right to health. Consequently, the State of Ecuador is requested to adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Jorge David Glas Espinel. In particular, assessing and implementing those most appropriate to his personal circumstances, and that allow for the creation of conditions that ensure and respect his rights, and compliance with the extension of the precautionary measure. This must include, at least, that the State:

    i. To maintain the continuous operation of the independent Technical Table that will have the following functions: 1. to be an instance of dialogue that allows reaching scientific medical consensus in case of discrepancies; and 2. to resolve any medical discrepancies that may arise between the trusted doctors of the beneficiary of the precautionary measure and the doctors in charge of the treatment of Mr. Jorge David Glas Espinel.
    ii. In light of the available medical documentation, to carry out a complete medical evaluation immediately in a hospital center, and to draw up a protocol that, without endangering the life or personal integrity of the beneficiary, establishes the appropriate protocol for admission and discharge to a hospital center each time it is necessary to carry out hospital treatment that cannot be provided in the detention center or to attend a physical or mental health emergency of Mr. Jorge David Glas Espinel.

c. Following the medical evaluation and the recommended treatment, the State must act with absolute diligence and take into account the scientific evaluations of the Technical Table and ensure that the conditions of detention, whether they occur in a detention center or in a hospital center if the beneficiary is receiving hospital treatment, must be compatible with the applicable international standards in the matter, including:

    i. Mr. Jorge David Glas Espinel is immediately transferred to a detention center other than the Guayas No. 3 Detention Center (CPL).

    ii. That the new detention center has at least the following characteristics and conditions of detention:
        - An adapted cell without objects that can be used for self-injury.
        - Illuminated, ventilated, clean and not overcrowded spaces, with access to basic services.
        - Trained personnel with specialized training in mental health, suicide risk detection and psychological first aid.
        - Avoid conditions of extreme isolation, allowing safe social interactions.
        - Access to support networks, family visits, contact with lawyers and religious assistance if desired. All in private spaces.
        - Allow for the access to independent monitoring mechanisms and accredited and specialized external institutional organizations to monitor detention conditions.
        - Keep logs of the actions taken for the protection of the beneficiary, which are accessible and transparent.
        - Ensure clear intervention protocols to respond to emergencies in situations presenting a risk to the life and integrity, and care for people with suicidal intentions and/or attempts.

- Ensure the timely and regular flow of medical information from the beneficiary and visits and participation of the beneficiary's trusted doctors.
- Guarantee specific treatments for Mr. Jorge David Glas Espinel including therapies and medication. In case of discrepancy of opinion on the part of the beneficiary's trusted physicians, such discrepancies shall be known and resolved by the Independent Technical Table.
- Access to the care of psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers who must be available in order to be able to comply with the medical treatment prescribed.
- Constant monitoring through uninterrupted supervision by trained personnel, which must be documented in a transparent recording mechanism.

d. Consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives, in accordance with the assessments and scope delimited in this resolution. In particular, strengthen the existing internal consultation mechanisms, taking into account the assessments and scope delimited in this resolution; and

e. Report on the actions taken to investigate the facts that gave rise to the adoption and continuity of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring. In particular, send the IACHR periodic information on the status of the investigation into the claims of ill-treatment and torture made in the context of this matter.

Resolution No. 97/25 (GRANTED)
PM 402-25 - 26 missing persons and six female searchers within the framework of a state of emergency, Ecuador

On December 24, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to 26 missing persons and six female searchers in the context of a state of emergency in Ecuador, after considering that they are in a serious and urgent situation, given that their rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm in Ecuador. According to the request, the 26 proposed beneficiaries, including six adolescents, were allegedly detained by members of the Armed Forces in various operations carried out during 2024, with no official information available to date on their fate or whereabouts, despite judicial decisions and complaints filed internally. Likewise, the six women searchers are allegedly being subjected to threats and acts of intimidation. The State reported that it has internal mechanisms in place to mitigate risks and that the cases mentioned are being handled by the Attorney General's Office for the alleged crime of forced disappearance. Regarding assistance to family members, it indicated that the risk assessment did not identify a verifiable risk, without prejudice to a reassessment being carried out.

The IACHR considered that the whereabouts of the 26 disappeared persons has not been determined, nor their fate. It also identified that threats and acts of intimidation against the women searchers have continued. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Ecuador:

a. Redouble its efforts to determine the situation and whereabouts of the 26 missing persons identified in this resolution, in order to protect their rights to life and personal integrity, through a search plan with measurable results, family participation, and an age-based approach, in accordance with applicable international standards and obligations;
b. Facilitate the immediate delivery of all available information that may shed light on the fate of the proposed beneficiaries, including, but not limited to, all information required by domestic court decisions and urgent actions of the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances;
c. Adopt the necessary measures, with a gender-based approach, to protect the life and integrity of the six female searchers: Lorena Jacqueline Roca Magallón, Wendy Gabriela Álvarez Chávez, the wife of Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco, Mercí Rocío García Bajaña, Mayra Álvarez Chávez, and Jeniffer Pillajo Córdova, in accordance with applicable international standards;
d. Provide physical and mental health care to the six identified relatives of the disappeared persons, in a coordinated and voluntary manner;

e. Consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the relatives of the beneficiaries and their representatives; and
f. Report on the actions taken to investigate with due diligence the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure and thus prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 99/25 (GRANTED)
PM 197-25 - Persons deprived of liberty in the Center for the Deprivation of Liberty Guayas No. 1, Ecuador

On December 30, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to persons deprived of liberty at Guayas No. 1 Detention Center in Guayaquil, Ecuador, after determining that they are in a serious and urgent situation, given that their rights to life, personal integrity, and health are at risk of irreparable harm. According to the request, the beneficiaries are exposed to overcrowding, structural deficiencies, insufficient access to medical care, the spread of infectious diseases —particularly tuberculosis— undernutrition, and limited access to drinking water and adequate food. In addition, a significant number of deaths were reported inside the center, allegedly associated with these conditions.

The State indicated that it has taken various measures to address the situation at the center, including interagency coordination, tuberculosis control and treatment programs, the establishment of medical care areas, the transfer of prisoners with infectious diseases, and the implementation of public prison health policies. The State also reported the existence of internal judicial mechanisms, such as habeas corpus petitions and autonomous precautionary measures, to demand medical care and adequate conditions of detention.

The IACHR considered that the high number of deaths, their sustained increase, and the lack of disaggregated state information on the causes, combined with the findings of judicial visits, among other pronouncements by state entities, demonstrate the need to strengthen the measures adopted by the State. Consequently, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, it requests that Ecuador:

a. adopt the necessary and effective measures to prevent the loss of life and harm to the physical integrity of all persons deprived of liberty in CPL Guayas No. 1;

b. immediately implement the necessary measures to ensure that the detention conditions of the beneficiaries are compatible with applicable international standards in this matter, including:

    i. guaranteeing access to adequate and specialized medical care, as well as to the necessary treatments and medications, including the immediate performance of comprehensive medical screenings and evaluations in accordance with their health issues;
    ii. ensuring immediate access to quality food in sufficient quantities to meet nutritional needs, as well as sufficient and continuous access to drinking water;
    iii. taking immediate action to substantially reduce overcrowding within CPL Guayas No. 1; and
    iv. guaranteeing regular access to CPL Guayas No. 1 for legal representatives and family members;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representatives by establishing an inter-institutional roundtable that reflects the urgency of the situation;

d. inform the IACHR of the actions taken to investigate the events that led to the adoption of these precautionary measures, in particular the deaths that occurred, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring; and

e. respond to the IACHR's request for consent to conduct an on-site visit to CPL Guayas No. 1 in order to verify the implementation of immediate actions under the terms of this resolution in favor of persons deprived of their liberty in that center.

EL SALVADOR

Resolution No. 66/25 (GRANTED)
PM 667-25 - Ruth Eleonora López Alfaro, El Salvador

On September 22, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Ruth Eleonora López Alfaro, after considering that she is in a serious and urgent situation of risk of irreparable harm to her rights in El Salvador. It was alleged that the human rights defender is the head of the Justice and Anti-Corruption Unit of the Cristosal Foundation. On May 18, 2025, she was deprived of her liberty and, since her admission on July 4, 2025, to the Women's Penitentiary Center, Granja de Izalco, she has been held incommunicado without contact with her family or legal representatives. Given the situation of absolute incommunicado detention, there is no certainty about her current situation or her health condition, considering her chronic illnesses. The Commission considered the alleged facts in light of the context and assessed the actions taken by the State in this matter. In this regard, the State reported that the beneficiary would receive personal hygiene kits and food provided by her family and would be integrated into general activities and programs within the prison. In addition, it indicated that it had taken measures to guarantee the beneficiary's right to health. However, it considered that the beneficiary would be deprived of her liberty under a provisional detention measure, without a defined term, and in a state of absolute isolation, without contact with her family members and legal representatives, who would have no possibility of knowing firsthand her current situation, state of health, and conditions of detention, despite the internal actions taken on her behalf. Therefore, in accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the State of El Salvador is requested to:

a. take the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Ruth Eleonora López Alfaro;
b. take the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiary's conditions of detention comply with international standards. In particular, that the situation of prolonged incommunicado detention be immediately ended; guarantee regular contact and access with her family members, attorneys, and representatives as a means of safeguarding her rights; and, considering the exceptional nature of pretrial detention and the risk to life, personal integrity, and health assessed in this resolution, proceed to review the continuation of pretrial detention in light of applicable standards, including the possibility of alternative measures to pretrial detention;
c. agree on the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and her representatives; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that gave rise to this resolution, including their relationship to her activity as a human rights defender, in order to prevent their recurrence.

Resolution No. 67/25 (GRANTED)
PM 929-25 - Salvador Enrique Anaya Barraza, El Salvador

On September 22, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Salvador Enrique Anaya Barraza, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his rights to life, personal integrity, and health are at risk of irreparable harm in El Salvador.

According to the request, the beneficiary is a constitutional lawyer, professor, and critic of the current government of El Salvador. He has been deprived of his liberty since June 7, 2025, and currently remains incommunicado, with neither his family nor his lawyers aware of his conditions of detention or state of health, despite the actions taken internally. For its part, the State asserted that the beneficiary's due process rights have been ensured at all times, including his right to legal representation and health care. The Commission took into account the alleged facts in light of the context and assessed the steps taken by the State in this matter. However, it observed that the beneficiary was being deprived of his liberty under a provisional detention order with no defined term and incommunicado from his family and legal representatives, who had no way of knowing firsthand his situation, conditions of detention, or state of health, despite the internal actions taken before various judicial institutions. In addition, the Commission emphasized the enhanced protection that should be granted to him as an older adult deprived of his liberty. Therefore, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that El Salvador:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Salvador Enrique Anaya Barraza;

b. implement the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiary's conditions of detention comply with international standards, in particular, immediately ending the prolonged incommunicado detention; guaranteeing regular contact and access with his family members, lawyers, and representatives as a means of safeguarding his rights, as well as providing him with the prescribed medical treatment in a timely and adequate manner; and, considering the exceptional nature of pretrial detention and the risk to life, personal integrity, and health assessed in this resolution, proceed to review the continuation of pretrial detention in light of applicable standards, including the possibility of alternative measures to pretrial detention;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives; and

d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that gave rise to this resolution, including their relationship to his activity as a human rights defender, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring

Resolution No. 69/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1101-25 - Irvin Jeovanny Quintanilla García, El Salvador

On October 2, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Irvin Jeovanny Quintanilla García, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to his rights in El Salvador. It was alleged that the beneficiary was deported on March 15, 2025, from the United States to El Salvador and that, as of that date, his whereabouts or destination were unknown. Despite the complaints filed and requests for a search by his relatives and legal representatives before the state authorities, to date there is still no information about his location and current situation. For its part, the State reported on the actions and coordination efforts to determine the beneficiary's location. It highlighted the verification of records at the General Directorate of Migration, the Attorney General's Office, the General Directorate of Penal Centers, and the National Civil Police, without finding any record in Salvadoran territory. It also referred to an investigation into the beneficiary's disappearance, in which the Attorney General's Office instructed the National Civil Police to carry out exhaustive investigations, including interviews with family members, inquiries on social media, and consultations with various institutions. The Commission appreciated the actions taken by the State through its various institutions, as well as the investigation into the beneficiary's disappearance. However, more than six months after the beneficiary's disappearance, his whereabouts remain unknown and there is no information that would allow the facts to be clarified. In accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that El Salvador:

a. adopt the immediate measures necessary to determine the situation of the beneficiary, and inform this Commission, legal representatives, and family members of his whereabouts, in order to protect his rights to life and personal integrity;
b. consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented with his representatives; and
c. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 82/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1150-25, 1152-25, 1153-25 - William Alexander Martínez Ruano, José Osmin Santos Robles, and Brandon Bladimir Sigarán Cruz, El Salvador

On November 17, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to William Alexander Martínez Ruano, José Osmin Santos Robles, and Brandon Bladimir Sigarán Cruz, after considering that they are in a serious and urgent situation, given that their rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm in El Salvador. According to the request, the beneficiaries are Salvadoran citizens who were deported from the United States. After entering El Salvador, they were deprived of their liberty and their whereabouts were

initially unknown. Currently, they remain incommunicado, with neither their families nor their lawyers having any knowledge of their conditions of detention, their legal situations, or their health conditions, despite the actions taken internally. For its part, the State emphasized its diligent efforts in the search, as the reports responding to the Commission account for the whereabouts of the beneficiaries, and considered that the requests do not comply with the IACHR Rules of Procedure. Upon analyzing the submissions of fact and law, the Commission considers that, at present, the beneficiaries are being held incommunicado from their relatives and legal representatives, who have no way of directly ascertaining their legal situations, conditions of detention, or states of health. This situation has continued despite the internal actions taken in the country before various judicial and administrative institutions.

In accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that El Salvador:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of the beneficiaries;

b. clarify the legal situation of the beneficiaries. In particular, formally indicate whether the beneficiaries have been charged with any crime and/or whether they have been brought before the appropriate judicial authority;

c. implement the necessary measures to ensure that the conditions of detention of the beneficiaries comply with international standards. In particular, that the situation of prolonged incommunicado detention be ended; that regular contact and access with their families, lawyers, and representatives be guaranteed as a means of safeguarding their rights;

d. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and

e. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

GUATEMALA

Resolution No. 36/25 (LIFTED)
PM 87-11 - Blanca Estela Puac Menchú and her family unit, Guatemala

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Blanca Estela Puac Menchú and her family unit in Guatemala. Following the State's request to lift, the Commission confirmed that the beneficiary no longer lives in Guatemala and that no incidents have been reported against her in the last three years. Upon not identifying compliance with the requirements set forth in Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the IACHR has decided to lift these precautionary measures.

HAITI

Resolution No. 45/25 (LIFTED)
PM 157-13 – Members of the Union of Consequent Citizens for the Respect of Human Rights (UCCRDH), Haiti

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of the members of the Union of Consequent Citizens for the Respect of Human Rights (Union des Citoyens Conséquents pour le Respect des Droits de l'Homme, UCCRDH) regarding Haiti. At the time of making the decision, the Commission considered that, during the more than 11 years the precautionary measures had been in force, the State had not provided a response. Additionally, over 10 years had passed without any communication from the representation that would allow the Commission to determine that the requirements of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure continued to be met. Consequently, the Commission has decided to lift these precautionary measures.

HONDURAS

Resolution No. 12/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1350-24 - Edwin Edgardo Lainez Ordoñez, Honduras

On February 2, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Edwin Edgardo Lainez Ordoñez, whose whereabouts have remained unknown in the city of Tegucigalpa since November 13, 2024. As background, in August 2023, the beneficiary was approached by a group of individuals identified as members of a criminal organization who threatened him and demanded the payment of one million lempiras. The requesting party warned that the kidnapping could be linked to the same individuals who had previously extorted him. The Honduran State informed that the Police Directorate Against Maras, Gangs, and Organized Crime (DIPAMPCO) received a complaint from Lainez's father for alleged disappearance and deprivation of liberty. In addition, the Police Directorate of Investigations (DPI) reported having carried out different investigative actions, such as search rounds to collect information and identify security cameras, among others.

The Commission appreciated the fact that the State has taken investigative actions and that it has expressed its commitment to continue developing measures to locate him. However, it noted that despite the time that has elapsed and the complaints filed, there is no official information regarding the place and conditions in which Edwin Edgardo Lainez Ordoñez is. Similarly, the latest communication from the State does not indicate any progress or results in the investigations carried out by the competent authorities. After analyzing the available information, the IACHR, in accordance with Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, requested that Honduras.

a. adopt the necessary measures to determine the whereabouts or fate of Edwin Edgardo Lainez Ordoñez, in order to protect his rights to life and personal integrity;

b. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring; and

c. ensure that the family of Mr. Lainez Ordoñez is kept duly informed of the measures adopted and the progress of the investigation.

Resolution No. 37/25 (EXTENSION, FOLLOW-UP, AND PARTIAL LIFT)
PM 137-23 - Identified members of the *Comité Municipal de Defensa de los Bienes Comunes y Públicos de Tocoa* and *Bufete Justicia para los Pueblos*, Honduras

On May 1, 2025, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decided to issue Resolution of Follow-up, Extension, and Partial Lift 37/2025, regarding precautionary measures 137-23 in favor of members of the Municipal Committee for the Defense of the Common and Public Goods of Tocoa (C*omité Municipal de Defensa de los Bienes Comunes y Públicos de Tocoa,* CMDBCPT) and the law firm Justice for the People (*Bufete Justicia para los Pueblos*) in Honduras.

In the resolution, the IACHR decided to maintain the precautionary measures, lift them with respect to Juan López after his murder in September 2024, and extend them in favor of 13 defenders and/or members of the Committee and family members of Juan López, due to the serious and urgent risk as a result of their activities in defense of the environment in the context of mining projects in the Bajo Aguán region, as well as the search for justice after the murder of Juan López.

Consequently, pursuant to Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission decided as follows:

a. Keep the precautionary measures granted in favor of Juana Ramona Zu´niga Marti´nez, Gabriela Ofelia Sorto Cruz, David Lemus, J.M., D.M., Olayo Me´ndez, Juana Esquivel, A.C., D.S., Esly Emperatriz Banegas A´vila, Rita Isabel Romero, Aida Rodri´guez, Mario Lo´pez, Gregorio Va´squez, Ernesto Lo´pez, Dinora Castro, A.A., Jose´ Abelino Cedillo, Reynaldo Domi´nguez, Eugenio Esquivel, J.S.H.,

O.H, Jose´ Daniel Ma´rquez, Marco Tulio Ramos, Kelvin Romero, Porfirio Sorto, Edy Alexander Ta´bora Gonzales, Kenia Oliva, and Carlos Jime´nez;

b. Extend the precautionary measures granted in favor of Telma Pena, Claudia López, Julia López, Melvin Darvin Espino López, Enma Iveth Gutiérrez Velásquez, Roxana Yamileth Romero Ruiz, Gloria Dubon, Antonio Alvarado, Miguel Ángel Vásquez, José Nuncio Veliz Alfaro, Limbor Otoniel Velásquez Sarmiento, Jose Juan Cedillo Martínez, and Angel Augusto Centerero;
c. Lift the precautionary measures granted to Juan Antonio López;
d. Strengthen the implementation of measures to protect beneficiaries and assess the situations that place them at risk, as soon as possible, with a view to adopting appropriate and effective measures to protect their lives and personal integrity;
e. Strengthen the presence of state institutions in the area within the framework of environmental and disarmament policies as part of the measures to be implemented to mitigate the risk to beneficiaries; and
f. Investigate with due diligence the alleged acts of risk and thus prevent impunity and the repetition of such acts, in particular the murder of human rights defender Juan Antonio López.

Resolution No. 55/25 (LIFTED)
PM 688-16 - Érick Pérez *et al.*, Honduras

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift the precautionary measures in favor of Érick Pérez *et al.*, in Honduras. Following the State's request to lift the measures, the Commission assessed the actions taken to implement the precautionary measures. The Commission also considered the extended period without facts that indicate an ongoing situation which places the beneficiaries at imminent risk. Upon not identifying compliance with the requirements set forth in Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the IACHR has decided to lift these precautionary measures.

MEXICO

Resolution No. 17/25 (LIFTED)
PM 13-15 – Norma Mesino Mesino and ten identified members of her family, Mexico

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decided to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Norma Mesino Mesino and ten members of her family, in Mexico. At the time of making the decision, the Commission assessed the actions taken by the State during the implementation and the lack of concrete, current and specific events against the beneficiaries that allow identifying a situation posing a serious and imminent risk. Taking into account the nature of precautionary measures and in light of the information available, the Commission considered that it is currently not possible to establish a situation presenting a risk under the terms of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure. Consequently, the IACHR decided to lift the measures.

Resolution No. 30/25 (LIFTED)
PM 448-10 – Víctor Ayala Tapia, Mexico

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has decided to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Víctor Ayala Tapia, in Mexico. At the time of making the decision, the Commission assessed the actions taken by the State during implementation as well as the observations presented by the beneficiaries' representation. Taking into account the nature of the precautionary measures and in light of the information available, the Commission considered that it is not possible to establish a situation of risk under the terms of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure at this time. Upon not identifying compliance with the procedural requirements, the IACHR has decided to lift these precautionary measures.

Resolution No. 34/25 (LIFTED)
PM 917-20 – José Ángel Peñaloza Hernández et al., Mexico

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Franco Peñaloza Hernández, Yazmín Yareli Sánchez, José Ángel Peñaloza Hernández, and Paulina

Lemus Hernández, in Mexico. At the time of making the decision, the Commission assessed the actions taken by the State during the implementation, as well as the lack of information from the representation. Taking into account the nature of the precautionary measures and in light of the information available, the Commission considered that it is not possible to establish a situation presenting a risk under the terms of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure at this time. Upon not identifying compliance with the procedural requirements, the IACHR has decided to lift these precautionary measures.

Resolution No. 41/25 (LIFTED)
PM 251-15 - "Alejandro" and his family unit, Mexico

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of "Alejandro" and his identified family unit, in Mexico. At the time of making the decision, the Commission assessed the actions taken by the State during the implementation and the lack of concrete, current, and specific events against the beneficiaries that would allow it to identify a situation of serious and imminent risk. Taking into account the nature of precautionary measures and in light of the information available, the Commission considered that it is currently not possible to establish a situation presenting a risk under the terms of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure. Consequently, the IACHR decided to lift the measures.

Resolution No. 42/25 (LIFTED)
PM 250-09 - José Alejandro Solalinde Guerra and Members of the "Hermanos en el Camino" Migrant Shelter of Ixtepec, Mexico

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of José Alejandro Solalinde Guerra and members of the "Hermanos en el Camino" Migrant Shelter in Ixtepec, Oaxaca, Mexico. At the time of making the decision, the Commission assessed the actions taken by the State during their implementation. It was also noted that, regarding the main beneficiary, no information has been available that would support the identification of a situation presenting an imminent risk under Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, since 2017. Consequently, the IACHR decided to lift the measures.

Resolution No. 84/25 (LIFTED)
PM 77-15 - Esperanza Hernández, defender "K", and their family units, Mexico

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to issue this Resolution to lift the precautionary measures in the terms of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure. Having analyzed the available information, the Commission does not have sufficient elements to continue to comply with the procedural requirements. Consequently, the Commission decided to lift this matter and remind the State of its international obligations under the terms of Article 1 (1) of the American Convention.

Resolution No. 87/25 (LIFTED)
PM 388-12 - Edgar Ismael Solorio Solís and thirteen other persons, Mexico

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Edgar Ismael Solorio Solís et al., in Mexico. At the time of making the decision, the Commission assessed the actions taken by the State during the implementation and the lack of concrete, current, and specific events against the beneficiaries that allow a situation posing a serious and imminent risk to be identified. Taking into account the nature of precautionary measures and in light of the information available, the Commission considered that it is currently not possible to establish a situation presenting a risk under the terms of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure. Consequently, the IACHR decided to lift the measures.

Resolution No. 92/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1514-25 - Ana Amelí García Gámez, Mexico

On December 12, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Ana Amelí García Gámez, after considering that she is in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to her rights in Mexico. It was alleged that on July 12, 2025, the beneficiary, aged 20, left for a walk in the Cumbres del Ajusco National Park, located in the Tlalpan borough, in Mexico City (CDMX). Since that date, her whereabouts have

been unknown, and her relatives have raised a series of questions and criticisms about the procedures and actions of the state authorities with regard to the search and investigation of the beneficiary's situation, including the lack of solid lines of investigation and the lack of substantive progress in locating her. In addition, They refered to the State's failure to comply with the recommendations issued by the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances through Urgent Action No. 2133/2025. Despite the complaints filed and the proceedings carried out, her whereabouts remain unknown to date. For its part, the State reported on the search efforts and actions being carried out by its various institutions, as well as the lines of investigation opened into the alleged events. It highlighted the implementation of a search plan by the Mexico City Commission for the Search for Persons with a gender perspective. It also reported that it was carrying out follow-up activities, meetings, and working groups, as well as coordination between different state institutions, in order to continue agreeing on the necessary steps to locate the proposed beneficiary. The Commission assessed the actions implemented by the State through its various institutions, as well as the investigation opened into the disappearance of the beneficiary. However, almost five months after the beneficiary's disappearance, her whereabouts remain unknown and there is no information available to help clarify the facts. In accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Mexico:

a. redouble its efforts to determine the situation and whereabouts of Ana Amelí García Gámez, in order to protect her rights to life and personal integrity;

b. ensure that the comprehensive search plan considers differentiated measures due to gender, and respond to the recommendations issued by the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the questions raised by the family; and, as appropriate, provide the relatives with an explanation for their inclusion or dismissal in the actions to be implemented;

c. continue to promote smooth and periodic channels of communication with relatives and their representatives on the progress made with respect to the comprehensive search plan and on the open lines of investigation, indicating the reasons for the inclusion or dismissal of the hypothesis of possible state participation in the events reported, and provide information on new proceedings; and

d. update on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 95/25 (EXTENSION, FOLLOW-UP, AND PARTIAL LIFT)
PM 990-21 - Vicente Iván Suástegui Muñoz and his family, Mexico

On December 20, 2025, the IACHR adopted Follow-up, Extension, and Partial Lifting Resolution No. 95/2025 regarding the situation of Vicente Iván Suástegui Muñoz and family in Mexico (PM-990-21). The IACHR considered that the situation of risk noted in relation to Vicente Iván Suástegui Muñoz, following his disappearance on August 5, 2021, as well as in relation to his family members, continues. It also considered that the family members of Samantha Colón, Vicente Iván Suástegui Muñoz's partner, share the situation of risk, and therefore extended the measures in their favor. Finally, the Commission lifted the measures in relation to Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz, following his murder in April 2025. The IACHR positively assessed the search and investigation actions carried out by the State in relation to Vicente Iván Suástegui Muñoz, as well as the implementation of various protection and support measures for his beneficiary family members. Under the terms of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested that Mexico:

a. To maintain the precautionary measures granted to all the persons indicated in Resolution No. 93/2025 of November 23, 2021;

b. Strengthen the search actions and investigations, as well as advance the judicial processes regarding the disappearance of Vicente Iván Suástegui Muñoz;

c. Strengthen the protection measures in relation to Samantha Valeria Colón Morales;

d. Extend the precautionary measures in favor of Faustino Colón Delgado, Ignacia Morales Salmerón, Sandra Paola Téllez Colón; J.A.S.T. and P.M.T.C., as relatives of Samantha Valeria Colón Morales;

e. Lift the precautionary measures granted in favor of Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz;

f. Investigate alleged acts of risk with due diligence in order to prevent impunity and the repetition of such acts, in particular the murder of Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz.

NICARAGUA

Resolution No. 4/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1436-24 - Angélica Patricia Chavarría Altamirano, Nicaragua

On January 10, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Angélica Patricia Chavarría Altamirano, after considering that she is in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to her rights in Nicaragua. It was alleged that the beneficiary's whereabouts have remained unknown as from her detention on May 19, 2024. It was alleged that police officers detained her and her partner, under house arrest, without the possibility of communicating. After the latter's death in September 2024, her relatives have not been able to find her whereabouts or fate in Nicaragua. The state authorities have not provided official information about her whereabouts or her current state. The Commission also assessed that the State did not provide any information regarding the measures adopted to mitigate the beneficiary's risk or regarding the actions taken to determine her whereabouts. Pursuant to Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Nicaragua:

a. adopt the necessary measures to determine the situation and whereabouts of the beneficiary, in order to protect her rights to life and personal integrity;

b. detail if the beneficiary is in the custody of the State, the circumstances, and conditions of her detention. In particular, report on the place of her detention, and allow access to her legal representatives and family, as well as the necessary health care; and

c. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 16/25 (GRANTED)
PM 117-25 – Julio Antonio Quintana Carvajal, Nicaragua

On February 18, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Julio Antonio Quintana Carvajal, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to his rights in Nicaragua. It was alleged that the beneficiary's whereabouts are unknown. On November 26, 2024, during a police operation, he was detained by police officers at his home. Since his detention, his whereabouts have not been known nor has he had contact with persons close to him. The state authorities have also not provided official information about his whereabouts or his current state. The Commission also assessed that the State did not provide any information regarding the measures adopted to mitigate the beneficiary's risk or regarding the actions taken to determine his whereabouts. Pursuant to Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested that Nicaragua:

a. adopt the necessary measures to determine the situation and whereabouts of the beneficiary, in order to protect his rights to life and personal integrity;

b. detail whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State, and if so, specify by what legal authority, and the circumstances and conditions of his detention. In particular, report on the place of his detention, and allow access to his legal representatives and family, as well as the necessary health care; and

c. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 25/25 (LIFTED)
PM 1214-24 – Jhon Fernando Paladines Rubio, Nicaragua

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has decided to lift the precautionary measures in favor of Jhon Fernando Paladines Rubio in Nicaragua. Following the request to lift presented by the representation, the Commission confirmed that to date, the beneficiary's situation has changed significantly, and he is currently living abroad. Upon not identifying compliance with the requirements set forth in Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the IACHR has decided to lift these precautionary measures.

Resolution No. 26/25 (GRANTED)
PM 222-25 – José Alejandro Hurtado Díaz, Nicaragua

On March 14, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of José Alejandro Hurtado Díaz, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to his rights in Nicaragua. It was alleged that the beneficiary's whereabouts are unknown. On January 27, 2025, he was detained by police officers at his home. Since his detention, his whereabouts have not been known nor has he had contact with persons close to him. The state authorities have also not provided official information about his whereabouts or his current state. The Commission also assessed that the State did not provide any information regarding the measures adopted to mitigate the beneficiary's risk or regarding the actions taken to determine his whereabouts. Pursuant to Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Nicaragua:

a. adopt the necessary measures to determine the situation and whereabouts of the beneficiary, in order to protect his rights to life and personal integrity;
b. indicate whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State, and if so, specify whether he has been charged with an offence and/or taken before a court of appropriate jurisdiction;
c. clarify the circumstances and conditions of his detention, including the place of his detention, and if he has access to his legal representatives and family, as well as the necessary health care; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 33/25 (GRANTED)
PM 252-25 – Douglas Gamaliel Pérez Centeno, Nicaragua

On April 6, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Douglas Gamaliel Pérez Centeno, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to his rights in Nicaragua. It was alleged that the beneficiary was extradited from Costa Rica on February 16, 2025, and since then has been detained by Nicaraguan state authorities. Since then, his next of kin reportedly do not have precise information on his place of detention, conditions of detention, and current status, despite the steps and actions taken with the State authorities. The Commission also found that the State did not provide official information on the current situation of the proposed beneficiary, including his current location and conditions of detention, or information on the measures adopted to address the beneficiary's risk situation. In accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested that Nicaragua:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect his rights to life and personal integrity. In particular, clarifying where he is being held in Nicaragua or his legal situation following his extradition to the country;
b. specify whether, since his extradition from Costa Rica, he has been brought before the appropriate judicial authority, and if not, indicate the reasons for his detention without judicial review. Likewise, to report on his conditions of deprivation of liberty, including the procedural stage of the criminal case against him, and whether he has access to his legal representatives and family members, as well as the necessary health care; and

c. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent them from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 46/25 (GRANTED)
PM 755-25 - Aníbal Martín Rivas Reed, Nicaragua

On June 24, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures for the benefit of Aníbal Martín Rivas Reed, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm in Nicaragua.

According to the request, the beneficiary was detained at his home on May 17, 2025, by police officers. Since that date, his next of kin and relatives have no knowledge of his whereabouts or fate in Nicaragua. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Nicaragua:

a. adopt the necessary measures to determine the situation and whereabouts of the beneficiary, in order to protect his rights to life and personal integrity;
b. state whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State, and if so, specify whether he has been charged with an offence and/or taken before a court of appropriate jurisdiction;
c. clarify the circumstances and conditions of his detention, including the place of his detention, and if he has access to his legal representatives and family, as well as the necessary health care; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 65/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1230-25 - Armando José Bermúdez Mojica *et al.*, Nicaragua

On September 16, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Armando José Bermúdez Mojica, Olga María Lara Rojas, Pedro José López Calero, Jessica María Palacios Vargas, and Rudy Antonio Palacios Vargas, after determining that they were in a serious and urgent situation, given that their rights to life and personal integrity were at risk of irreparable harm in Nicaragua. According to the request, the beneficiaries were detained at their homes on July 17, 2025, by agents of the Special Operations Directorate of the National Police (DOEP) in Jinotepe, Carazo, as possible retaliation for belonging to a family that opposes and criticizes the Nicaraguan government. Since then, their relatives and close friends claim to have no information about their whereabouts or fate. For its part, the State has not provided any information to the IACHR. In these circumstances, and based on Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Nicaragua:

a. adopt the necessary measures to determine the situation and whereabouts of Armando José Bermúdez Mojica, Olga María Lara Rojas, Pedro José López Calero, Jessica María Palacios Vargas, and Rudy Antonio Palacios Vargas in order to protect their rights to life and personal integrity;
b. formally indicate whether the beneficiaries have been charged with a crime and/or have been brought before the appropriate judicial authority; and if not, clarify the reason for their detention without charge and judicial supervision;
c. clarify the circumstances and conditions of their detention, including the place of their detention, and whether they have access to their legal representatives and family, as well as the necessary health care; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 74/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1326-25, 1372-25 - Álvaro Antonio Baltodano Cantarero and nine other persons, Nicaragua

On October 27, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Álvaro Antonio Baltodano Cantarero, Álvaro Baltodano Monroy, Octavio Enrique Caldera, Marvin Antonio Campos Chavarría, Chester Jeramil Cortez Narváez, Yerri Gustavo Estrada Ruiz, Larry Javier Martínez Romero, Antonio Mercado López,

Luis Francisco Ortiz Calero, and María José Rojas Arburola, who are in a serious and urgent situation of irreparable harm to their rights in Nicaragua. According to the request, the beneficiaries are recognized or perceived as political opponents of the current Nicaraguan government and were detained by state authorities between May and August 2025. Currently, there is no information about their whereabouts or conditions of detention. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested that Nicaragua:

a. adopt the necessary measures to determine the situation and whereabouts of the beneficiaries, in order to protect their rights to life, personal integrity, and health;

b. formally indicate if the beneficiaries have been charged with any crime and/or whether they have been brought before the appropriate judicial authority. If not, clarify the reason for their detention without charges and without judicial supervision;

c. clarify the circumstances and conditions of their detention, including the place of their detention. In particular, guarantee regular contact with their families, trusted legal representatives, and consular authorities of the country of which they are nationals;

d. immediately carry out a comprehensive medical assessment to determine the wellbeing of those with health conditions, and guarantee adequate care through the precise definition of medical treatment, and allow timely access to the required medications, while consulting and agreeing upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and

e. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 93/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1225-24 - Walter José Balmaceda Ruiz and eight other persons deprived of their liberty, Nicaragua

On December 12, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of (1) Walter José Balmaceda Ruiz, (2) Jairo Alberto Obando Delgadillo, (3) Eddy Antonio Gutiérrez Delgadillo, (4) Zacarias Cano Angulo, (5) Rosendo Antonio Huerta González, (6) Leonel Antonio Poveda Palacios, (7) José Olivar Meza Raudez, (8) Wilfredo Balmaceda Castrillo, and (9) José Ricardo Cortez Dávila; after considering that they are in a serious and urgent situation, given that their rights to life, personal integrity, and health are at risk of irreparable harm in Nicaragua.

According to the request, the beneficiaries do not have access to adequate medical care to treat their health conditions and are being held in precarious conditions of detention. In addition, they are allegedly being threatened by prison officials. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Nicaragua:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of the beneficiaries;

b. implement the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiaries' detention conditions are compatible with applicable international standards on the matter, including:

    i. guarantee that they are not subjected to violence, threats, intimidation, and aggression inside the prison;
    ii. ensure access to adequate and specialized medical care, treatments, and medications, and immediately carry out a comprehensive medical evaluation of their health;
    iii. provide immediate access to adequate food and water;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and

d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

PANAMA

Resolution No. 14/25 (LIFTED)
PM 105-11 – Communities of the Kuna peoples of Madungandí and Emberá de Bayano, Panama

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of the communities of the Kuna de Madungandí and Emberá de Bayano indigenous peoples in Panama. Following the State's request to lift these measures, the Commission assessed that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.) issued a substantive judgment regarding the case related to the proposed beneficiaries. Similarly, it noted the long period without relevant information from the representation, which it required to assess keeping the precautionary measures in force. Consequently, upon not identifying compliance with the procedural requirements, the Commission has decided to lift these precautionary measures. Lastly, the Commission recalls that the situation of the beneficiary communities has been subject to supervision by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the context of the judgment in the Case of the Kuna of Madungandí and Emberá de Bayano Indigenous Peoples and their members v. Panama.

Resolution No. 81/25 (LIFTED)
PM 490-18 - M.B.B.P, Panama

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of M.B.B.P. regarding Panama. At the time of making the decision, the Commission evaluated the actions taken by the State during implementation; which account for a significant change in the beneficiary's legal and factual situation, following the adoption of domestic decisions in her favor. Consequently, the IACHR considered that the requirements of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure and has decided to lift these precautionary measures.

PARAGUAY

Resolution No. 43/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1323-24 - A.R.C.B., Paraguay

On June 7, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to A.R.C.B., after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his rights face a risk of irreparable harm in Paraguay. According to the request, Maura Raquel Barrios Recalde has had no contact with her son, 9-year-old A.R.C.B., since 2023, despite the existence of a final judgment of 2021 on a cohabitation regime between the mother and her son. Consequently, based on Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that the State of Paraguay adopt the necessary measures to safeguard the rights to family life, identity, and personal integrity of the child A.R.C.B. In particular, the State must immediately define an appropriate program for him to interact with his mother, in the terms assessed by the court judgment of January 7, 2021, and the corresponding psychosocial accompaniment, according to the evaluations deemed pertinent to be carried out under the applicable standards of the best interests of the child.

Resolution No. 86/25 (LIFTED)
PM 68-17 - Matter of Panambi, Paraguay

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Panambi, in Paraguay. The precautionary measures were granted in light of the serious and urgent situation faced by the proposed beneficiary, whose life and personal integrity were at risk. The IACHR decided

to lift the precautionary measures after considering that the State has reported on the adoption of measures aimed at implementing them, and that for over five years the representation has not reported on facts indicating that the beneficiary's risk persists. Consequently, since the requirements of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure were not identified as having been met, the IACHR decided to lift the measures.

PERU

Resolution No. 5/25 (LIFTED)
PM 729-22 - Liz Patricia Benavides Vargas and her family unit, Peru

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift the precautionary measures at hand in favor of Liz Patricia Benavides Vargas and her family unit in Peru. At the time of making the decision, the Commission recognized the measures taken by the State during the implementation, as well as the change of factual circumstances in relation to the beneficiary's functions, coupled with the passage of time without threatening events. Following the State's repeated requests so that the IACHR issue a ruling on the validity of these precautionary measures, including a request to lift them, the IACHR asked for information from the beneficiaries' representation, who stopped responding. Taking into account the nature of the precautionary measures and in light of the information available, the Commission considered that at this time it is not possible to establish a threatening situation under the terms of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, and decided to lift the measures at hand.

Resolution No. 20/25 (LIFTED)
PM 113-16 – Members of the "Tres Islas" Native Community of Madre de Dios, Peru

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Members of the "Tres Islas" Native Community of Madre de Dios in Peru. When making its decision, the Commission assessed the measures adopted internally by the State. In addition, the IACHR considered the prolonged lack of response from the representation. Taking into account the nature of the precautionary measures and in light of the information available, the Commission considered that, at this time, it is not possible to identify a situation of risk under the terms of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, and has decided to lift these measures.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Resolution No. 22/25 (LIFTED)
PM 83-14 – Keron López and Garvín Sookram, Trinidad and Tobago

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Keron López and Garvín Sookram regarding Trinidad and Tobago. At the time of making the decision, the Commission observes that, in the approximately 11 years that these precautionary measures have been in force, the representation has not submitted a written response to any of the requests for information issued by the Commission. The State did not provide any response either. Moreover, according to public information, the beneficiaries were removed from death row. Consequently, the Commission considers that there is no information to continue to consider that the requirements of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure have been met. Therefore, it deems it appropriate to lift these precautionary measures.

UNITED STATES

Resolution No. 76/25 (LIFTED)
PM 176-23 - Michael Tisius, United States

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Michael Tisius in the United States. The State executed the beneficiary, despite the precautionary measures that were in force. The IACHR observed that carrying out the death penalty represents a substantial

change in the factual circumstances that gave rise to these precautionary measures and, at the same time, a failure to comply with them. At the time of adopting the decision to lift this matter, the IACHR condemns the enforcement of the death penalty against beneficiaries of precautionary measures. The Commission proceeds with its analysis of the related petition.

VENEZUELA

Resolution No. 1/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1432-24 - Nahuel Agustín Gallo, Venezuela

On January 1, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Nahuel Agustín Gallo after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his rights to life and personal integrity face a risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela. According to the request, the proposed beneficiary is a First Corporal of the National Gendarmerie in Argentina, and was detained on December 8, 2024, at the Francisco de Paula Santander International Bridge, in Ureña, Venezuela. Since that date, his whereabouts, the conditions of his detention and state of health have been unknown. The State did not provide information to the IACHR. Consequently, based on Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of the beneficiary. In particular,

   i. inform whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State and the circumstances of his detention; or the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;

   ii. specify whether the beneficiary was brought before a competent court to review his detention if he has been charged with a crime;

   iii. expressly indicate the court that reportedly hears his criminal case, if any, or the reasons why he has not been released to date;

   iv. allow the beneficiary to communicate with his family and trusted legal representatives, giving them full access to his criminal file, if any; and

   v. allow the beneficiary to communicate with his country of nationality; and

b. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 2/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1438-24 - Alberto Trentini, Venezuela

On January 7, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Alberto Trentini, considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation given that his rights to life and personal integrity face a risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela. According to the request, the proposed beneficiary is an Italian national and a humanitarian worker of the NGO "Humanity and Inclusion," in Venezuela. He was detained on November 15, 2024, by Venezuelan authorities at the checkpoint of Guasdualito, Venezuela. Since that date, his whereabouts have been unknown. The State did not provide information to the IACHR. Therefore, pursuant to Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, it requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of the beneficiary. In particular, officially report whether he is in custody of the State and the circumstances of his detention; or else, the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;

b. establish the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiary's detention conditions are compatible with the applicable international standards on the matter, including:

   i. guaranteeing regular contact with and access to his family members, lawyers, and representatives, and allow the beneficiary to communicate with his country of nationality;

   ii. officially report on the legal situation of the beneficiary in the framework of the criminal process in which he is said to be involved, as well as the reasons why he has not been released to date and if a court has reviewed his detention; and

   iii. immediately carry out a medical evaluation of his health and guarantee access to the necessary medical care;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives; and

d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 3/25 (GRANTED)
PM 16-25 - Carlos José Correa Barros, Venezuela

On January 10, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Carlos José Correa Barros, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation given that his rights to life and personal integrity face a risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela. According to the request, he is a human rights defender and executive director of the organization Espacio Público, who was allegedly detained on January 7, 2025, by security authorities of the State of Venezuela. His whereabouts are currently unknown. The State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Carlos José Correa Barros. In particular, provide official information on whether he is in the custody of the State and the circumstances of his detention, or on the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;

b. implement the necessary measures so that the beneficiary can carry out his human rights defense activities without being subjected to threats, stigmatizing and disqualifying statements, harassment, or acts of violence;

c. establish the necessary measures to ensure that the conditions of detention of the beneficiary are compatible with the applicable international standards on the matter, including:

   i. guaranteeing regular contact and access to his family members, his attorneys, and representatives;

   ii. provide official information on the legal situation of the beneficiary in the framework of the criminal proceedings in which he is allegedly involved, such as the reasons why he has not been released to date, and whether he has been brought before a court for a review of his detention; and

   iii. immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health situation and guarantee access to the necessary medical care;

d. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives; and

e. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 6/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1271-24 - Gustavo de los Reyes Ruiz, his wife and his son, Venezuela

On January 20, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Gustavo de los Reyes Ruiz, his wife, and son, after considering that they are in a serious and urgent situation given that their rights to life and personal integrity face a risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela. According to the request, the proposed beneficiaries are being harassed by Venezuelan State security agents due to their political activity and affiliation with the opposition party "Vente Venezuela" in the country. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of the beneficiaries;

b. ensure the corresponding measures to guarantee that they can continue to carry out their political participation activities without being subjected to threats, harassment, or acts of violence in the exercise thereof. In particular, the State must ensure that its agents respect the rights and personal integrity of the beneficiaries in accordance with the standards established by international human rights law, as well as in relation to acts of risk attributable to third parties;

c. report on existing criminal investigations against them; exhibit the judicial arrest warrants that exist, if any; and allow them to have security guarantees in the development of the eventual investigations;

d. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and

e. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 7/25 (GRANTED)
PM 205-24 - Carlos Julio Rojas, Venezuela

On January 20, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of journalist and social activist Carlos Julio Rojas, upon considering that he is at serious and urgent risk of irreparable harm to his rights in Venezuela. On April 15, 2024, he was detained by Venezuelan security forces. Since his deprivation of liberty, he has not been allowed access to a trusted lawyer and has not had contact with his relatives since July 28, 2024. It was reported that the beneficiary allegedly suffers from diseases and there is no official information on his detention or health conditions. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Carlos Julio Rojas, in accordance with the applicable international standards;

b. implement the necessary measures to ensure that his detention conditions are compatible with the applicable international standards on the matter, in particular:

   i. guarantee regular contact with and access to his family members, lawyers, and representatives;

   ii. provide official information on the legal situation of the beneficiary in the framework of the criminal process in which he is said to be involved;

   iii. immediately carry out a medical evaluation of his health and guarantee access to the necessary medical care;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives; and

d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 8/25 (GRANTED)
PM 25-25, 26-25 - Víctor Manuel Borjas Albornoz and Manuel Alejandro Muñoz Camacho, Venezuela

On January 26, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Víctor Manuel Borjas Albornoz and Manuel Alejandro Muñoz Camacho, after considering that they are in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to their rights in Venezuela. It was alleged that the beneficiaries are political and human rights activists in Venezuela. On January 9, 2025, they were detained by State security authorities during nationwide protests. Since their detentions, their whereabouts have not been known nor have they had contact with their relatives and/or legal representatives. The Commission also assessed that the State did not provide any information regarding the measures adopted to mitigate the beneficiaries' risk or regarding the actions taken to determine their location. Pursuant to Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to safeguard the rights to life and personal integrity of Víctor Manuel Borjas Albornoz and Manuel Alejandro Muñoz Camacho. In particular, officially report whether they are in the custody of the State and the circumstances of their detention; or, the measures taken to determine their respective whereabouts or fate;

b. establish the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiaries' detention conditions are compatible with the applicable international standards on the matter, including:

   i. guaranteeing regular contact with and access to their family members, lawyers, and representatives; and

   ii. officially report on their legal situation in the framework of the criminal process in which they are said to be involved, as well as the reasons why they have not been released to date, and whether they have been presented to a court for review of their detention;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and

d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 10/25 (GRANTED)
PM 27-25 - Jesús Gabriel Useche Moncada, Venezuela

On January 30, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Jesús Gabriel Useche Moncada, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation since his rights to life and personal integrity face a risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela. According to the request, the 19 year-old beneficiary, who has an intellectual disability, was detained on January 9, 2025, during the demonstrations in Venezuela. To date, he remains isolated and incommunicado, with no information on the conditions of his detention or his current state of health. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Jesús Gabriel Useche Moncada;

b. promote the necessary measures to ensure that the conditions of detention of the beneficiary are compatible with the applicable international standards on the matter, particularly taking into account his disability, inter alia:

   i. guarantee regular contact with and access to his family members, trusted lawyers, and representatives;

   ii. provide official information about the legal situation of the beneficiary in the framework of the criminal proceedings in which he is allegedly involved, such as the reasons for which he has not been released to date, and whether he has been brought before a court for the review of his detention;

   iii. immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health situation and guarantee access to necessary medical care;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented with the beneficiary and his representatives; and

d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 15/25 (GRANTED)
PM 45-25 - Daniel García Morillo, Venezuela

On February 18, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Daniel García Morillo. It was reported that on January 9, 2025, the beneficiary was deprived of his liberty by members of the Bolivarian National Guard in Maracaibo, Zulia state. From that moment on, his location has been unknown. In addition, they reported that the beneficiary suffers from Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a bleeding disorder that reportedly requires constant and adequate medical attention.

When assessing the decision, the Commission took into account that the beneficiary's whereabouts are unknown, that it is not possible to ensure the conditions in which he finds himself or consider that he has the minimum guarantees necessary to protect his fundamental rights, and that family members do not have the possibility of requesting protection measures at the domestic level or ensuring that the required actions are taken to locate the beneficiary.

Having analyzed the information available, pursuant to the provisions of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the IACHR requested that Venezuela

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Daniel García Morillo. In particular, among others, disclose whether Daniel García Morillo is in the custody of the State and if so for what charges and by what legal authority as well as the circumstances of his detention;

b. promote the necessary measures to ensure that the conditions of detention of the beneficiary are compatible with the applicable international standards on the matter, including:

   i. guaranteeing regular contact with and access to his family members, his trusted attorneys and representatives;

   ii. provide official information on the legal situation of the beneficiary in the framework of the criminal proceedings in which he is allegedly involved, such as the reasons why he has not been released to date, and whether he has been brought before a court for the review of his detention; and

iii. immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health situation and guarantee access to necessary medical care;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented with the beneficiary and his representatives; and

d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 21/25 (GRANTED)
PM 143-25 - Carlos Marcelino Chancellor Ferrer, Venezuela

On February 28, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Carlos Marcelino Chancellor Ferrer, considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation given that his rights to life, personal integrity, and health face a risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela. According to the request, the beneficiary, 65 years old, is an opposition politician and former mayor of the municipality of Sifontes, in the state of Bolívar. He has been detained since August 6, 2024, following the post-election context in Venezuela. To date, he remains without access to medical care for his illnesses. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Carlos Marcelino Chancellor Ferrer;

b. implement sufficient measures to ensure that the beneficiary's detention conditions are compatible with applicable international standards. In particular, the following:

i. immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health situation and guarantee access to the necessary medical care;

ii. facilitate contact with his trusted lawyer, giving him access to the criminal file that is being processed against the beneficiary; and

iii. inform the representation about the reasons for which the beneficiary continues to be deprived of liberty and the judicial decisions regarding his legal situation;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives; and

d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 27/25 (GRANTED)
PM 247-25 - Lucas Jonas Hunter, Venezuela

On March 22, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Lucas Jonas Hunter. It was reported that Lucas Jonas Hunter is a French and United States citizen, works as an investment analyst and does not speak Spanish. On January 7, 2025, he got lost while riding his motorcycle near Paraguanchón, Guajira department, in northern Colombia, and was detained by officials of the Venezuelan Bolivarian National Guard at the border control. Since that date, his whereabouts are unknown. The Commission took into consideration that the whereabouts of the beneficiary are unknown, that it is not possible to ascertain the conditions in which he is, that communication between the beneficiary and the countries of which he is a national has not been guaranteed, preventing consular authorities, legal representatives and lawyers in Venezuela from providing him with support and assistance.

After analyzing the available information, the IACHR, in accordance with Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, requested that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of the beneficiary. In particular,

   i. inform whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State and the circumstances of his detention; or the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;
   ii. specify whether the beneficiary was brought before a competent court to review his detention if he has been charged with a crime;
   iii. expressly indicate the court that reportedly hears his criminal case, if any, or the reasons why he has not been released to date;
   iv. allow the beneficiary to communicate with his family and trusted legal representatives, giving them full access to his criminal file, if any;
   v. report whether the beneficiary has been provided with access to a translator or interpreter in order to gain accurate knowledge of his situation and exercise his rights; and
   vi. allow the beneficiary to communicate with his countries of nationality; and

b. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 31/25 (GRANTED)
PM 304-25 - Fernando Loaiza Chacón, Venezuela

On March 31, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Fernando Loaiza Chacon. It was reported that on March 14, 2025, the beneficiary, political activist of the Acción Democrática party and current mayor of the Catatumbo municipality, in the state of Zulia, was detained by the Strategic Operations Group (GOES). Since that date, his whereabouts and current health situation are unknown. When evaluating the decision, the Commission took into consideration the fact that the beneficiary's whereabouts are unknown, that his next of kin do not have the possibility to request protection measures at the domestic level or to receive the medical attention he might require for the various pathologies he suffers. After analyzing the available information, the IACHR, in accordance with Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, requested that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Fernando Loaiza Chacón. In particular, provide official information on whether he is in the custody of the State and the circumstances of his detention, or on the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;
b. implement sufficient measures to ensure that the conditions of detention of the beneficiary are compatible with applicable international standards. In particular the following:

   i. facilitate contact with his relatives, representatives and trusted lawyers;
   ii. inform officially about the legal situation of the beneficiary in the framework of the criminal proceedings in which he is allegedly involved, such as the reasons for which he has not been released to date, and whether he has been presented to a court for review of his detention; and
   iii. immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health situation and guarantee access to the necessary medical care and treatment;

c. implement the necessary measures so that the beneficiary can carry out his activities as mayor and opposition political leader without being subjected to threats, harassment, intimidation, or acts of violence;
d. consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented with the beneficiary and his representatives; and
e. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 32/25 (GRANTED)
PM 334-25 - Yevhenii Petrovich Trush, Venezuela

On April 5, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Yevhenii Petrovich Trush, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation of risk of irreparable harm to his rights in Venezuela. It was alleged that the beneficiary is a student of Ukrainian citizenship, identified as neurodivergent. On October 20, 2024, State agents detained the beneficiary without explanation. The Commission found that the State did not provide information and that the whereabouts of the beneficiary are unknown. In addition, the authorities have not clarified the beneficiary's legal situation, nor have actions been taken to guarantee communication between the beneficiary and the country of which he is a national and his next of kin. Likewise, the IACHR considered it transcendental that the beneficiary is a neurodivergent person, which requires reasonable adjustments to guarantee his access and exercise of his rights under conditions of equality. In accordance with Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of the beneficiary. In particular,

   i. inform whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State and if so, indicate the reason for his detention and his current circumstances, or provide information on the measures aimed at determining his whereabouts or fate;
   ii. specify whether the beneficiary was brought before a court of competent jurisdiction to review his detention if he was charged with a crime, or indicate the reason why not, if he has not been brought before a court;
   iii. expressly indicate the court that reportedly hears his criminal case, if any, or the reasons why he has not been released to date;
   iv. allow the beneficiary to communicate with his family and trusted legal representatives, giving them full access to his criminal file, if any;
   v. report whether the beneficiary has been provided with access to a translator or interpreter in order to gain accurate knowledge of his situation and exercise his rights;
   vi. immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health and guarantee access to necessary medical care;
   vii. report whether reasonable adjustments and specific support have been made for the exercise of his rights, including any adjustments that may be required due to the neurodivergence that the requesting party indicated that the beneficiary has;
   viii. allow the beneficiary to communicate with his country of nationality; and

b. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 35/25 (EXTENSION)
PM 1426-24 - Sairam Gabriela Rivas Moreno, Venezuela

On April 24, 2025, the IACHR extended precautionary measures in favor of Sairam Gabriela Rivas Moreno, in Venezuela. Through Resolution 105/2024 of December 31, 2024, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of her partner Jesús Alexander Armas Monasterios. On this occasion, it was reported that she was subject to harassment and threats as a result of her work as a human rights defender and the search for him. The State did not respond to the IACHR.

The Commission requested that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Sairam Gabriela Rivas Moreno;
b. implement the corresponding measures to guarantee that the beneficiary can continue to carry out her human rights defense activities without being subject to threats, harassment or acts of violence in the

exercise thereof. In particular, the State must ensure that state actors respect the beneficiary's rights and personal integrity in accordance with the standards established by international human rights law, and in relation to acts of risk attributable to third parties;
c. report on the existing criminal investigations involving her; present any judicial arrest warrants, if applicable; and provide adequate security guarantees during the course of any investigations;
d. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and her representation; and
e. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to this extension of the precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 38/25 (GRANTED)
PM 320-25 - Aurora Carolina Silva Uzcátegui and her two daughters, Venezuela

On May 4, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Aurora Carolina Silva Uzcátegui and her two daughters, after considering that they are in a serious and urgent situation, given that their rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela. According to the request, the beneficiary is allegedly being subjected to threats, harassment, and surveillance by State agents, as a consequence of the public denunciations made in defense of the rights of her husband, Freddy Francisco Superlano Salinas, who is deprived of his liberty. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Aurora Carolina Silva Uzcátegui, A.I.S.S., and A.S.S.;
b. implement the corresponding measures to guarantee that Aurora Carolina Silva Uzcátegui can continue to carry out her activities in defense of human rights without being subjected to threats, harassment, or acts of violence in the exercise thereof. In particular, the State must ensure that state actors respect the beneficiaries' rights and personal integrity in accordance with the standards established by international human rights law, and in relation to acts of risk attributable to third parties;
c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and her representation; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to this resolution, so as to prevent them from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 39/25 (GRANTED)
PM 492-25 - Jonathan Guillermo Torres Duque, Venezuela

On May 5, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Jonathan Guillermo Torres Duque, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to his rights in Venezuela. It was alleged that the beneficiary, of Venezuelan nationality, was detained on October 27, 2024, by agents of the Bolivarian National Guard (GNB) at the Peracal checkpoint in San Antonio, Táchira state, when he attempted to enter Venezuela after living in the United States for 10 years. Since that time, his fate or whereabouts or the reasons for his detention have been unknown. The Commission found that the State did not provide information and that approximately six months after the detention, and after the internal judicial and search actions carried out, the legal situation and whereabouts of the proposed beneficiary are unknown, despite the efforts made by his next of kin. In addition, the IACHR took into consideration that it is not known whether he has been evaluated or received medical attention to establish his health condition. In accordance with Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of the beneficiary. In particular,

    i. report whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State and, if so, indicate the reason and circumstances of his detention; or the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;
    ii. specify whether he has been brought before a competent court to review his detention if he has been charged with a crime, or clarify the reason why he has not done so, if he has not appeared before a court;

iii. expressly indicate the court that would know his criminal case, if any, or the reasons why he has not been released to date;
iv. allow the beneficiary to communicate with his family and trusted legal representatives, giving them full access to his criminal file, if any; and
v. immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health and guarantee access to necessary medical care; and

b. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 40/25 (GRANTED)
PM 469-25 - Luis Roberto Somaza Castellano, Venezuela

On May 5, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Luis Roberto Somaza Castellano, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to his rights in Venezuela. It was alleged that the beneficiary is a leader of the political opposition in Venezuela. On February 12, 2025, he was detained by State authorities during an operation. Since his detention, there has been no official information about his conditions of detention in the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN) or his current state of health. Similarly, the beneficiary is said to have no contact with his family or access to the necessary medical attention despite his ailments. The Commission also found that the State did not provide any information regarding the measures adopted to mitigate the beneficiary's risk. In accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Luis Roberto Somaza Castellano;
b. implement sufficient measures to ensure that the beneficiary's detention conditions are compatible with applicable international standards. In particular, the following:

i. immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health and guarantee access to medical care and necessary treatments;
ii. guarantee regular contact with his family members and trusted attorneys, facilitating access to the criminal file that is being processed against the beneficiary;
iii. inform the representation of the reasons why the beneficiary continues to be deprived of his liberty and the judicial decisions regarding his legal situation;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 44/25 (GRANTED)
PM 440-25 - Andreina Baduel, Venezuela

On June 12, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Andreina Baduel, after considering that she is in a serious and urgent situation presenting a risk of irreparable harm to her rights in Venezuela. It was alleged that the beneficiary is a human rights defender and director of the Committee for the Freedom of Political Prisoners (CLIPPVE) in Venezuela. She is allegedly being subjected to threats, harassment, intimidation and surveillance by state agents. The Commission also found that the State did not provide any information regarding the measures adopted to mitigate the beneficiary's risk. In accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Andreina Baduel;
b. implement the corresponding measures to guarantee that Andreina Baduel can continue to carry out her activities in defense of human rights without being subjected to threats, harassment, or acts of violence in the exercise of these activities. In particular, the State must ensure that state agents respect

the beneficiary's rights and personal integrity in accordance with the standards established by international human rights law, and in relation to acts of risk attributable to third parties;
c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and her representation; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to this resolution, so as to prevent them from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 47/25 (GRANTED)
PM 752-25 - Noel Vidal Álvarez Camargo, Venezuela

On July 10, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Noel Vidal Álvarez Camargo upon considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation given that his rights to life and personal integrity face a risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela. Agents of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN) allegedly detained the beneficiary, who is an opposition leader, on January 10, 2025. No information regarding his whereabouts was initially available after being detained and he has subsequently been held incommunicado since March 11, 2025. It was alleged that his health deteriorated progressively and that the authorities failed to respond to the beneficiary's current physical issues and answer whether he is receiving medical attention. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR.

Upon analyzing the available information and pursuant to Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the IACHR requested that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Noel Vidal Álvarez Camargo;
b. implement sufficient measures to ensure that the beneficiary's detention conditions are compatible with applicable international standards. In particular, immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health situation and guarantee access to specialized medical care, as well as the necessary treatments; guarantee regular contact with his family and trusted lawyers; and report on the status of the charges brought against him including the reason why he has not been released pending trial;
c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and his representatives; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 51/25 (GRANTED)
PM 897-25 - Henry Alberto Castillo Molero, Venezuela

On July 28, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Henry Alberto Castillo Molero. It was reported that Henry Alberto Castillo Molero is a businessman and agricultural producer. He was detained on January 24, 2025, by agents of the General Directorate of Military Counterintelligence (DGCIM) in an operation at his parents' residence in Caracas. Previously, the agents had detained the pregnant wife of his nephew Christian Hernández and, upon failing to find him, decided to detain the beneficiary without a warrant. Since the date of his detention, the beneficiary's whereabouts and state of health are unknown.

When assessing the decision, the Commission took into consideration that six months had elapsed since the arrest and, despite searches carried out by family members in detention centers and internal actions taken, the Venezuelan authorities had not provided official information on the beneficiary's whereabouts. In addition, state agents had arrested him with the aim of forcing his nephew to turn himself in. The Commission highlighted the impossibility faced by the family to demand protection of the beneficiary's rights. In short, the Commission observed that the State's refusal to provide an official response regarding the legal situation and whereabouts of the beneficiary remains despite the efforts made by his relatives. The Commission also found that, within the framework of the precautionary measures and in the current context of the country, relatives of recently detained persons receive warnings that they will be deprived of their liberty, which, in the case of the beneficiary, were allegedly carried out with a view to locating his nephew.

After analyzing the available information, the IACHR, in accordance with Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, requested that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of the beneficiary. In particular,

   i. report whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State and, if so, indicate the reason and circumstances of his detention; or the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;
   ii. if the beneficiary is in the custody of the State, specify whether he has been charged and brought before a competent court to review his detention, or if he has not been brought before a court, explain why not;
   iii. expressly indicate the court that reportedly knows his criminal case, if any, or the reasons why he has not been released to date;
   iv. allow the beneficiary to communicate with his family and trusted legal representatives, giving them full access to his criminal file, if any;
   v. immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health to obtain more information on his state of health; and

b. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 53/25 (GRANTED)
PM 939-25 - Ulises Ramón Martínez Silva, Venezuela

On August 5, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Ulises Ramón Martínez Silva upon considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation given that his rights to life and personal integrity face a risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela. The requesting party indicated that the beneficiary is an entrepreneur and coordinator of the Vente Venezuela party in the Simón Bolívar municipality of the state of Anzoátegui. He was reportedly detained by officials from the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN) on June 9, 2025. Since then, his whereabouts have been unknown and it has not been possible to contact him, despite the advanced search actions and the judicial remedies filed by his relatives. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR.

Upon analyzing the available information and pursuant to Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the IACHR requested that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of the beneficiary. In particular,

   i. report whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State and, if so, indicate the reasons for and circumstances of his detention; or, alternatively, indicate the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;
   ii. if he has been charged with a crime, specify whether he has been brought before a competent court to review his detention, or, if he has not been brought before a court, clarify the reasons why not;
   iii. expressly indicate the court that has oversight of his case, if he has been charged with a crime, and if not, specify the reasons why he has not been released to date;
   iv. allow the beneficiary to communicate with his family and trusted legal representatives, giving them full access to his criminal file, if any; and
   v. immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health and ensure access to necessary medical care; and

b. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 56/25 (GRANTED)
PM 549-25, 688-25 - Pedro Miguel Guanipa Villalobos and Rafael Arturo Ramírez Colina, Venezuela

On August 15, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Pedro Miguel Guanipa Villalobos and Rafael Arturo Ramírez Colina, after considering that they are in a serious and urgent situation, given that their rights to life, personal integrity, and health are at risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela.

The requests alleged that the beneficiaries are members of the opposition political party Primero Justicia and public officials of the municipality of Maracaibo, the latter being the mayor in office at the time of his detention. Both are being held incommunicado and in solitary confinement, with no information about their health or conditions of detention in Venezuela. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of the beneficiaries;
b. implement sufficient measures to ensure that their detention conditions are compatible with applicable international standards. In particular, the following:

    i. facilitate contact with their family members, representatives, and trusted attorneys, and grant them full access to the judicial file;
    ii. officially report on the legal situation of the beneficiaries in the framework of the criminal proceedings in which they are allegedly involved; and
    iii. immediately carry out a medical assessment of their health, as well as guarantee access to the necessary medical care and treatment;

c. implement the necessary measures so that the beneficiaries can carry out their activities as opposition political leaders without being subjected to threats, harassment, intimidation or acts of violence;
d. consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and
e. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 57/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1028-25 - Aldo Roso Vargas, Venezuela

On August 16, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Aldo Roso Vargas, activist of the Voluntad Popular political party and campaign manager for the El Valle parish, after finding that he is in a serious and urgent situation given that his rights to health, life, and personal integrity face a risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela. The applicant indicated that he was detained on July 4, 2024, on charges of planning sabotage against the 2024 presidential elections. It was alleged that, due to his health condition, he requires surgery ordered by his treating physician, which has not yet been performed and whose delay would put his health at risk. A lack of response to internal requests to protect his rights was added. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR.

After analyzing the available information, the IACHR, in accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, requested that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Aldo Roso Vargas;
b. implement the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiary's detention conditions are compatible with applicable international standards. In particular,

i. immediately carry out a medical assessment of his health, as well as guarantee timely and specialized medical care and treatment, informing his family members and representatives of the results;
ii. allow family members and his trusted attorney to visit the beneficiary without hindrance; and
iii. provide information on the legal situation of the beneficiary and allow his trusted attorney to access his criminal file and present any appeals deemed appropriate on his behalf;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented with the beneficiary and his representatives; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 59/25 (GRANTED)
PM 680-25 - Sofía María Sahagún Ortiz, Venezuela

On August 18, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Sofía María Sahagún Ortiz, after considering that she is in a serious and urgent situation, given that her rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela. The applicant indicated that the beneficiary has Spanish and Venezuelan nationality and was detained in October 2024, and her whereabouts and the reasons for her detention have remained unknown during the following months. It was alleged that she had been held incommunicado since December 2024 and that her possibilities to have an effective defense was restricted. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR.

Upon analyzing the available information, in accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the IACHR requested that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Sofía María Sahagún Ortiz;
b. implement sufficient measures to ensure that the beneficiary's detention conditions are compatible with applicable international standards. In particular, guarantee regular contact with her family, trusted legal representatives, and consular authorities of the country of which she is also a national; grant full access to her criminal file, if any; and report on her legal situation, including the reason why she has not been released pending trial;
c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiary and her representatives; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 61/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1084-25 - Albany Milagros Colmenares Mendoza, Venezuela

On August 24, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Albany Milagros Colmenares Mendoza, after considering that she is in a serious and urgent situation, given that her rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela.

According to the request, the beneficiary is the political secretary of the Vente Venezuela movement in the state of Carabobo. She was allegedly detained by state agents on July 23, 2025. Since then, she has reportedly been held in isolation, incommunicado, and without official information about her place of detention or the conditions of her detention. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. take the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Albany Milagros Colmenares Mendoza.
b. implement sufficient measures to ensure that the beneficiary's conditions of detention are compatible with applicable international standards. In particular, the following:

i. facilitate contact with her family members, representatives, and trusted lawyers, giving them full access to the court file; and
ii. officially report on the beneficiary's place of detention, the legal situation in the criminal proceedings in which she is involved, and whether she has been brought before a court for review of her detention;

c. implement the necessary measures so that the beneficiary can carry out her political activities without being subjected to threats, harassment, intimidation, or acts of violence.
d. agree on the measures to be implemented with the beneficiary and her representatives; and
e. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that gave rise to this resolution and thus prevent their recurrence.

Resolution No. 62/25 (GRANTED)
PM 906-25 - Rory Daniel Branker, Venezuela

On August 27, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Rory Daniel Branker, after considering that he is in a situation of seriousness and urgency, since his rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela.

According to the request, the beneficiary, a journalist and editor of the web portal La Patilla, was detained on February 20, 2025, by state agents. Since then, his whereabouts have been unknown. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules, the Commission requests Venezuela to:

a. Adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Rory Daniel Branker. In particular:

i. inform whether the beneficiary is in state custody and, if so, indicate the reason and circumstances of his detention; or, the measures taken to ascertain his whereabouts or fate;
ii. if the beneficiary is in state custody, indicate whether he has been charged with crimes and whether he has been brought before a competent court to review his detention; if so, explicitly mention the court that would hear his criminal case, or if he has not appeared before a court, clarify the reason why not;
iii. facilitate communication for the beneficiary with his family, representatives, and trusted lawyers, granting them full access to his legal records, if they exist.

b. Implement the necessary measures so that the beneficiary can carry out their journalistic activities without being subject to threats, harassment, intimidation, or acts of violence; and
c. Report on the actions taken in order to investigate the alleged facts that led to this resolution and to prevent their recurrence.

Resolution No. 64/25 (GRANTED)
PM 225-25 - Marbelis Josefina Gibori and Child X.A.M.M., Venezuela

On September 15, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Marbelis Josefina Gibori and the child X.A.M.M., after considering that they are in a serious and urgent situation of risk of irreparable harm to their rights in Venezuela. It was alleged that the beneficiaries were being subjected to harassment, harassment, and surveillance by State agents. The alleged acts were supposedly intended to obtain information on the whereabouts of Orlando Moreno Gibori, a relative of the beneficiaries, who is considered a political opponent and is believed to be in hiding. The Commission also noted that the State did not provide any information regarding the measures taken to mitigate the situation that places the beneficiary at risk. In accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Marbelis Josefina Gibori and the child X.A.M.M.;
b. implement the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiaries are not subjected to harassment, surveillance, siege, or other acts of violence;
c. consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representative; and
d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 70/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1224-25 - Camilo Castro, Venezuela

On October 2, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Camilo Castro, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela.

According to the request, the beneficiary is a French citizen and yoga teacher who traveled to the border with Venezuela to complete an immigration procedure on June 26, 2025. His whereabouts have been unknown since then. For its part, the State did not provide any information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Camilo Castro. In particular:

    i. report whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State and, if so, indicate the reason and circumstances of his detention; or, the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;
    ii. if the beneficiary is in the custody of the State, clarify whether he has been charged with crimes and whether he has been brought before a competent court to review his detention, and if so, expressly mention the court that hears his criminal case, or if he has not appeared before a court, the reason why he has not done so;
    iii. facilitate the beneficiary's communication with his family, representatives, trusted attorneys and consular authorities of the country he is a national, and give them full access to his judicial file, if any;
    iv. report whether the beneficiary has been provided access to a translator or interpreter in order to take accurate knowledge of his situation and exercise his rights;
    v. enable him to have communication with the country of which he is a national; and

b. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 72/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1282-25 - Alireza Akbari, Venezuela

On October 8, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Alireza Akbari, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his rights to life and personal integrity face a risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela. The requesting party indicated that the beneficiary is an engineer and Irish citizen. He traveled to Venezuela on June 24, 2025, and his family had not heard from him since June 27. It was alleged that there were no details about the time, manner, place, or identity of possible actors involved in his disappearance; however, it was presumed that he was detained by state security forces based on information from third parties. His legal status and place of detention remain unknown, and he has not been allowed to file domestic appeals or receive consular protection. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR.

After analyzing the available information, the IACHR, in accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, requested that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Alireza Akbari. In particular:

   i. report whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State and, if so, indicate the reason and circumstances of his detention; or, the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;
   ii. if the beneficiary is in the custody of the State, specify whether he has been charged with crimes and whether he has been brought before a competent court to review his detention, if so, expressly mention the court that would hear his criminal case, or if he has not appeared before a court, clarify the reason why he has not done so;
   iii. facilitate the beneficiary's communication with his family, representatives, trusted attorneys and consular authorities of the country he is a national, and give them full access to his judicial file, if any;
   iv. report whether the beneficiary has been provided access to a translator or interpreter in order to take accurate knowledge of his situation and exercise his rights;
   v. enable him to have communication with the country of which he is a national; and
   vi. if he is not in State custody, take the necessary measures to determine the whereabouts of the beneficiary; and

b. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 79/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1406-25, 1414-25 - Nine foreign persons deprived of their liberty, Venezuela

On November 17, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to nine foreign nationals deprived of their liberty in Venezuela, after considering that their situation is serious and urgent, given that their rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm in the country.

The requests alleged that the foreign nationals were deprived of liberty in 2025 and are at risk in their current conditions of detention, characterized by a lack of information about their legal situation, incommunicado detention, limitations on their ability to obtain private defense counsel or access consular assistance, and, in general, a lack of official information about their current situation and health. In all cases, it was alleged that, initially, the whereabouts of the individuals were unknown after their detention. To date, only Olmedo Javier Núñez Peñalba remains missing. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of the beneficiaries;

b. report whether Olmedo Javier Núñez Peñalba is in the custody of the State and, if so, indicate the place, reason, and circumstances of his detention; or, the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;

c. implement sufficient measures to ensure that the detention conditions of the beneficiaries are compatible with applicable international standards. In particular, the following:

   i. indicate whether they have been charged with crimes and whether they have been brought before a competent court to review their detention, if so, expressly mention the court that would hear their criminal cases, or if they have not appeared before a court, clarify the reason why they have not done so;
   ii. facilitate the communication of the beneficiaries with their family, representatives, trusted lawyers, and consular authorities of the country of which they are nationals, and give them full access to their judicial records, if any;
   iii. carry out a health assessment of the beneficiaries, as appropriate, and provide them with the prescribed medical treatment;

iv. communicate whether the beneficiaries have been provided, as appropriate, access to a translator or interpreter in order to take accurate knowledge of their situation and exercise their rights;
v. enable them to have communication with the country of which they are nationals;

d. reinforce actions in favor of individuals located in a detention centers covered by inter-American protection previously granted;

e. consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and,

f. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 83/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1375-25, 1385-25, 1573-25 - Macario Bonifacio González Arias, his family unit, Enrique Octavio Márquez Pérez, Merys Torres de Sequea, and Ana Zoris Gutiérrez Torres, Venezuela

On November 17, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Macario Bonifacio González Arias, his immediate family, Enrique Octavio Márquez Pérez, Merys Torres de Sequea, and Ana Zoris Gutiérrez Torres; after considering that they are in a serious and urgent situation, given that their rights to life, personal integrity, and health are at risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela.

According to the requests, the whereabouts of Macario Bonifacio González Arias, Merys Torres de Sequea, and Ana Zoris Gutiérrez Torres are unknown following their detention in September 2025. Enrique Octavio Márquez Pérez remains incommunicado, with no information about his conditions of detention or state of health, following his detention in January 2025. The wife, daughter, and granddaughter of Macario Bonifacio González Arias are reportedly being harassed and monitored by state agents. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of the beneficiaries;

b. report whether Macario Bonifacio González Arias, Merys Torres de Sequea, and Ana Zoris Gutiérrez Torres are in the custody of the State and, if so, indicate the place, reason, and circumstances of their detention; or else, the measures taken to determine their whereabouts or fate;

c. implement sufficient measures to ensure that the detention conditions of Enrique Octavio Márquez Pérez, and of Macario Bonifacio González Arias, Merys Torres de Sequea, and Ana Zoris Gutiérrez Torres, if they are in detention, are compatible with applicable international standards. In particular, the following:

i. facilitate communication with their family members, representatives and trusted lawyers, giving them full access to the judicial file, if any;
ii. indicate whether they have been charged with crimes and whether they have been brought before a competent court to review their detention, if so, expressly mention the court that has oversight of their criminal cases, or if they have not appeared before a court, clarify the reason why they have not done so;
iii. immediately carry out a medical assessment on their health situation, and guarantee timely and specialized medical care and treatment, informing their family members and representatives of the results;

d. take the necessary measures to ensure that Anabella Liliana Machado Astudillo, María Verónica González Machado, and M.A.C.G. are not subjected to threats, harassment, intimidation or acts of violence;

e. consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and

f. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that gave rise to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 85/25 (LIFTED)
PM 70-19 - Juan Gerardo Guaidó Márquez, his family, and others, Venezuela

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) decides to lift these precautionary measures in favor of Juan Gerardo Guaidó Márquez, his family, Roberto Marrero, and Sergio Vergara, in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. At the time of making the decision, the Commission assessed that the beneficiaries' representation expressly requested the lifting of the precautionary measures, and that Juan Guaidó and Roberto Marrero are outside Venezuelan territory, and that it has no information on Sergio Vergara since 2019. Taking into account the nature of the precautionary measures and in light of the information available, the Commission considers that at this time it is not possible to establish a threatening situation under the terms of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, and decides to lift the measures at hand.

Resolution No. 90/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1752-25 - Xiomara del Carmen Ortiz Rivero, Venezuela

On December 11, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Xiomara del Carmen Ortiz Rivero, after considering that she is in a serious and urgent situation, given that her rights to life, personal integrity, and health are at risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela.

According to the request, the beneficiary served as parish coordinator for the Vente Venezuela party in Lara state. She was reportedly detained by state agents on October 13, 2025, and currently remains without access to family visits and without information about her current state of health or the conditions of her detention. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Xiomara del Carmen Ortiz Rivero;

b. implement sufficient measures to ensure that the beneficiary's detention conditions are compatible with applicable international standards. In particular, the following:

   i. facilitate contact with her family members, representatives, and trusted attorneys, and give them full access to the judicial file;
   ii. officially report the legal situation in the framework of the criminal process in which she is allegedly involved, and whether she has been presented to a court for review of her detention;
   iii. immediately carry out a medical assessment of her health situation, and guarantee timely and specialized medical care and treatment, making the results known to her family members and representatives;

c. adopt the necessary measures so that the beneficiary can carry out her political activities, without being subjected to threats, harassment, intimidation, or acts of violence;

d. consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and,

e. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 91/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1750-25 - Kevin Rafael Pérez Mendoza, Venezuela

On December 11, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Kevin Rafael Pérez Mendoza, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his rights to life, personal integrity, and health are at risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela.

According to the request, the beneficiary had been deprived of his liberty since July 30, 2024. He is reportedly not receiving adequate medical care, despite repeated suicide attempts while in state custody. In addition, the request questioned his conditions of detention. For its part, the State did not provide information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of Kevin Rafael Pérez Mendoza;

b. implement the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiary's detention conditions are compatible with the applicable international standards on the matter, including:

   i. ensure access to adequate and specialized medical care, treatments, and medications, and immediately carry out a comprehensive medical evaluation of his physical and mental health;
   ii. provide immediate access to adequate food and water;
   iii. guarantee that he is not subjected to violence, threats, intimidation, and aggression inside the prison;

c. consult and agree upon the measures to be implemented with the beneficiary and his representatives; and

d. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to the adoption of this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

Resolution No. 96/25 (GRANTED)
PM 1824-25 - Arnaldo Méndez Silva, Venezuela

On December 21, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures on behalf of Arnaldo Méndez Silva, after considering that he is in a serious and urgent situation, given that his rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm in Venezuela.

According to the request, the beneficiary is a labor union advisor and human rights activist. He was reportedly detained on November 26, 2025, by state agents, and his whereabouts have been unknown since then. For its part, the State did not provide any information to the IACHR. Under these circumstances, based on Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela:

a. adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Arnaldo Méndez Silva. In particular:

   i. report whether the beneficiary is in the custody of the State and, if so, indicate the reason and circumstances of his detention; or, the measures taken to determine his whereabouts or fate;
   ii. if the beneficiary is in the custody of the State, indicate whether he has been charged with crimes and whether he has been brought before a competent court to review his detention, if so, expressly

mention the court that hears his criminal case, if he has not appeared before a court; clarify the reason why he has not done so;

iii. facilitate the beneficiary's communication with his family, representatives, and trusted attorneys, and give them full access to his judicial file, if any;

b. implement the necessary measures so that the beneficiary can carry out his union leadership activities without being subjected to threats, harassment, intimidation, or acts of violence; and

c. report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

5. Provisional measures

888. Provisional measures are provided for in Article 63(2) of the American Convention on Human Rights, which determines that, in situations of extreme gravity and urgency, when necessary to avoid irreparable damage to persons, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights may grant provisional measures. Following the decision of the Inter-American Court to grant a provisional measure, the Court is responsible for monitoring its implementation. Likewise, at the Court's request, the Commission continues to periodically provide observations and relevant information on the implementation of provisional measures.

889. In 2025, the IACHR submitted two new requests for provisional measures regarding Ecuador and Venezuela, and four requests for extension regarding persons deprived of liberty in Nicaragua, all of which were granted by the Inter-American Court:

- Request for extension of provisional measures in favor of Catalino Leo Cárcamo in Nicaragua

On January 2, 2025, the IACHR requested that the Inter-American Court extend the provisional measures in the Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. regarding Nicaragua in favor of Catalino Leo Cárcamo Herrera and his family, as he is in a situation of extreme gravity and urgency presenting a risk of irreparable damage to his rights.

The IACHR decided to request the extension of Mr. Chamorro's provisional measures, considering that his whereabouts are unknown after his detention on November 22, 2024. Catalino Leo Cárcamo was detained by state agents in the Department of León. Since his detention, the people associated with the beneficiary have sought to know his location before the authorities, without having obtained official information.

The Commission considered the situation of Mr. Catalino Leo Cárcamo particularly worrying given that his whereabouts are unknown after his detention in November 2024. In addition, the beneficiary is an elderly person and suffers from a series of diseases. This increases his risk in the eventual conditions of detention in prison, similar to that faced by other persons deprived of liberty in Nicaragua who are beneficiaries of provisional measures issued by the Court.

The Court decided to adopt urgent measures on January 6, 2025.[236]

- Request for extension of provisional measures in favor of persons deprived of liberty in Nicaragua

On February 19, 2025, the IACHR requested that the Inter-American Court extend the provisional measures in the Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. regarding Nicaragua in favor of six persons

[236] I/A Court H.R., Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al., Adoption of Urgent Measures, Order of January 6, 2025 (Available only in Spanish).

deprived of their liberty, who are in a situation of extreme gravity and urgency of irreparable damage to their rights.

The IACHR decided to request the extension of provisional measures for: Eddie Moisés González Valdivia; Steadman Fagot Muller; Eveling Carolina Matus Hernández; Lesbia del Socorro Gutiérrez Poveda; (5) Carmen María Sáenz Martínez; and Víctor Boitano Coleman. All these individuals are beneficiaries of precautionary measures. With regard to Eddie Moisés, the Commission found that his conditions of detention place him at extreme risk. With regard to the other individuals, there is no official information on their whereabouts or their conditions of detention and health following their detention or transfer to a prison.

Despite the Commission's repeated efforts to obtain information from the State of Nicaragua throughout the time the precautionary measures have been in force, it has not received a response indicating that appropriate and effective measures have been taken to mitigate the risk. There is also no information on concertation actions or measures to investigate the threatening events.

The Court extended the provisional measures on March 5, 2025.[237]

- Request for extension of provisional measures in favor of three persons deprived of liberty in Nicaragua

On May 20, 2025, the IACHR requested that the Inter-American Court extend the provisional measures in the Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. regarding Nicaragua in order to protect Angélica Patricia Chavarría Altamirano, Julio Antonio Quintana Carvajal, and José Alejandro Hurtado Díaz, who are in a situation of extreme gravity and urgency of irreparable damage to their rights.

The IACHR granted precautionary measures to the three identified persons, upon finding that the requirements of gravity, urgency, and irreparable damage were met. Despite the actions taken to obtain information from the State of Nicaragua, the Commission has not received a response indicating that appropriate and effective measures have been taken to mitigate the risk, nor has it received any information on concerted actions or measures to investigate the events posing a risk.

The beneficiaries were detained between May 2024 and January 2025, in the context of the criminalization of any person identified or perceived as critical of or opposed to the current government and, in general, of various civil society actors who attempt to participate in public, social, political, or religious life in Nicaragua. Several months after the detention of the proposed beneficiaries, their families still have no access to official information about their whereabouts, the reasons for their detention, or their state of health. It was also noted that people close to those identified have suffered reprisals from state authorities for trying to find out their whereabouts or for publishing information about them.

The Commission notes that this request shows an exceptional situation that is based on the extreme, urgent, and irreparable risk to the rights of the three individuals, and that must be assessed in the context of Nicaragua, which has been the subject of ongoing analysis by the Organization of American States, the Commission, and other human rights bodies.

On June 11, 2025, the Court extended the provisional measures.[238]

[237] I/A Court H.R., Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al., Adoption of Urgent Measures, Order of March 5, 2025 (Available only in Spanish).
[238] I/A Court H.R., Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al., Extension of Provisional Measures, Order of June 11, 2025 (Available only in Spanish).

- Request for provisional measures in favor of Jorge Glas in Ecuador

On July 1, 2025, the IACHR requested provisional measures in favor of Jorge David Glas Espinel in Ecuador, after considering that he is in a situation of extreme gravity and urgency of irreparable damage to his rights to life, personal integrity, and health.

Jorge Glas is a former vice president of Ecuador. He is being held at the Guayas No. 3 Detention Center (CPL) in Guayaquil.

As background, the Commission granted precautionary measures in his favor on December 31, 2019. Subsequently, after considering the information, reports, documentary evidence, and claims of the parties between April 2024 and February 2025, the IACHR issued Follow-up and Extension Resolution No. 13/2025 on February 10, 2025, requiring the State to take immediate measures to safeguard the life, health, and integrity of Jorge Glas. This was based on the medical diagnosis and suicide attempt of April 7, 2024, as well as the impact of the detention and security conditions at CPL Guayas No. 3 on his mental health, as verified by the IACHR during its on-site visit in October 2024, and the available medical documentation.

Among the measures the IACHR requested to the State are the following: that the proposed beneficiary be immediately transferred to a hospital for a complete medical evaluation; his transfer to a new detention center, other than CPL Guayas No. 3, that complies with the standards applicable to his health situation; that the "Technical Table" be resumed with the participation of trusted doctors to resolve medical disputes and provide adequate treatment; that access to the proposed beneficiary's medical information be allowed in a timely manner; and that the corresponding judicial investigations into the events that led to the adoption of the precautionary measures be continued.

The Court granted the provisional measures on October 17, 2025.[239]

- Request for provisional measures in favor of Juan Pablo Guanipa in Venezuela

The IACHR asked the Inter-American Court to grant provisional measures in favor of Juan Pablo Guanipa Villalobos, who is in a situation of extreme gravity and urgency of irreparable damage to his rights, as his whereabouts are unknown after being detained by state agents in Venezuela.

Juan Pablo Guanipa Villalobos is a member of the political opposition in Venezuela and has been the coordinator of the Primero Justicia political party in Zulia state since 2000. In the framework of the presidential elections of July 28, 2024, and in the period following those elections, he was an important ally of opposition leaders María Corina Machado and Edmundo Gonzalez. According to the information provided, both in previous years and during the electoral and post-electoral period, Guanipa has been the target of state persecution in the exercise of his political activities.

As background, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Juan Pablo Guanipa Villalobos on October 7, 2024, through Resolution 71/2024. Despite repeated actions by the Commission to obtain information from the State of Venezuela, it did not receive any response on the measures adopted to protect the life and integrity of Juan Pablo Guanipa.

As a beneficiary of precautionary measures, Juan Pablo Guanipa was detained by state agents on May 23, 2025, information that has been confirmed in public statements by senior Venezuelan officials. Following his detention and given the lack of information on his whereabouts in state custody, the State continues to fail to respond to the IACHR.

[239] I/A Court H.R., Matter of Glas Espinal regarding Ecuador, Provisional Measures, Order of October 17, 2025 (Available only in Spanish).

The Court granted the provisional measures on October 15, 2025.[240]

- Request for extension of provisional measures in favor of three persons deprived of liberty in Nicaragua

On September 18, 2025, the IACHR requested that the Inter-American Court extend the provisional measures in the Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. regarding Nicaragua in order to protect Douglas Gamaliel Pérez Centeno, Aníbal Martín Rivas Reed, and Mario José Rodríguez Serrano, who are in a situation of extreme gravity and urgency of irreparable damage to their rights.

The IACHR granted precautionary measures to the three identified persons, upon finding that the requirements of gravity, urgency, and irreparable damage were met. Despite the actions taken to obtain information from the State of Nicaragua, the Commission has not received a response indicating that appropriate and effective measures have been taken to mitigate the risk, nor has it received any information on concerted actions or measures to investigate the events posing a risk.

Douglas Gamaliel Pérez Centeno, Aníbal Martín Rivas Reed, and Mario José Rodríguez Serrano were detained in 2024 and 2025, in the context of the criminalization of people identified or perceived as critics or opponents of the current government and, in general, of various actors in civil society who attempt to participate in public, social, political, or religious life in Nicaragua.

At the time of submitting this request, Douglas Gamaliel Pérez Centeno and Mario José Rodríguez Serrano remain missing after their detention, and Aníbal Martín Rivas Reed is being held in solitary confinement at La Modelo prison, with restrictions on visits from close family members, after his whereabouts were unknown for more than 30 days and allegations of a lack of adequate medical care for his physical and mental health.

890. The Court extended the provisional measures on October 1, 2025.[241]

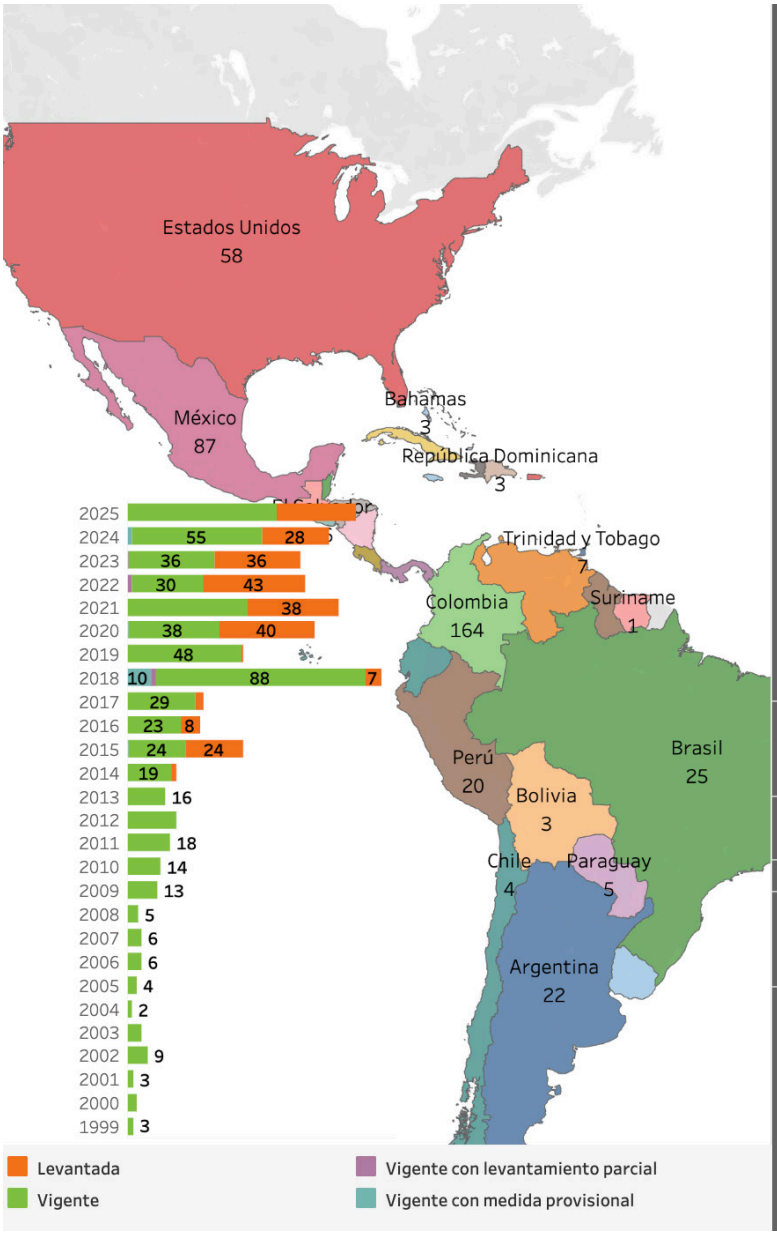
891. During 2025, the Commission also submitted 87 legal briefs on provisional measures to the Inter-American Court.

6. Dissemination and transparency

892. Efforts to disseminate information about the precautionary measures mechanism and transparency regarding its operation continued in 2025 with a view to increasing awareness among users of the inter-American system. To that end, the Commission kept the section of its website on precautionary measures up to date, publishing the resolutions adopted in the available translations. In addition, the IACHR updated its interactive map of precautionary measures, which compiles information on the resolutions issued by the Commission in this area, presenting qualitative and quantitative information regarding the precautionary measures granted, subject to follow-up and extension, or lifted.

[240] I/A Court H.R., Matter of Guanipa Villalobos regarding Venezuela, Provisional Measures, Order of October 15, 2025 (Available only in Spanish).

[241] I/A Court H.R., Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al., Extension of Provisional Measures, Order of October 1, 2025 (Available only in Spanish).

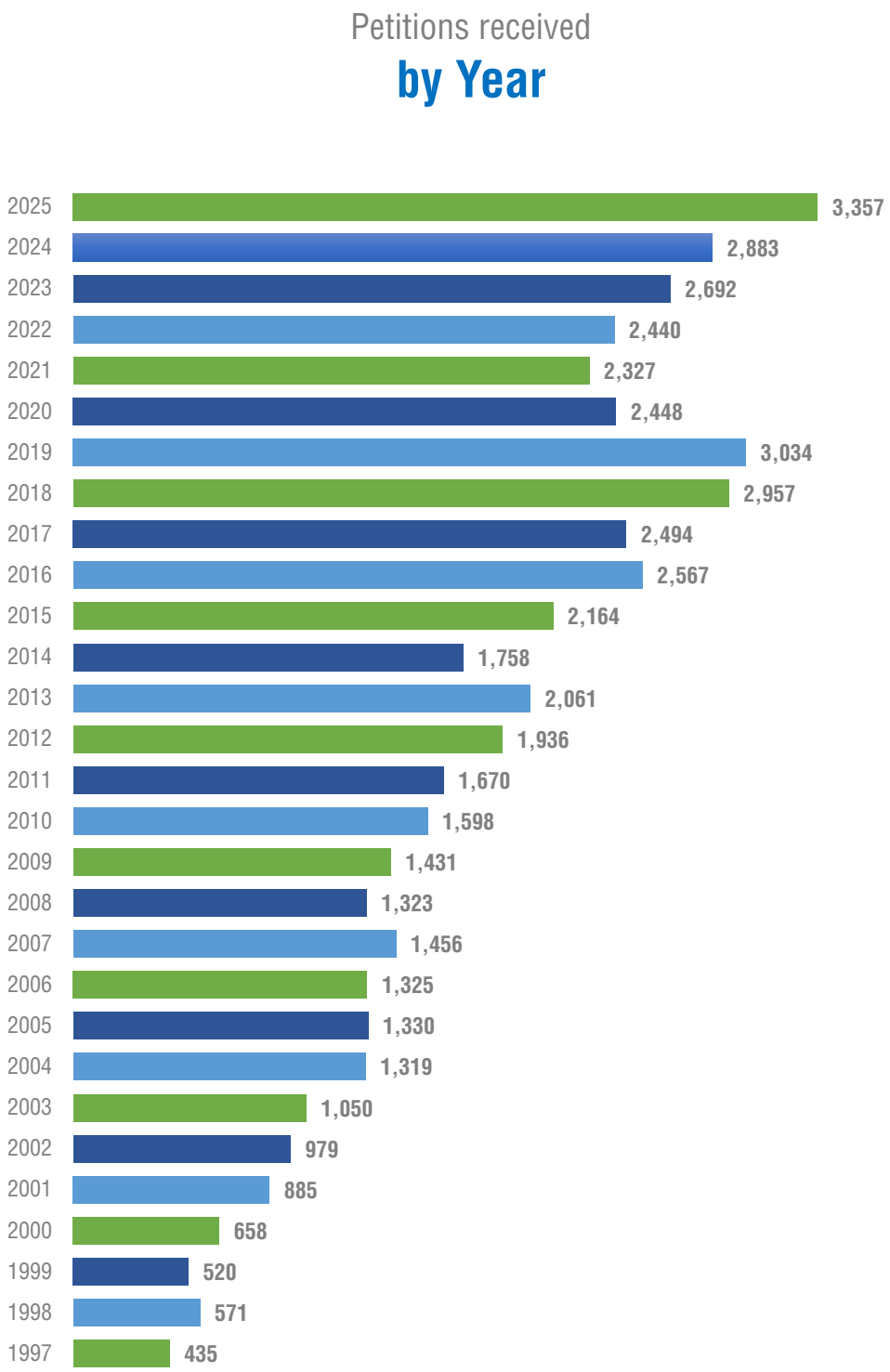


Argentina	2025	MC 540-15	Maria y su hijo
		MC 702-25	Mariano Javier Oteiza Hern
		MC 999-23	Juan Carlos Hollman
	2023	MC 160-23	C.P.R. y J.P.R.
		MC 347-21	JCZR
	2022	MC 356-16	Niño A.R.
		MC 404-10	Comunidad Indígena Qom N
	2021	MC 216-21	7 mujeres embarazadas de l
		MC 691-20	Facundo José Astudillo Cast
	2020	MC 954-19	Comunidad mapuche Lof Bu
	2018	MC 546-16	Santiago Maldonado
	2017	MC 17-17	Juan
		MC 298-14	Juan José Barrientos Soto V
	2016	MC 37-15	Personas privadas de libert
		MC 376-15	Irene
		MC 425-11	Arnaldo Ariel Vélez Estigarr
		MC 700-15	F y familia
	2015	MC 35-14	Personas presentes en Com
	2014	MC 423-10	Asunto "X"
	2012	MC 104-12	Unidades penitenciarias 46
		MC 347-09	Comunidad El Nogalito (Pue
	2011	MC 269-08	Miembros indígenas de la C
Bahamas	2025	MC 706-16	Members of the group Save
	2023	MC 141-14	Manuel Escalona Sánchez a
	2015	MC 535-14	Persons in immigration det
Barb..	2018	MC 1046-17	Clyde Grazette
		MC 1047-17	Dwnye Omar Severin and Ja
B..	2021	MC 155-13	Caleb Orozco
Bolivia	2025	MC 1123-19	María Patricia Arce Guzmán
	2023	MC 1127-19	Nadia Alejandra Cruz Tarifa
	2020	MC 1132-19	Mary Elizabeth Carrasco y J
	2024	MC 50-24	Miembros del Pueblo Indíge
		MC 934-24	Siete familiares de Layrton
	2023	MC 61-23	Miembros del Pueblo Indíge
		MC 938-22	Miembros del Territorio Qui
	2022	MC 302-15	Jóvenes privados de liberta
		MC 408-22	Benny Briolly Rosa da Silva
		MC 449-22	Bruno Araújo Pereira y Dom
		MC 517-22	Miembros de la comunidad

893. The Commission also disseminated information on precautionary measures through the publication of 77 press releases. In these, the IACHR makes public information regarding resolutions to grant, extend, modify, and follow up on precautionary measures (65 press releases), disseminates its work on requests for provisional measures before the Inter-American Court (six press releases), and monitors precautionary measures in force (four press releases), in some cases publishing jointly with the thematic and country rapporteurships.

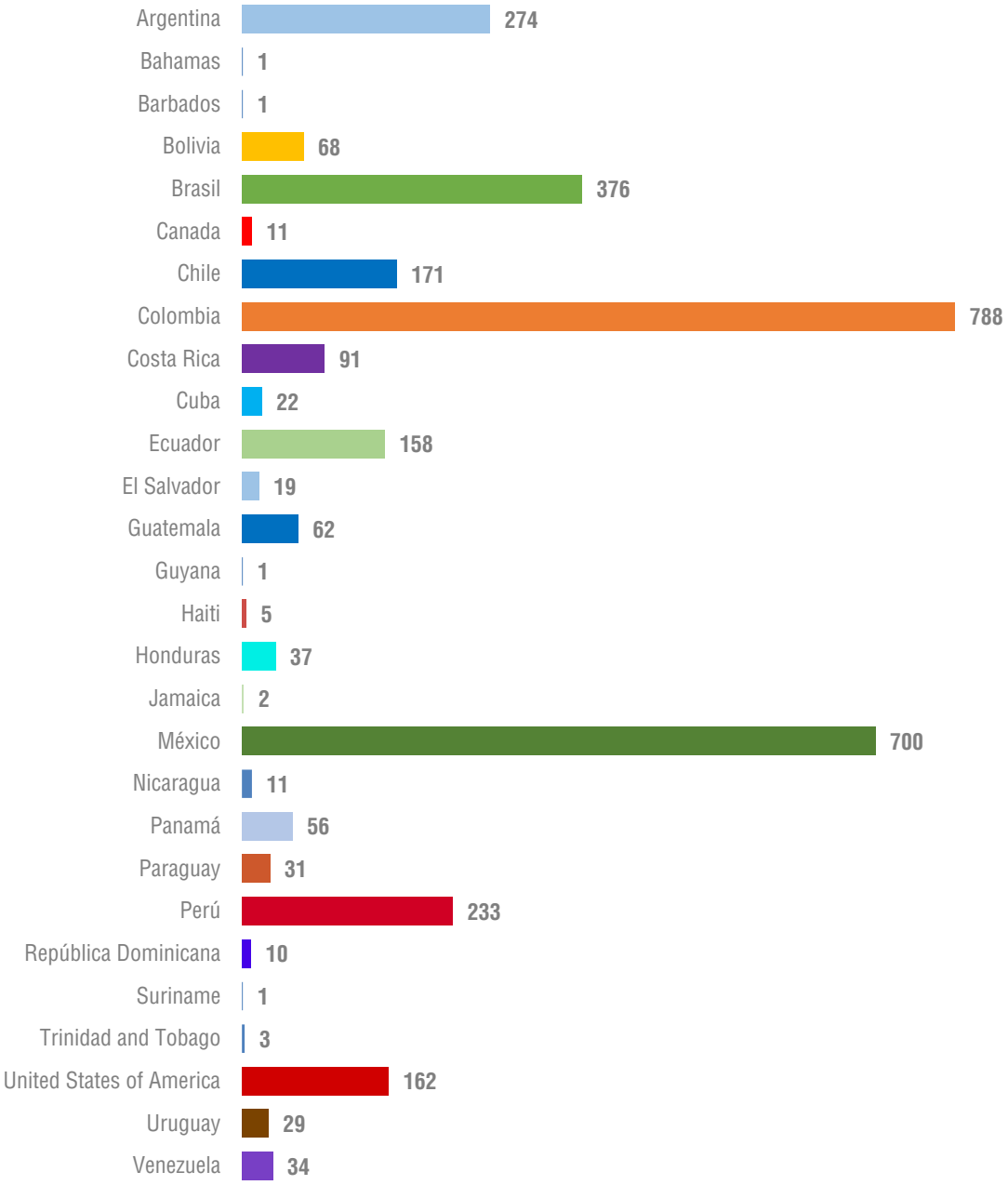
894. With regard to training on precautionary measures, in 2025 courses were held in Brasilia, Tegucigalpa, Guatemala, Bogotá, and Cali; as well as two virtual courses for students, staff of international organizations, civil society organizations, and government officers. Such training sessions may focus on the process of requesting precautionary measures, on monitoring existing measures, or on both.

G. Annual statistics most representative of the Commission's work



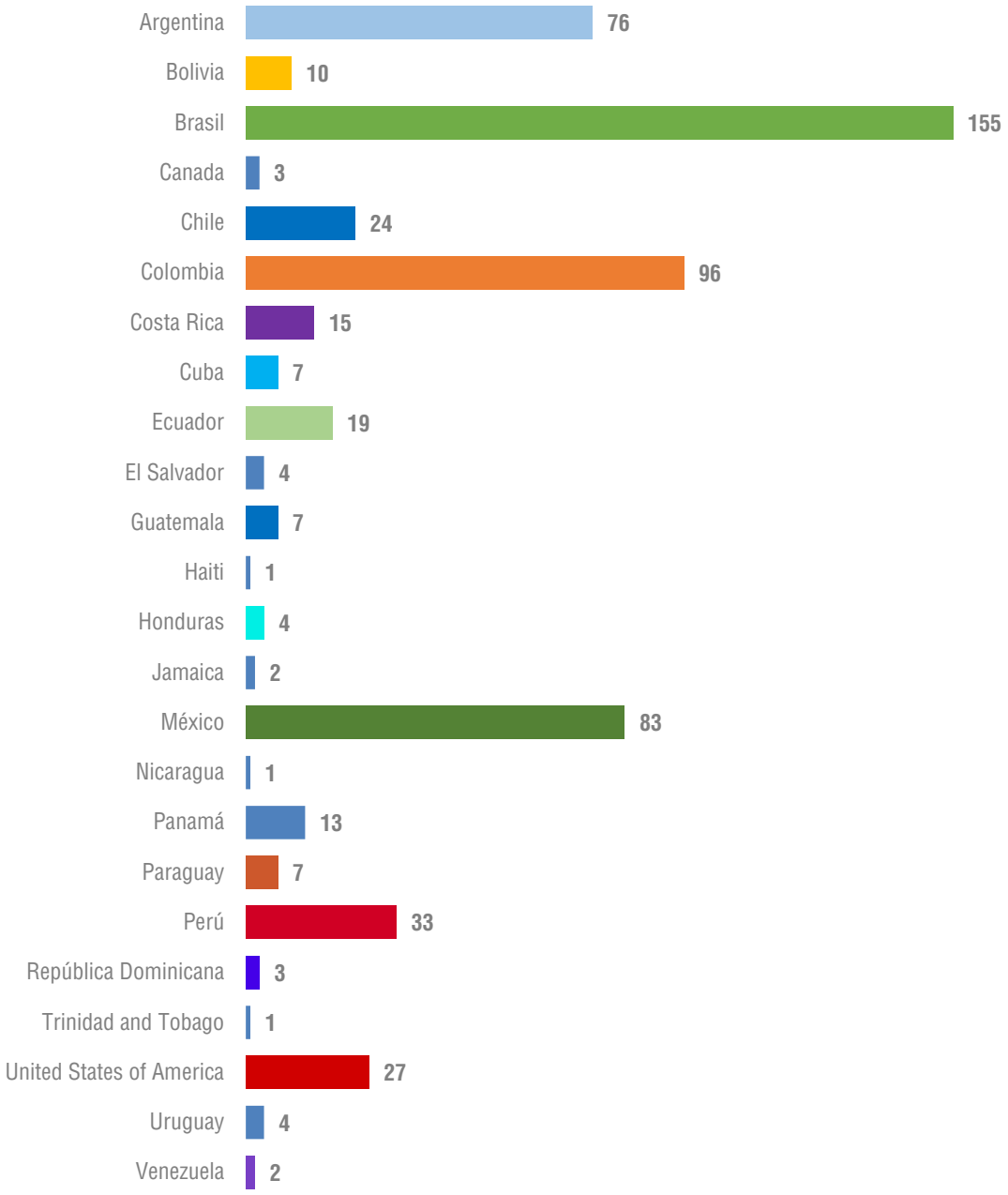
Petitions received by country

Total: 3,357



Petitions pending initial review by country

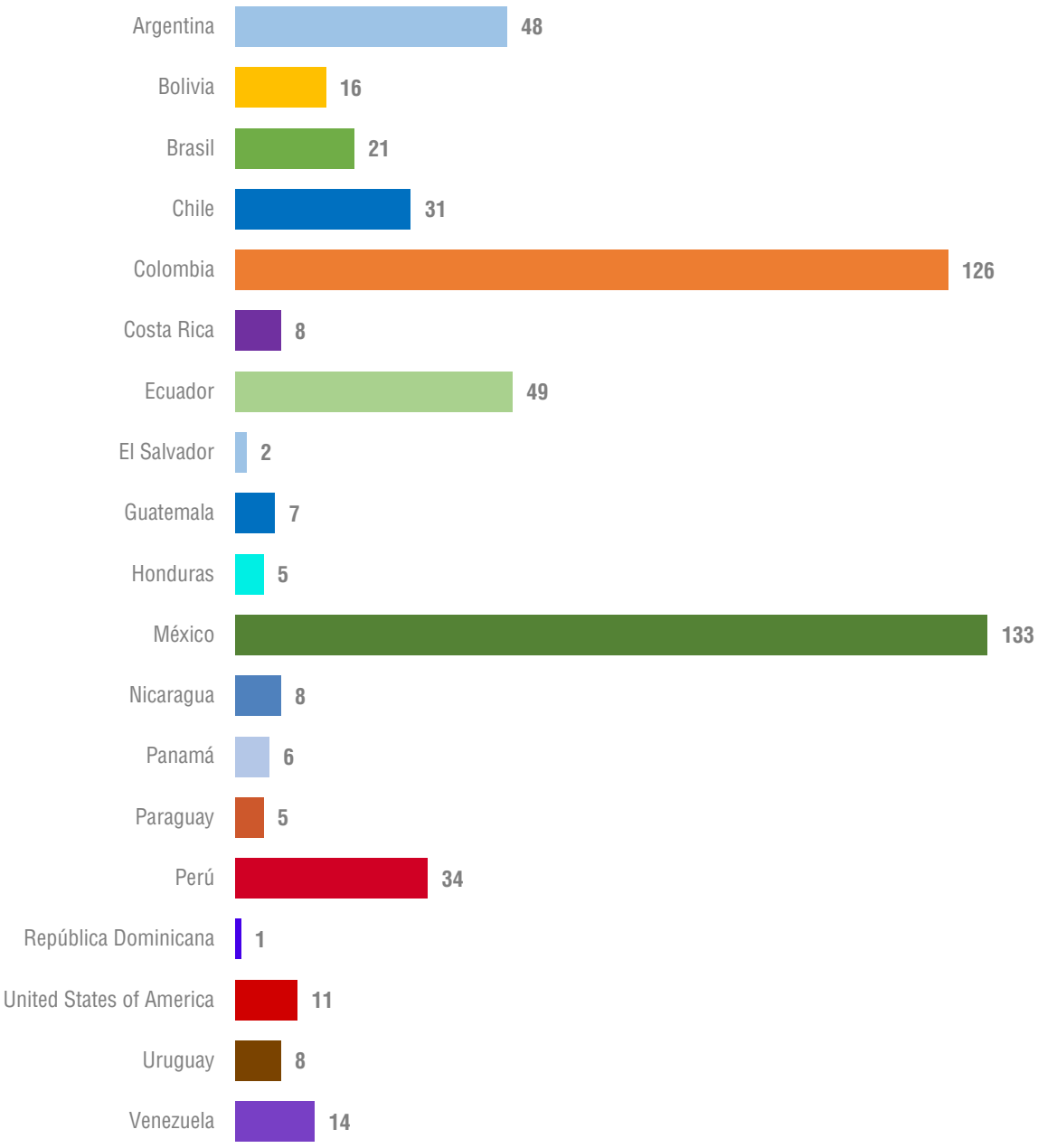
Total: 597



Note: These figures correspond to petitions pending initial review as of 2025, including those received in 2025 as well as in previous years. Of this total, 11 correspond to petitions received prior to 2025 that remain pending initial review.

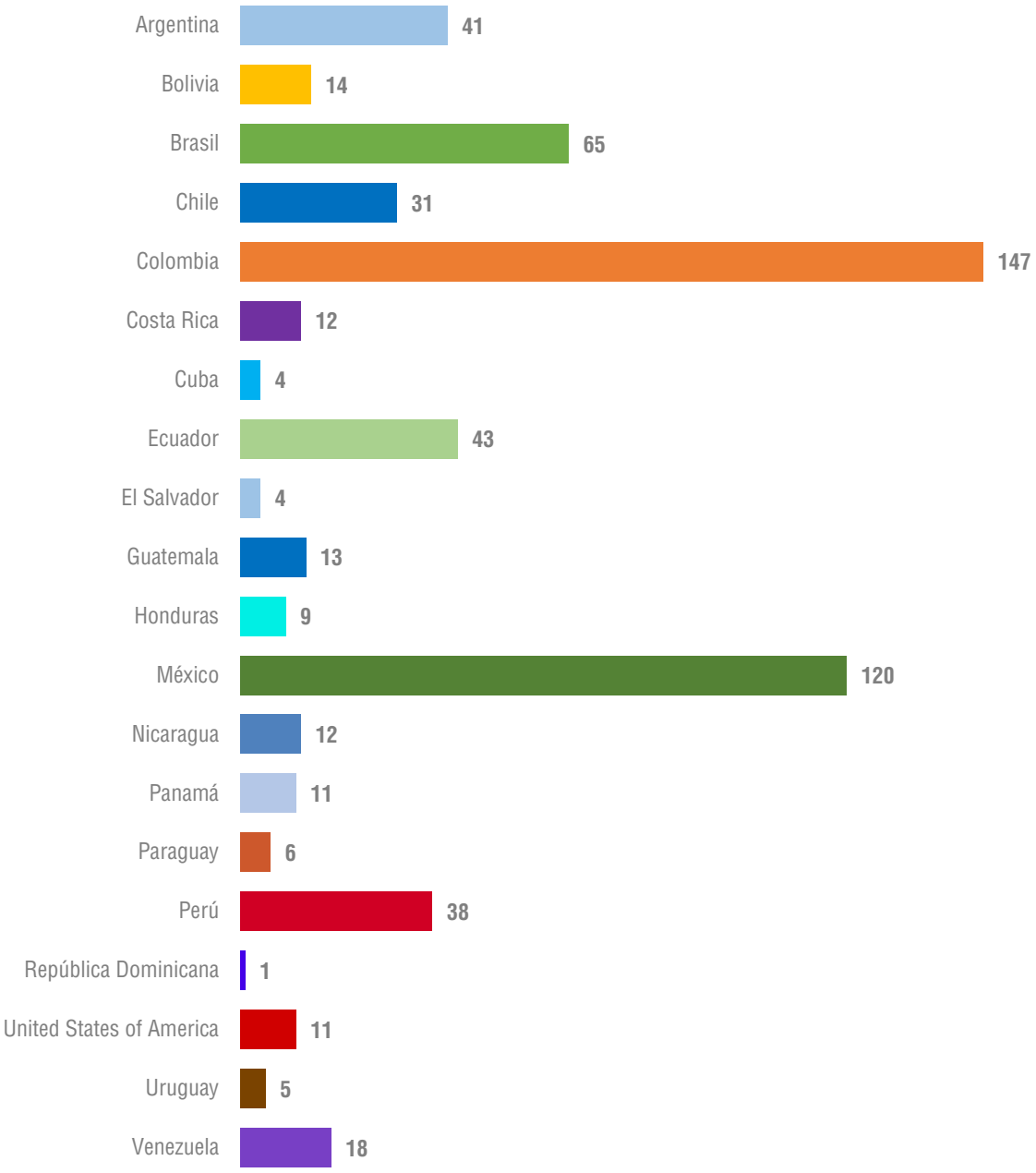
Decisions to open for processing by country

Total: 533



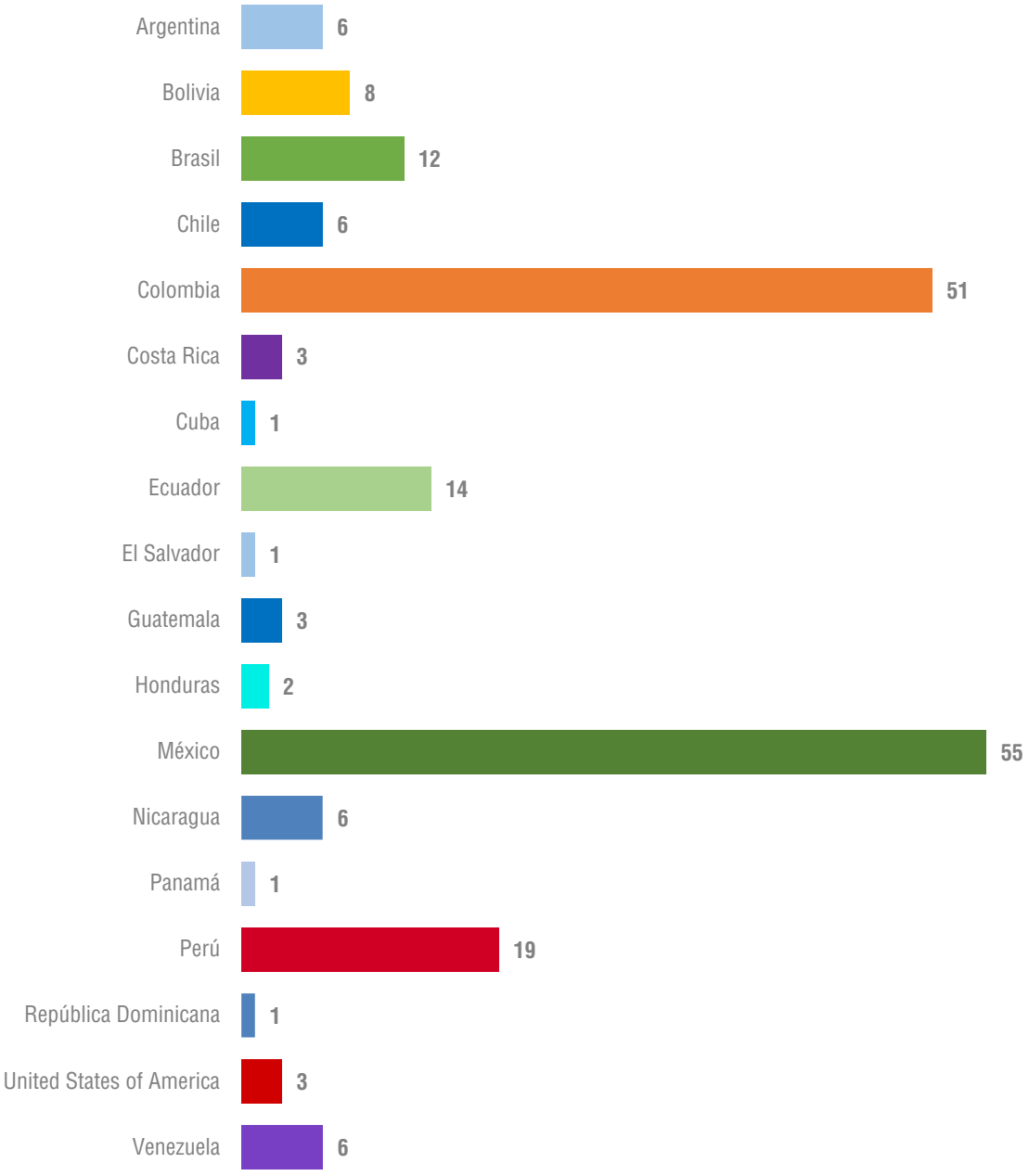
Notified decisions to open for processing

Total: 605



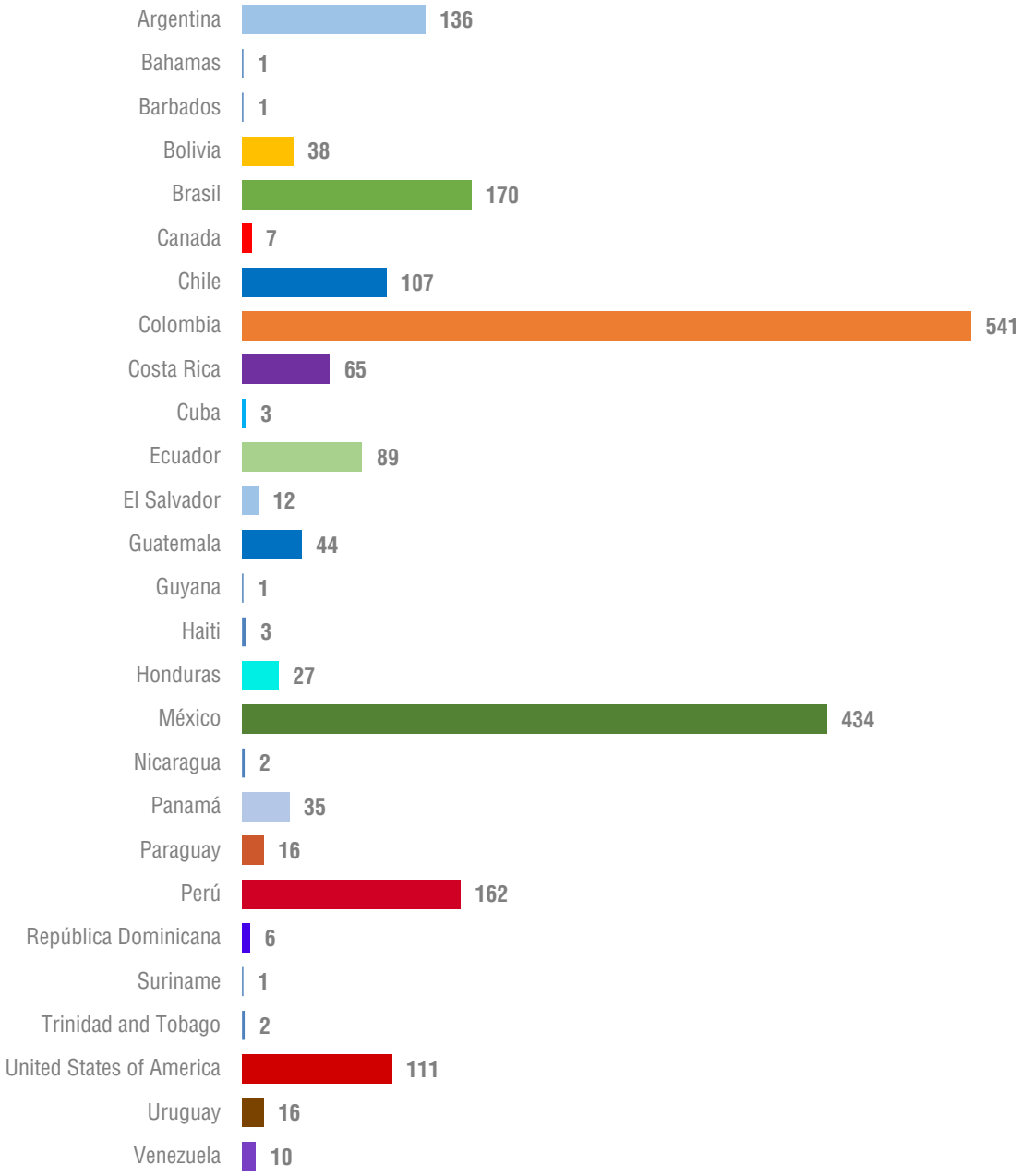
Petitions opened for processing, pending notification to the State

Total: 198



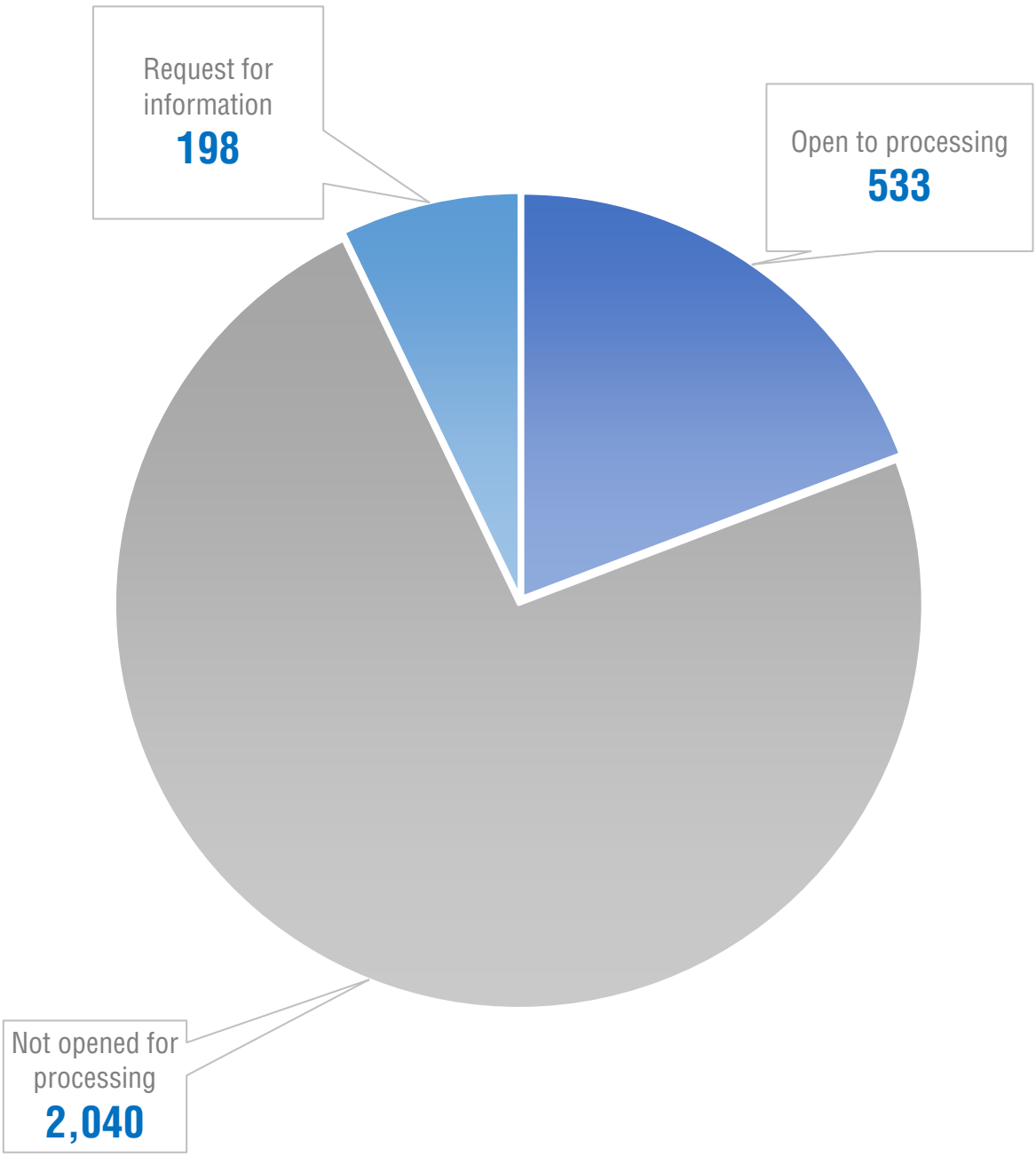
Petitions not opened for processing

Total: 2,040



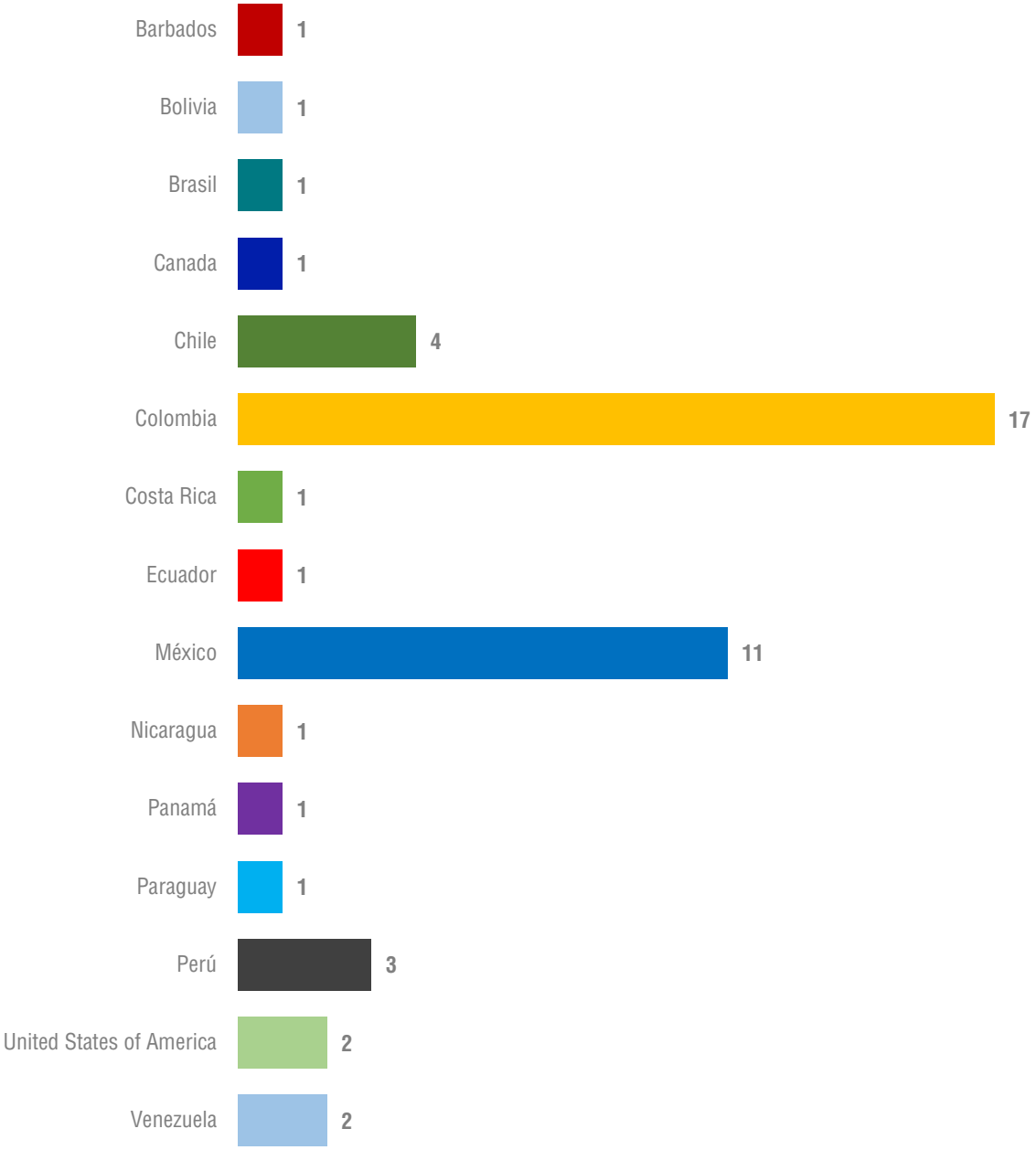
Decisions taken regarding petitions
in the initial review stage

TOTAL: 2,771



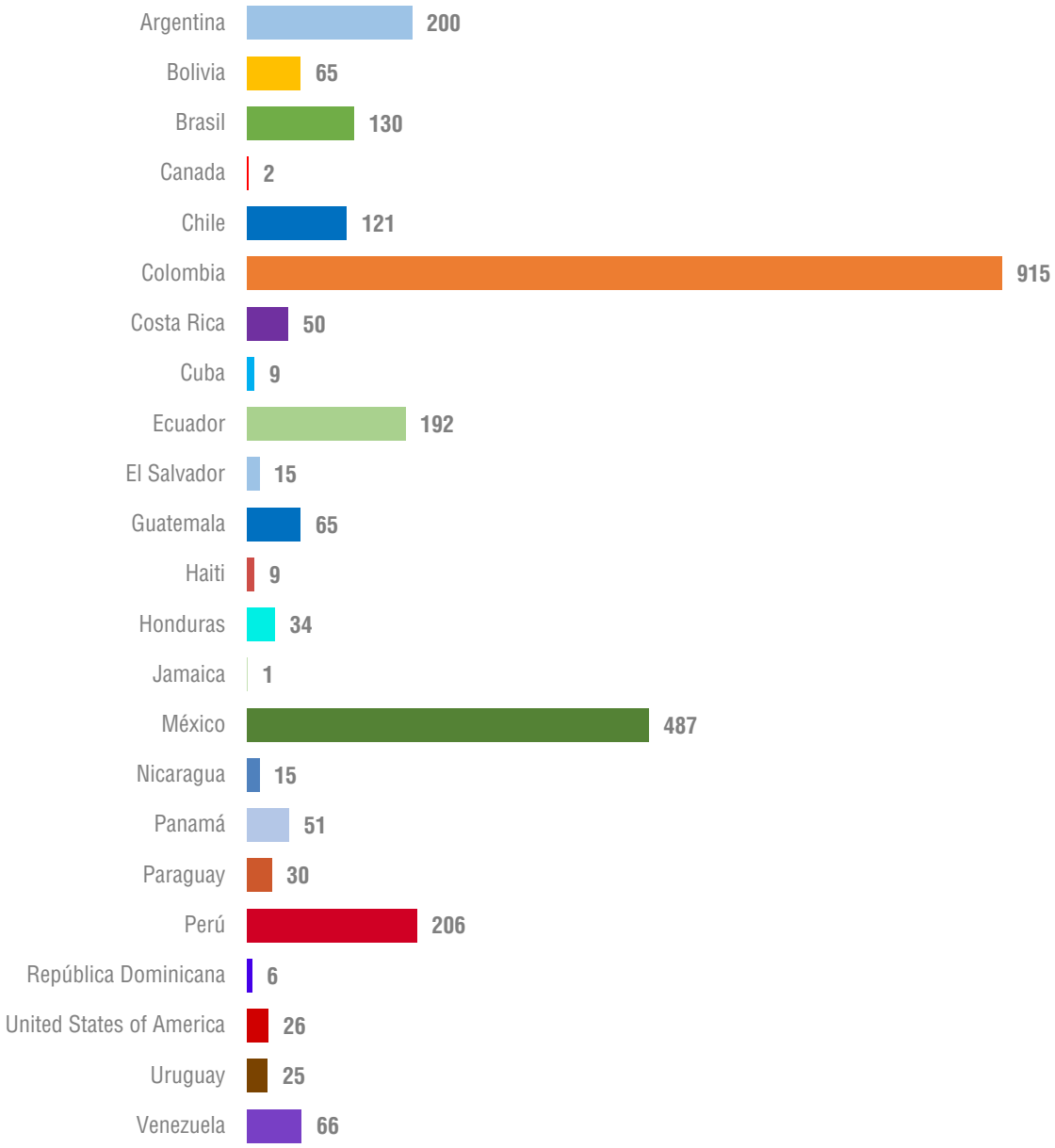
Petitions archived in the initial review stage

Total: 48



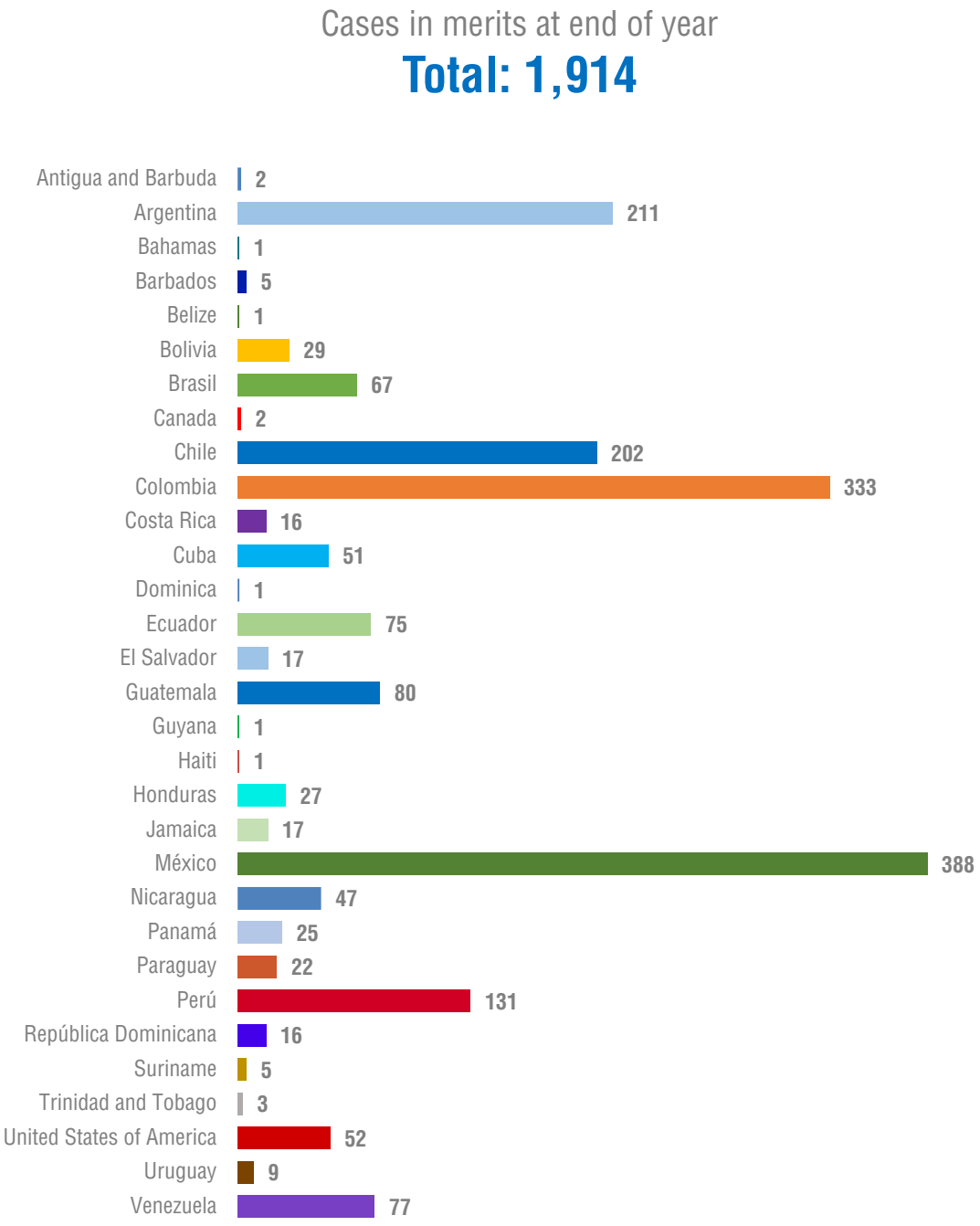
Petitions in admissibility at end of year

Total: 2,720



Note: Petitions in the admissibility stage are those currently being processed. That is, those transmitted to the State in accordance with Article 30 of the **IACHR** Rules of Procedure.

This graph does not include petitions at the admissibility stage that are in the friendly settlement procedure, as provided for in Article 40 of the aforementioned Rules of Procedure.

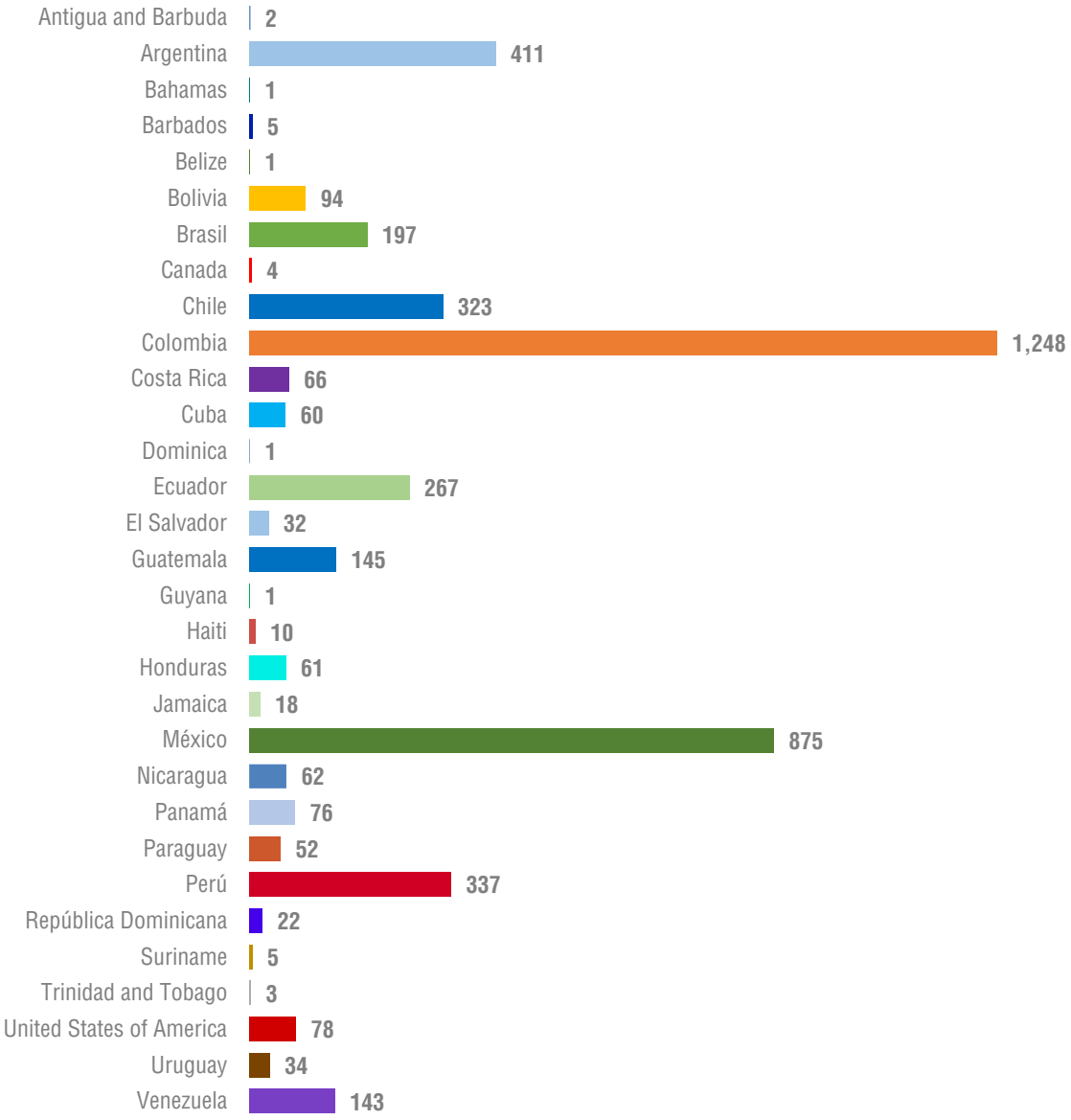


Note: Cases at the merits stage comprise those currently under processing, namely cases in which the IACHR has ruled on admissibility or has decided to defer the consideration of admissibility until the debate and decision on the merits, in accordance with Article 36 of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR.

This chart does not include cases at the merits stage that are undergoing the friendly settlement procedure provided for in Article 40 of the Rules of Procedure. Likewise, the information reported for 2025 does not include cases for which a decision on the merits has already been adopted and is pending notification to the parties.

Petitions and cases in admissibility and merits

Total: 4,634

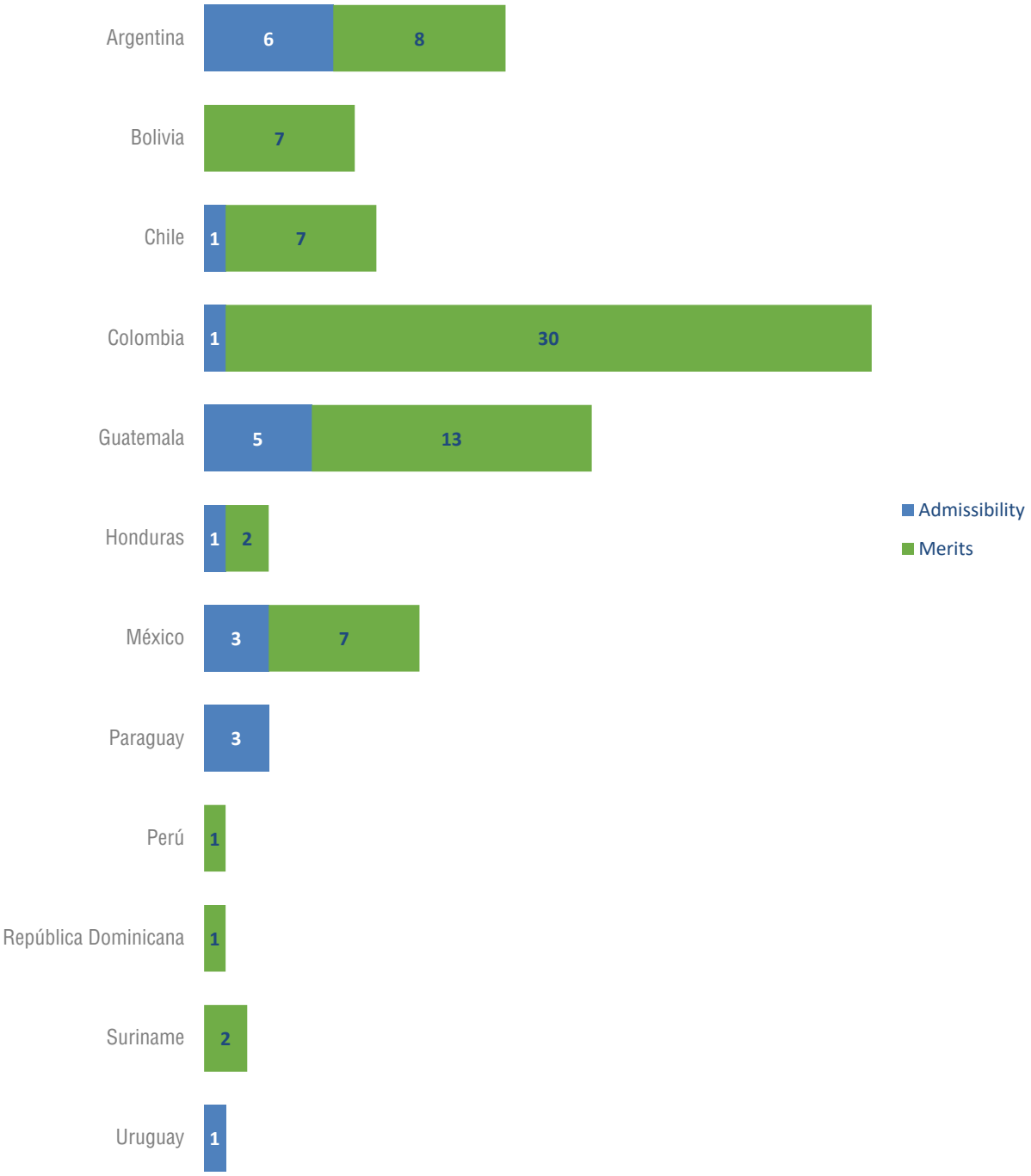


Note: Admissibility is the stage in which the **IACHR** determines if a petition meets the requirements set forth in Articles 46 and 47 of the American Convention . Merits is the stage in which the **IACHR** decides on the merits of the case pursuant to the procedure established in Articles 48 and 50 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

This chart includes matters at the admissibility and merits stages within the contentious procedure, excluding those undergoing the friendly settlement procedure provided for in Article 40 of the aforementioned Rules of Procedure. Likewise, it has been verified that the information reported for 2025 does not include cases for which a decision on the merits has already been adopted and is pending notification to the parties.

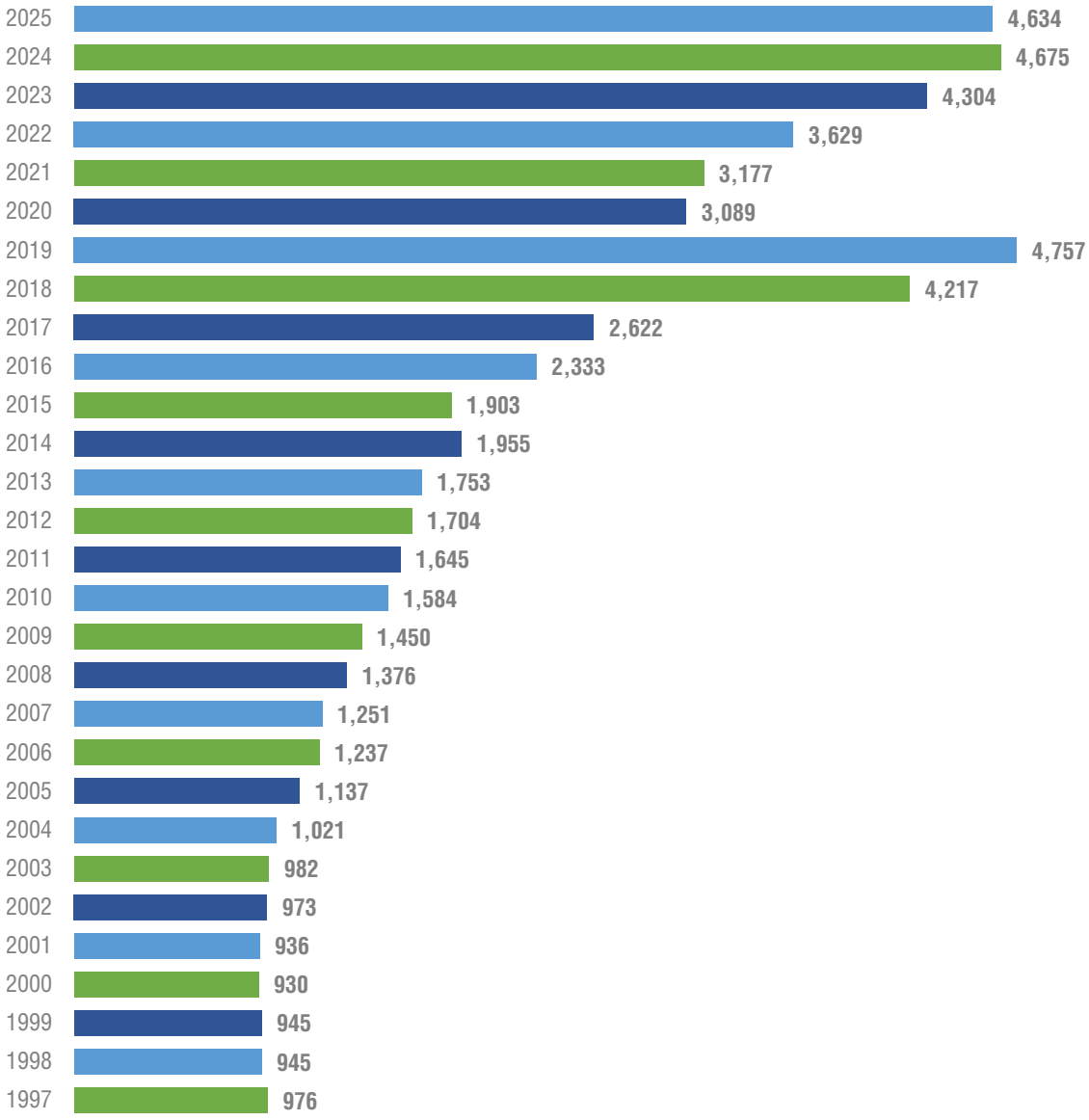
Petitions and cases in friendly settlement procedure at end of year

Total: 99



Case docket at the end of every year

Admissibility and Merits

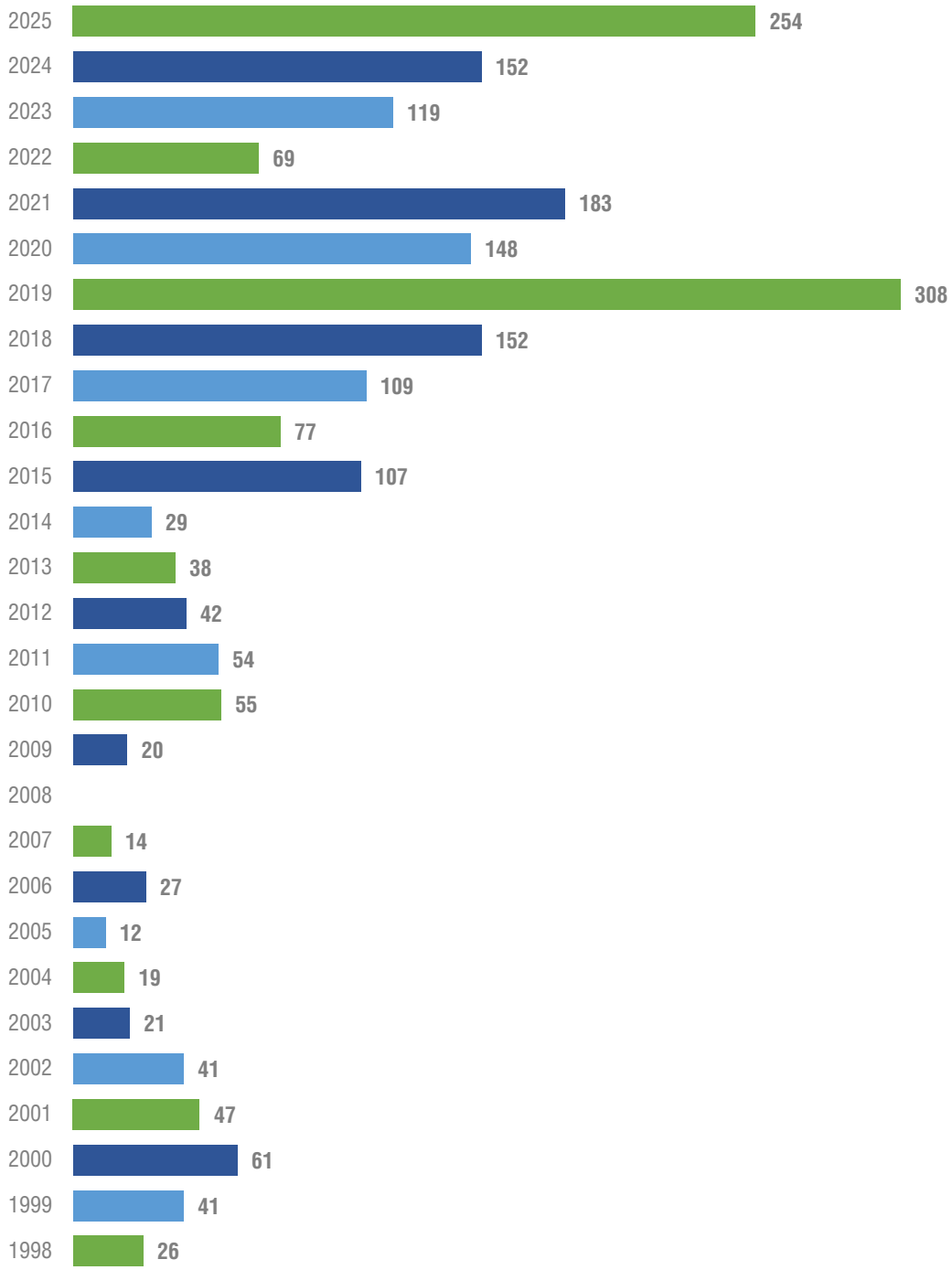


Note: The figures for 2018 and 2019 correspond to those reported in the Annual Reports of the respective years, which include both the petitions that were effectively notified to the State, in accordance with Article 30 of the **IACHR** Rules of Procedure, and those with a decision to open to processing, that were still pending notification to the State. The latter are not considered in the reports for the other years.

This chart includes cases in the admissibility and merits stages under contentious proceedings, omitting those in friendly settlement, as provided in Article 40 of the aforementioned Rules of Procedure.

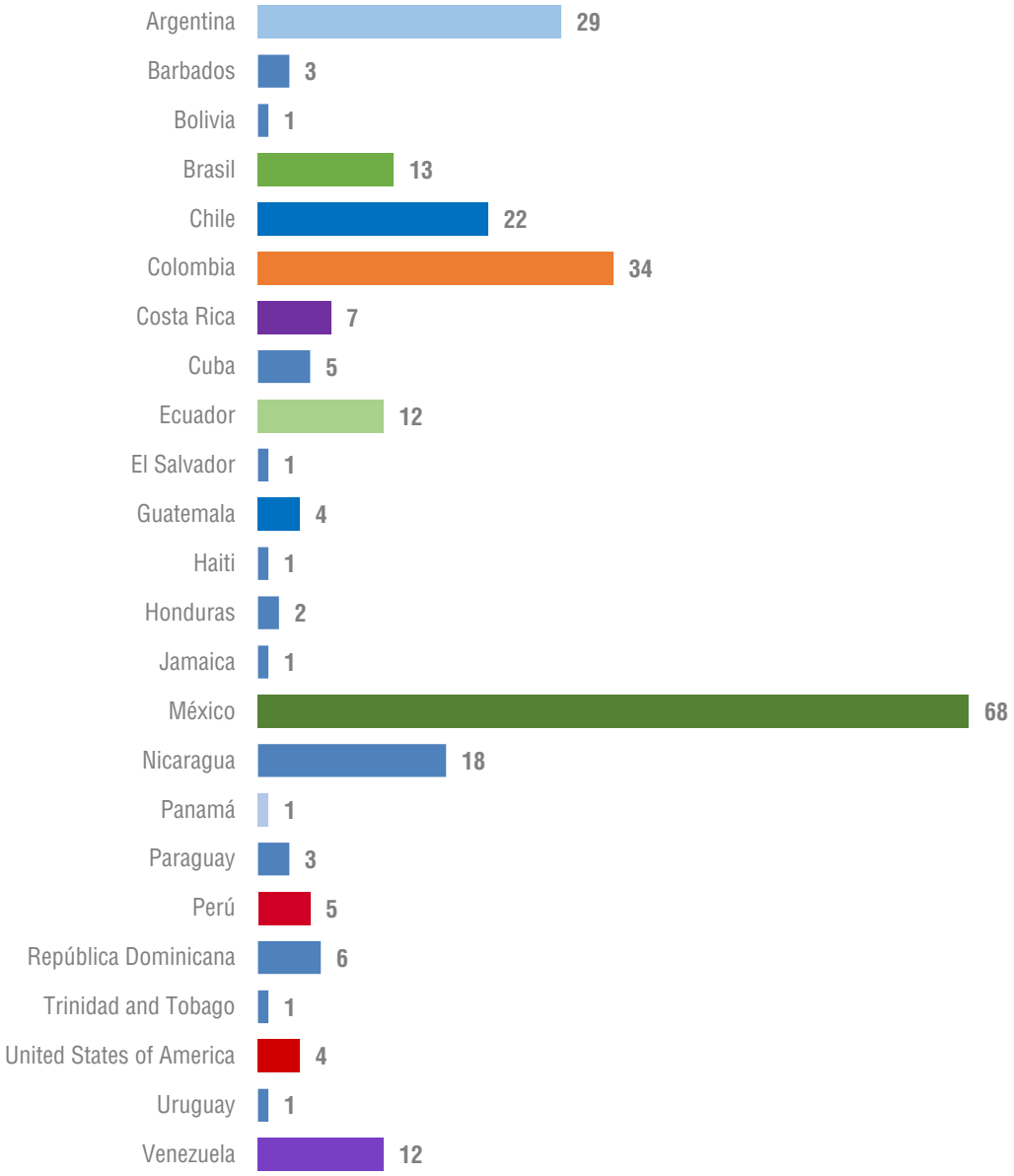
Petitions and cases archived

by Year

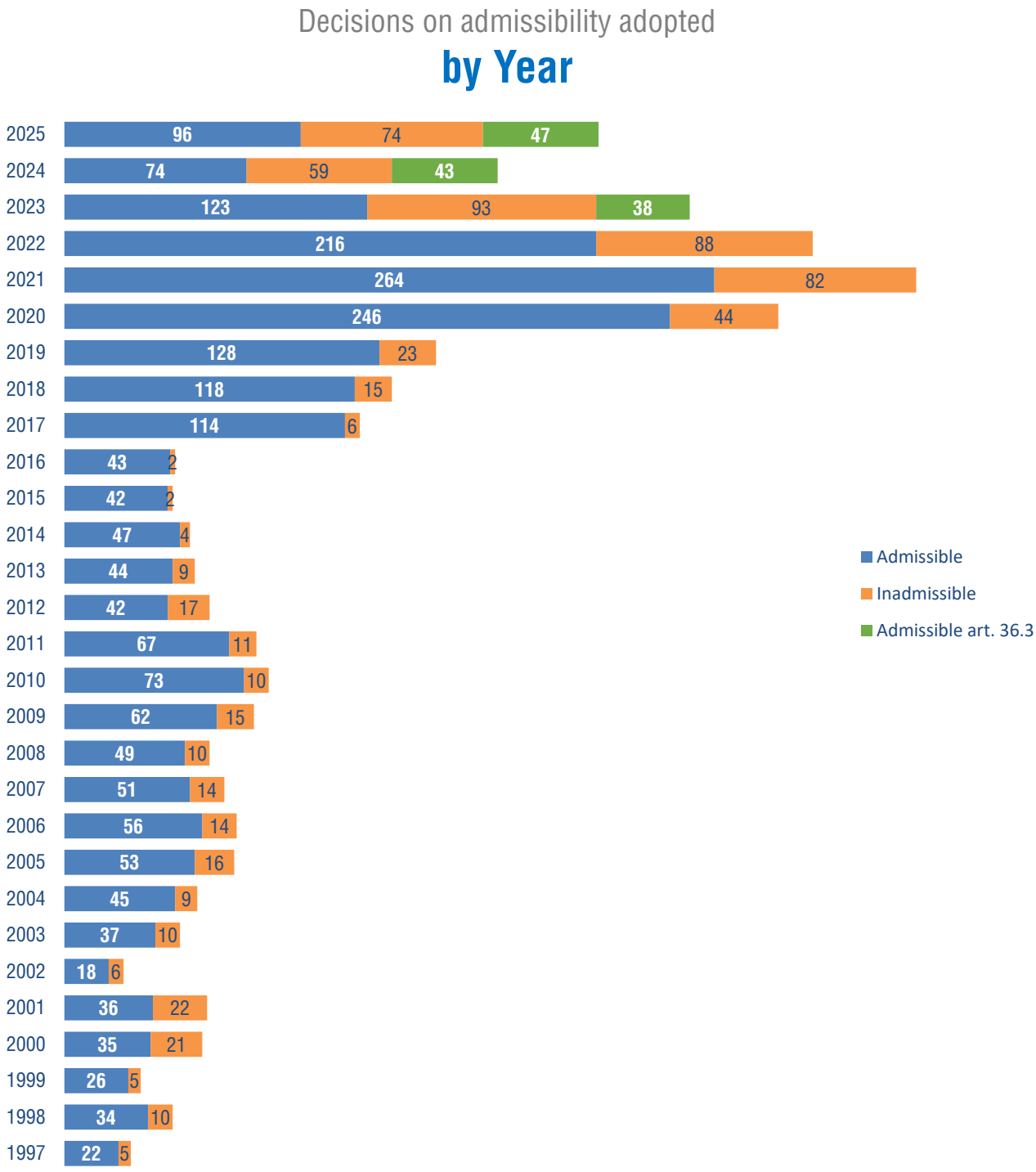


Petitions and cases archived by country

Total: 254



Note: This graph shows petitions in the admissibility stage and cases in the merits stage that have been archived (closed), in accordance with Article 42 of the **IACHR** Rules of Procedure. Prior to the adoption of a decision to archive by the **IACHR**, the Executive Secretariat requests the petitioner to submit the required information and notifies them of the possibility of a decision to archive. Likewise, the Executive Secretariat identifies cases in which the petitioner has expressed interest in withdrawing the petition or case, as provided in Article 41 of the **IACHR** Rules of Procedure.

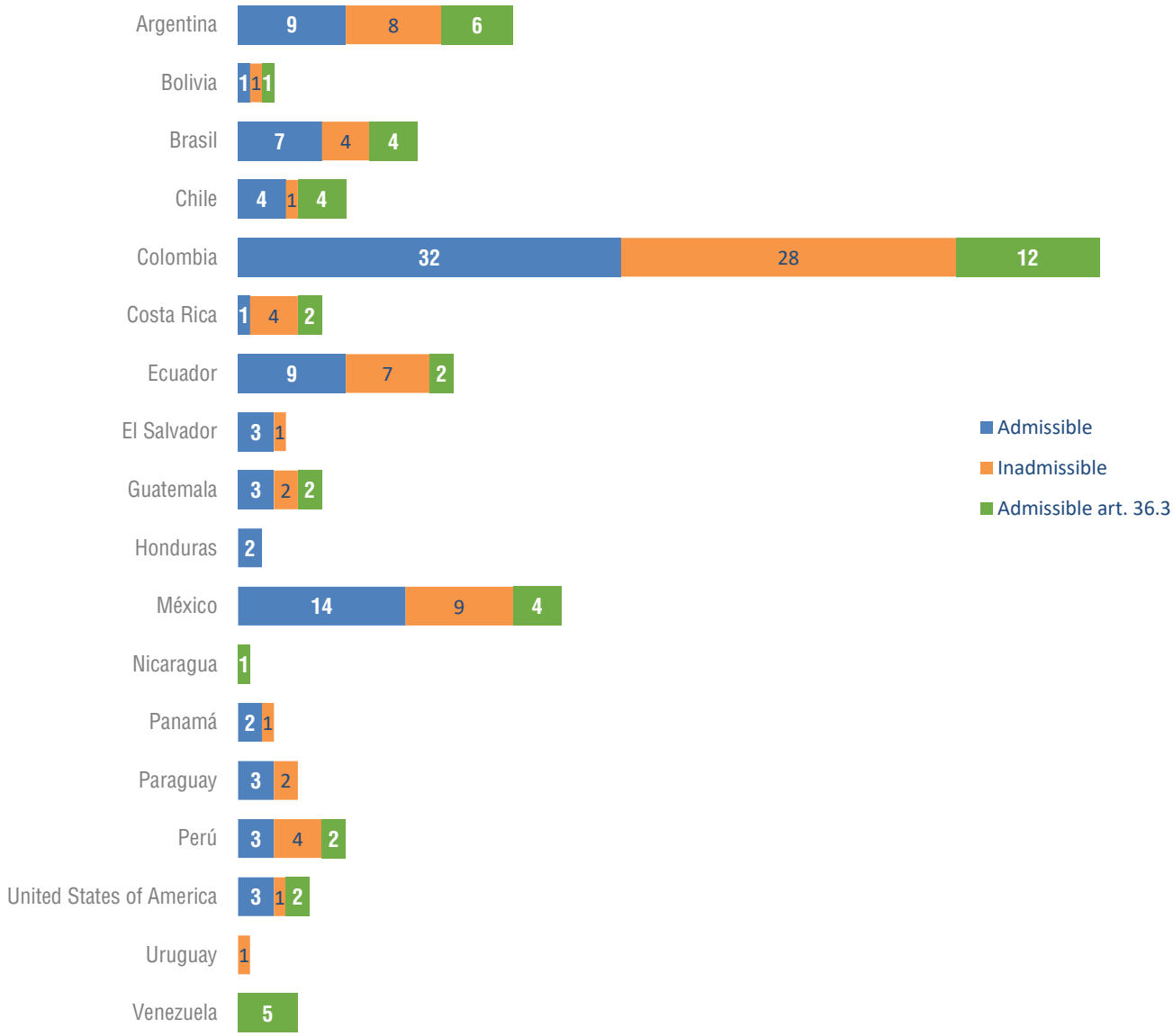


Note: Admissibility is the stage in which the **IACHR** determines if a petition meets the admissibility requirements set forth in Articles 46 and 47 of the American Convention on Human Rights, in accordance with the procedure established in Articles 30 and 36 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

As of 2023, we included the decisions in which the admissibility treatment was deferred until the debate and decision on the merits, under article 36.3 of the **IACHR** Rules of Procedure.

Decisions on admissibility adopted by country

Total: 217

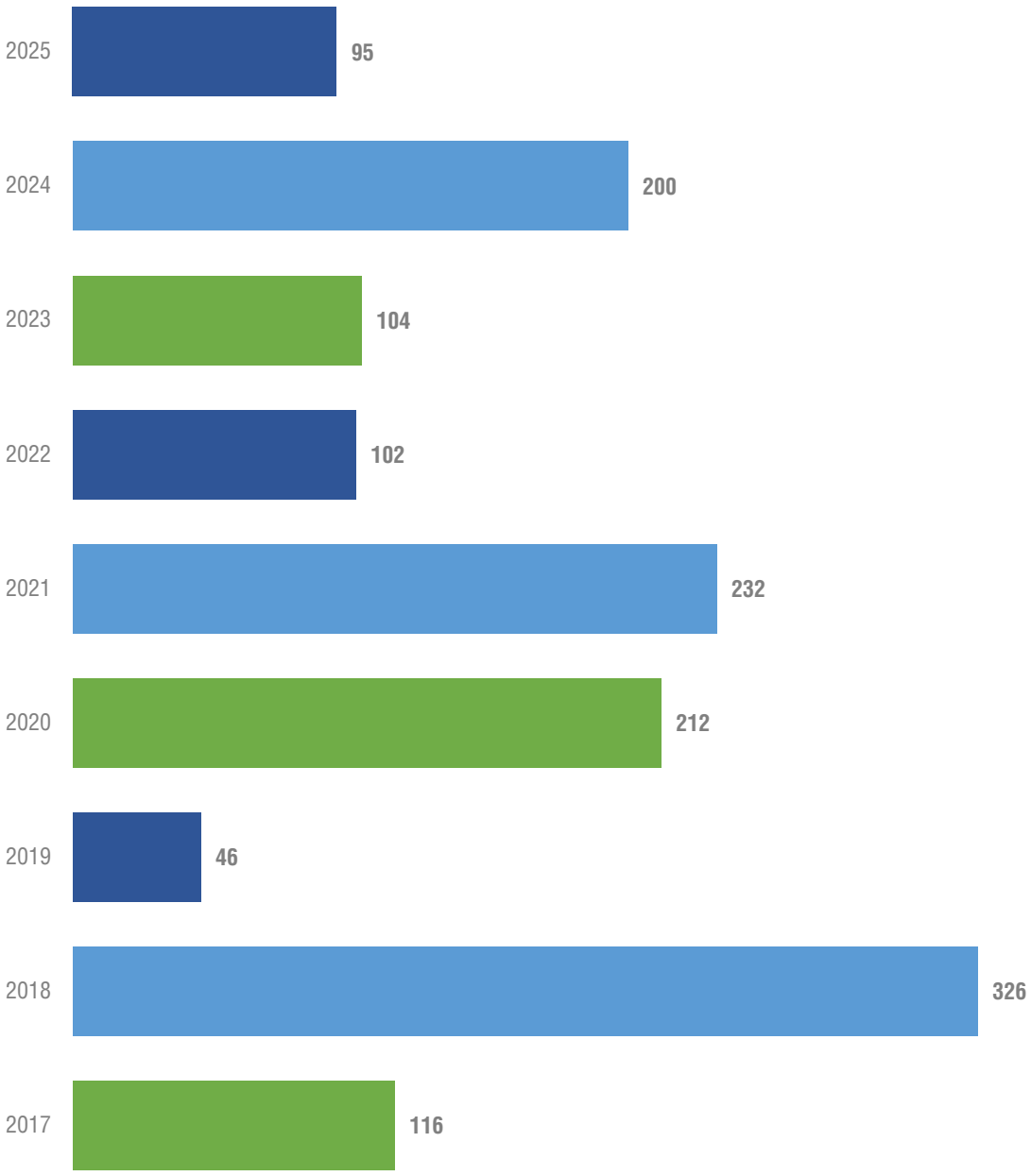


Note: Admissibility is the stage in which the **IACHR** determines if a petition meets the requirements set forth in Articles 46 and 47 of the American Convention . Merits is the stage in which the **IACHR** decides on the merits of the case pursuant to the procedure established in Articles 48 and 50 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

As of 2023, the decisions in which the admissibility treatment was deferred until the debate and decision on the merits under Article 36.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission are incorporated.

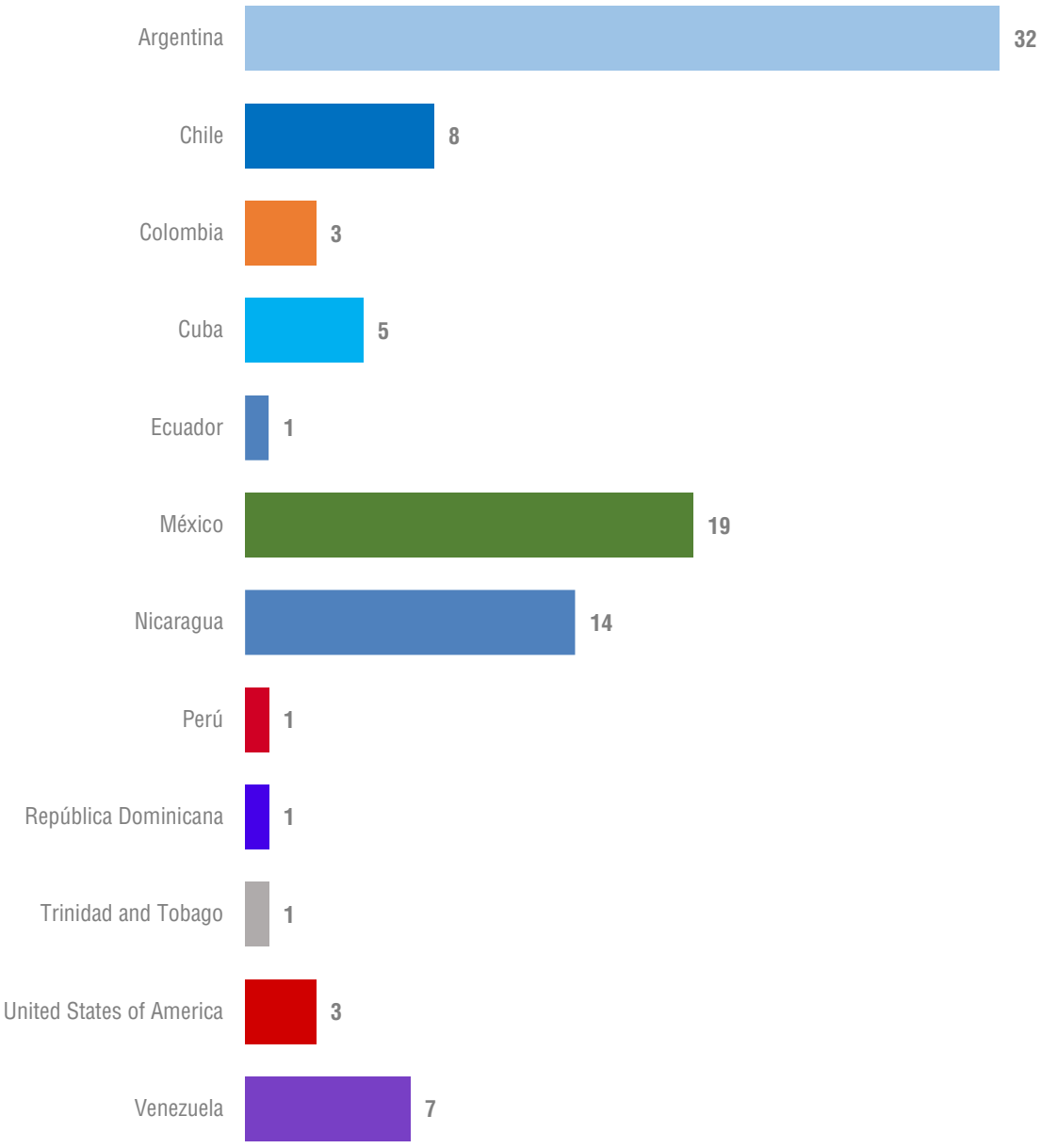
Application of resolution 1/16

by Year



Application of Resolution 1/16 by country

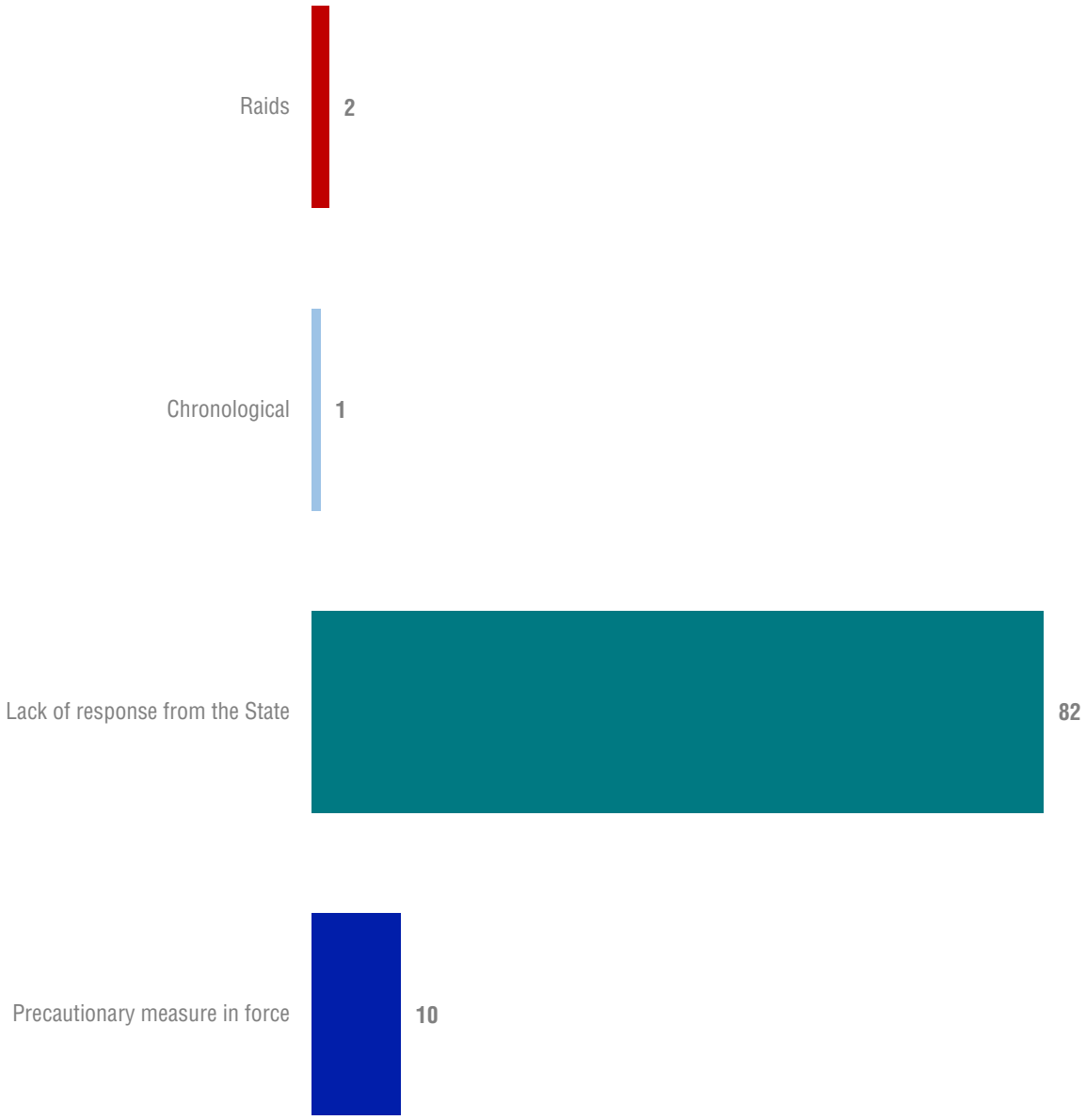
Total: 95



Note: This graph shows the number of petitions at the admissibility stage in which the parties were notified of the decision to defer the admissibility assessment until the debate and decision on the merits, as provided in Article 36.3 of the **IACHR** Rules of Procedure and in accordance with Resolution 1/16 on Measures to Reduce the Procedural Backlog.

Application of Resolution 1/16 by category

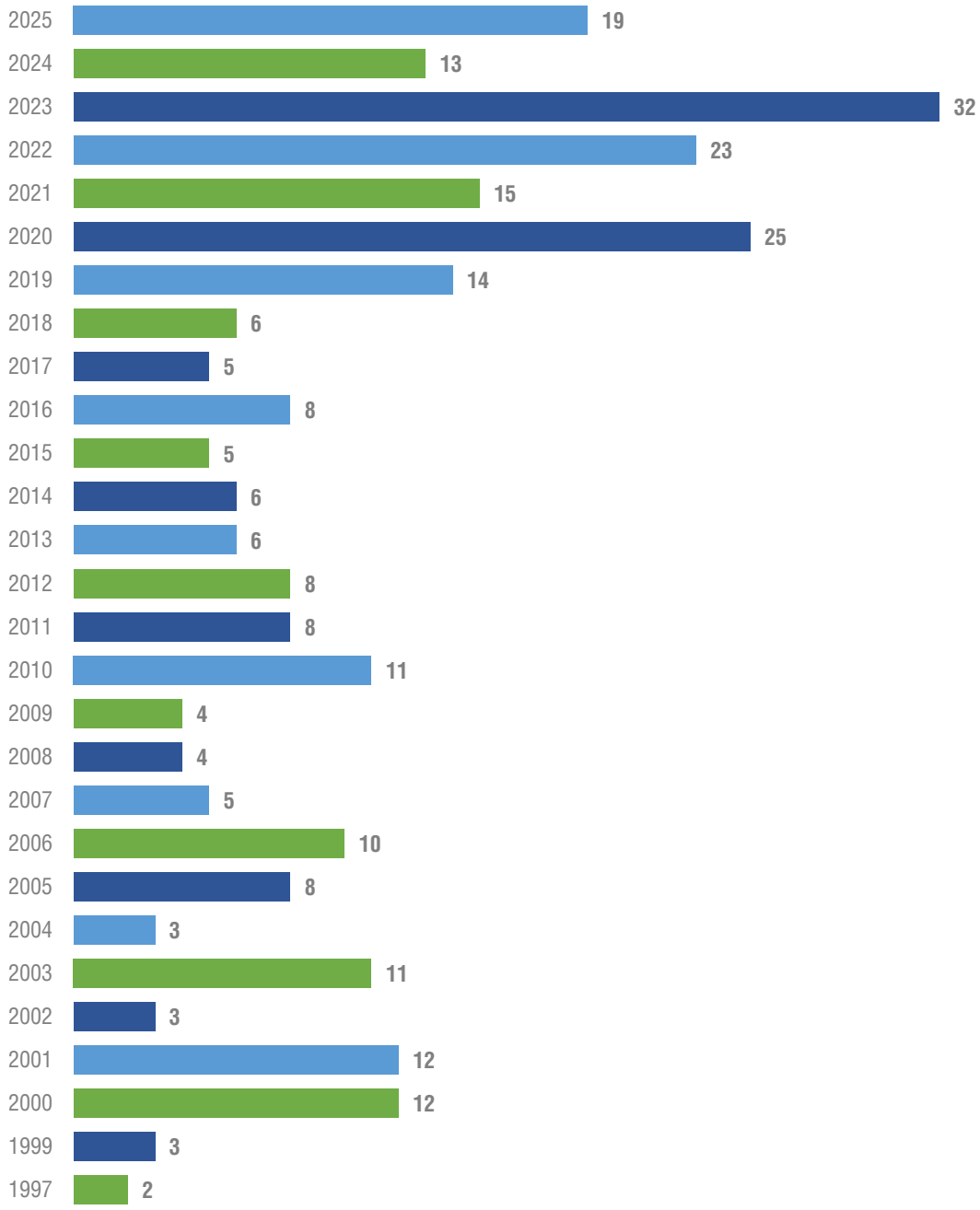
Total: 95



Note: This year, no notifications were made based on the criterion of susceptibility to summary decision-making through the application of precedent from the **IACHR** and/or the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Reports on friendly settlement published

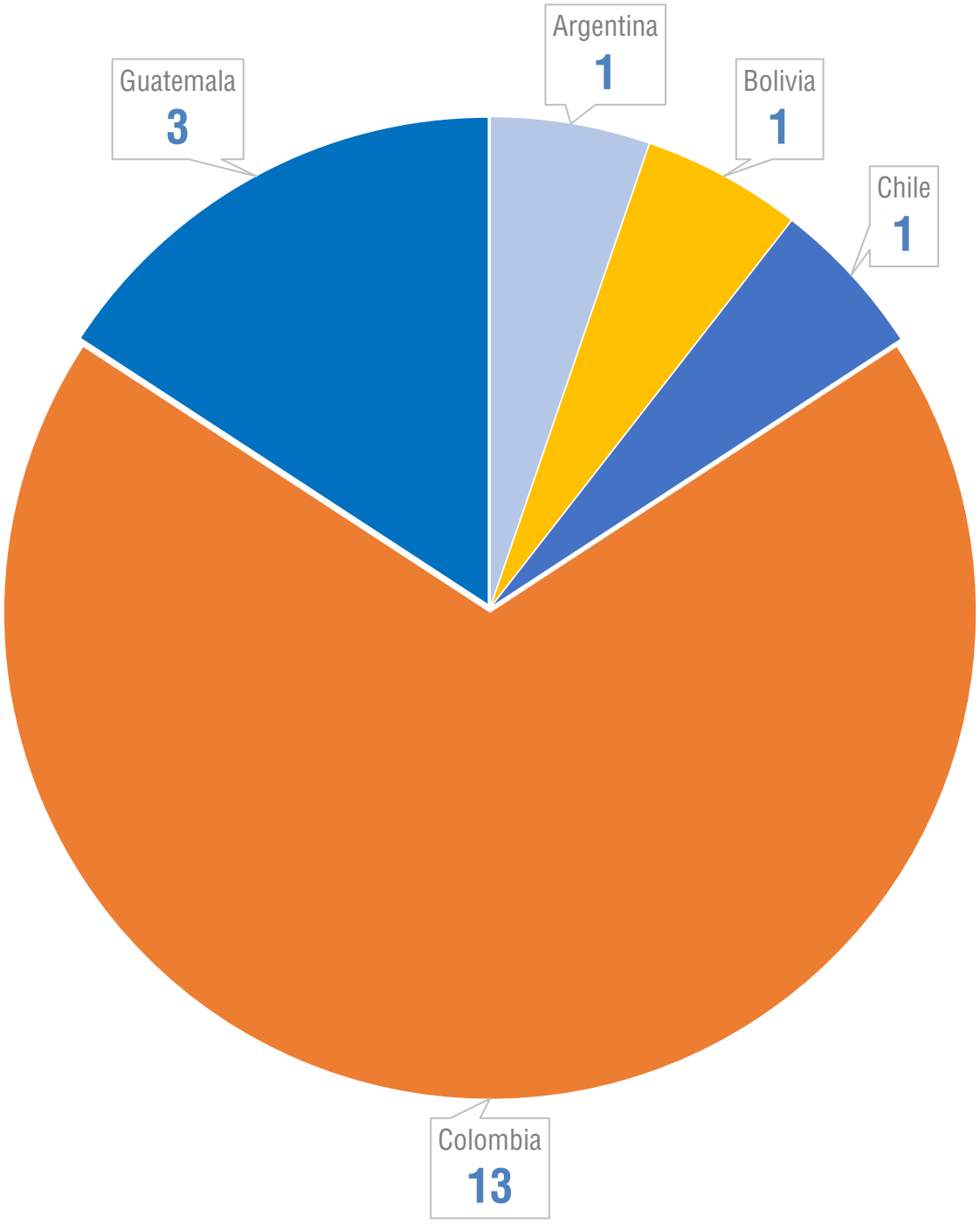
by Year



Note: A peticion or case can, at any time in the admissibility or merits stage, enter into a friendly settlement process between the parties.

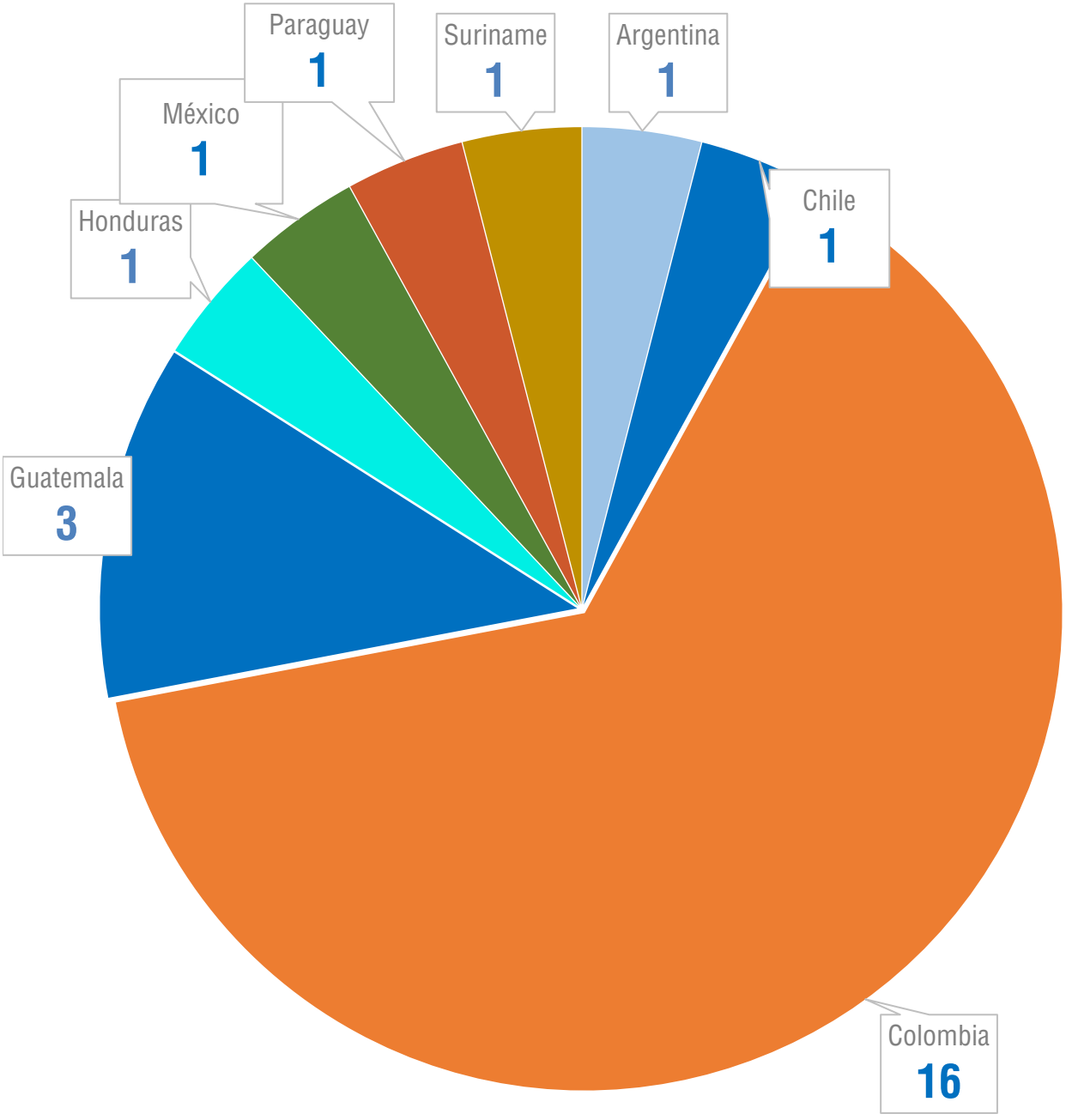
Reports on friendly settlement published by country

Total: 19

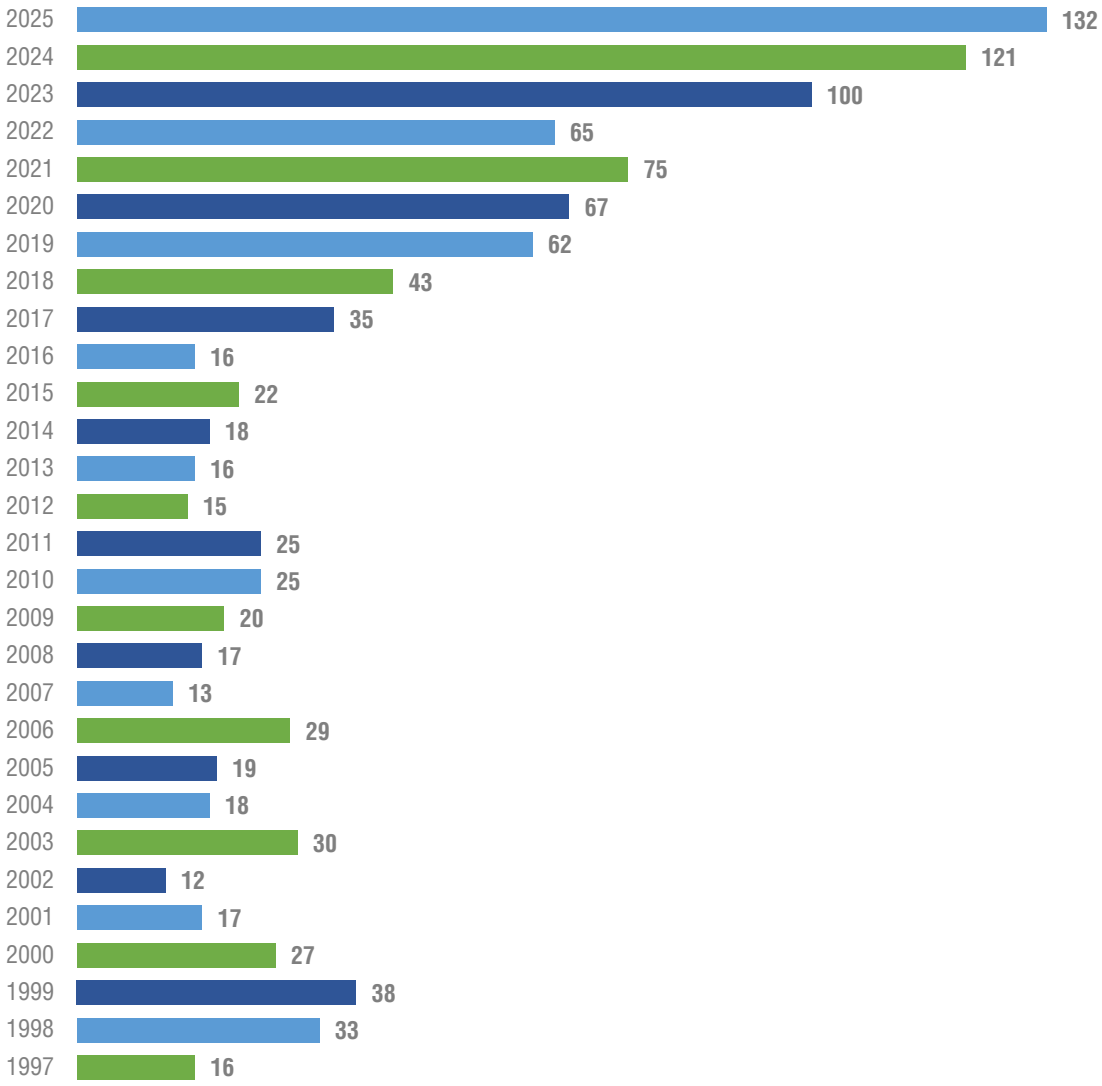


Friendly settlement agreements signed by country

Total: 25



Reports on the merits approved
by Year



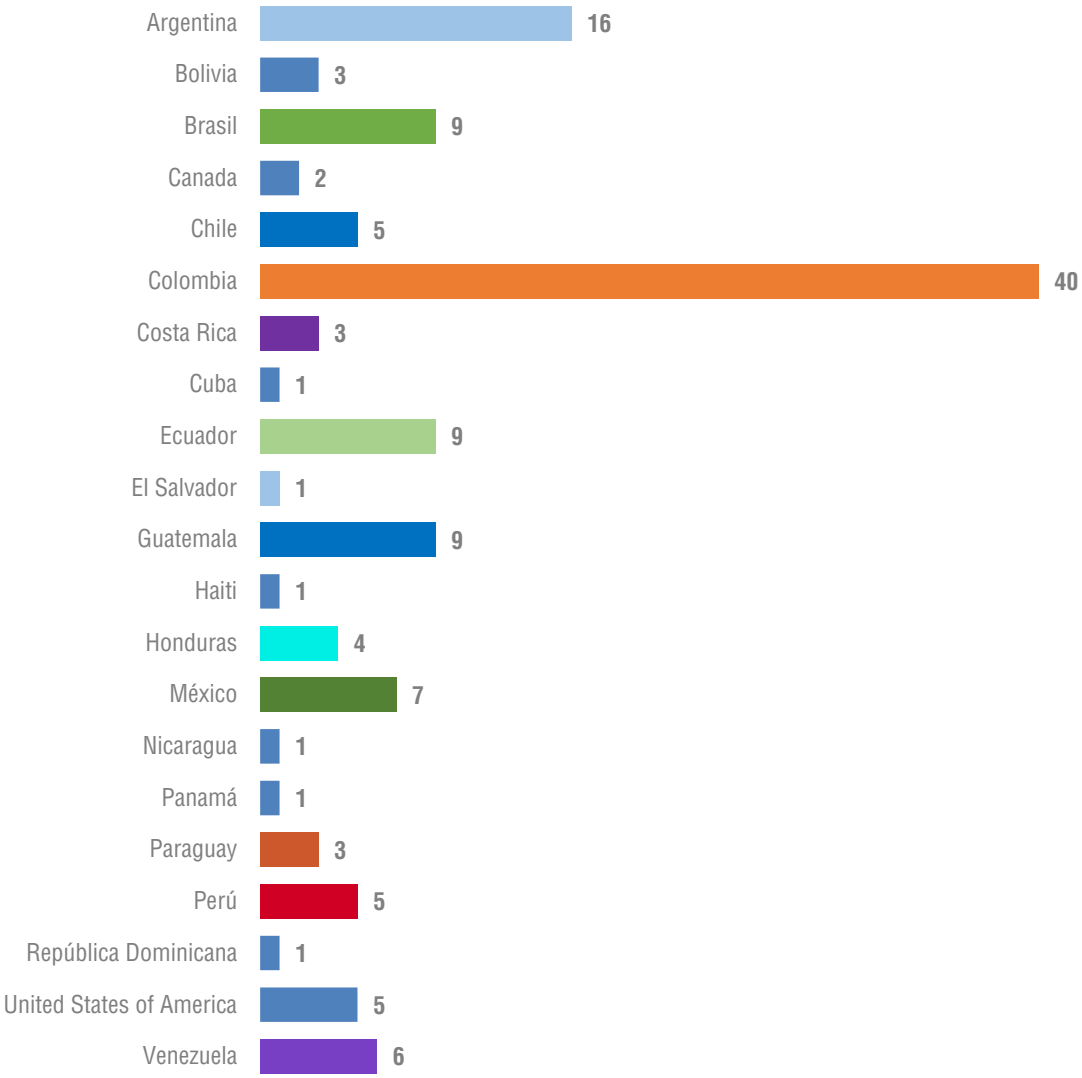
Note: Merits is the stage in which the **IACHR** decides on the merits of the case pursuant to the procedure established in Articles 48 and 50 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Articles 37, 38, 39, 43 and 44 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

Of the total number of decisions on the merits presented in the graph **for 2025**, 47 correspond to decisions in which admissibility treatment was deferred until the discussion and decision on the merits under Article 36.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission.

The decisions on the merits presented in the graph include cases decided by the **IACHR** pending notification to the parties.

Reports on the merits adopted by country

Total: 132



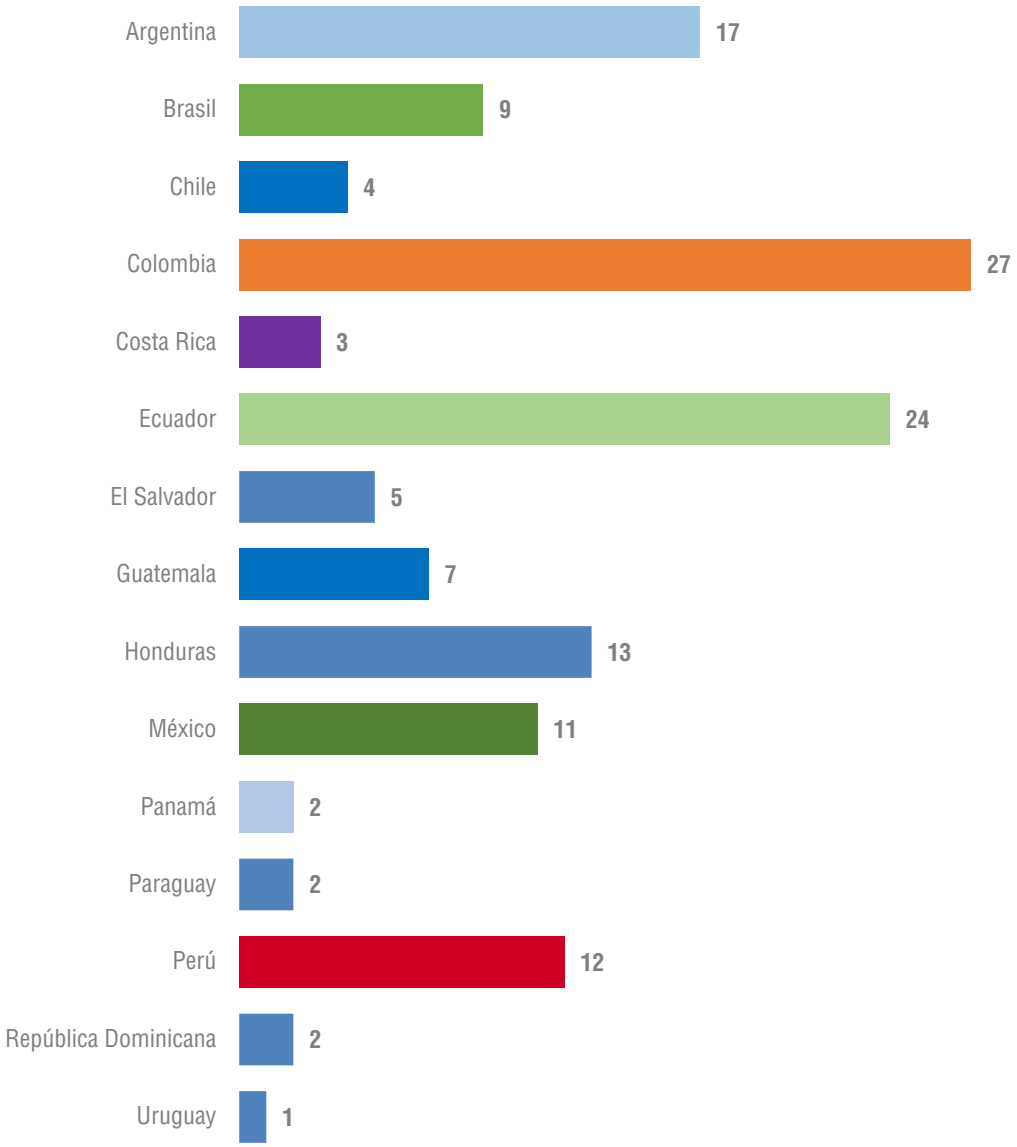
Note: Merits is the stage in which the **IACHR** decides on the merits of the case pursuant to the procedure established in Articles 48 and 50 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Articles 37, 38, 39, 43 and 44 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

Of the total number of decisions on the merits presented in the graph, 47 correspond to decisions in which admissibility treatment was deferred until the discussion and decision on the merits under Article 36.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission.

The decisions on the merits presented in the graph include cases decided by the **IACHR** pending notification to the parties.

Cases pending a decision on whether to send to the **I/A Court H.R.** or proceed with the publication of the report by country

Total: 139

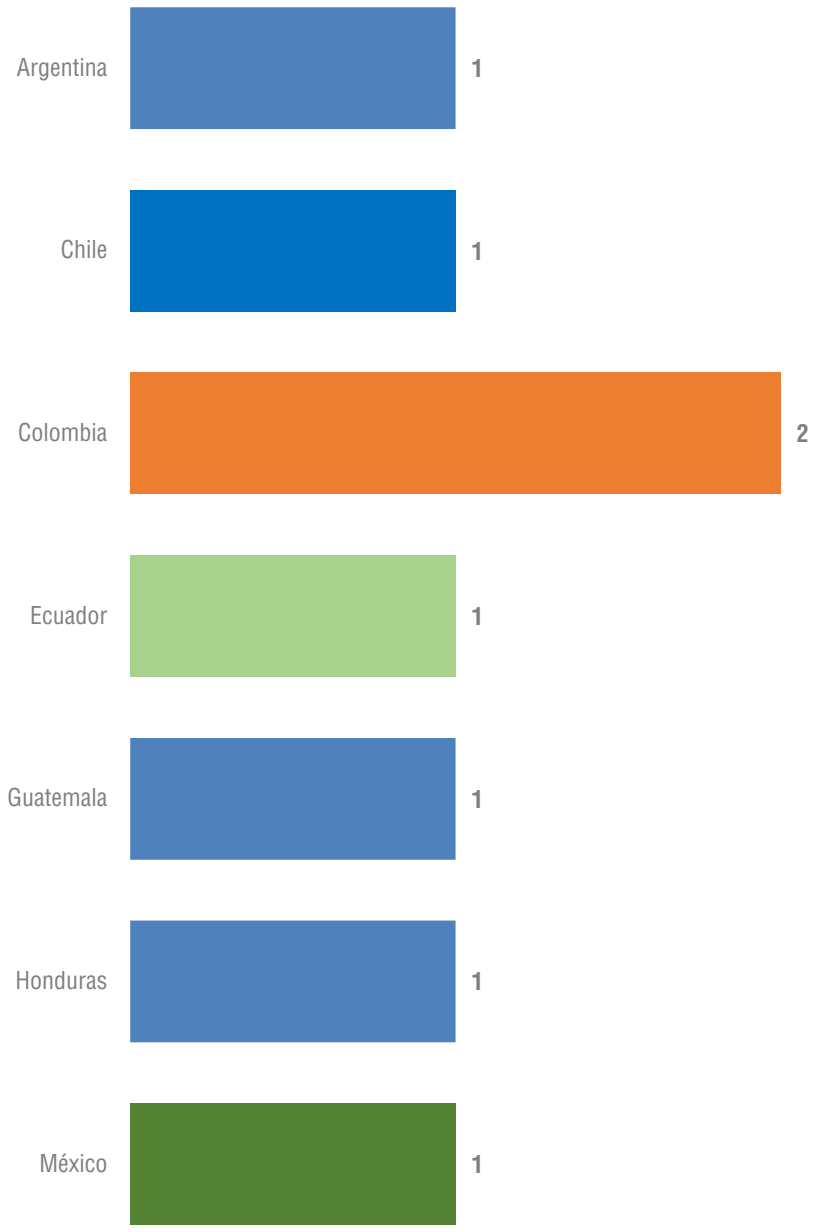


Note: The present graph shows the number of cases in relation to States that have accepted the contentious jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which are pending a decision on whether to send them to the Court or to not send and instead proceed with the publication of the report, as of December 31, 2024.

The graph does not include cases with a report approved in accordance with Article 50 of the Convention that are pending notification.

Cases with a decision not to send to the **I/A Court H.R.** by country

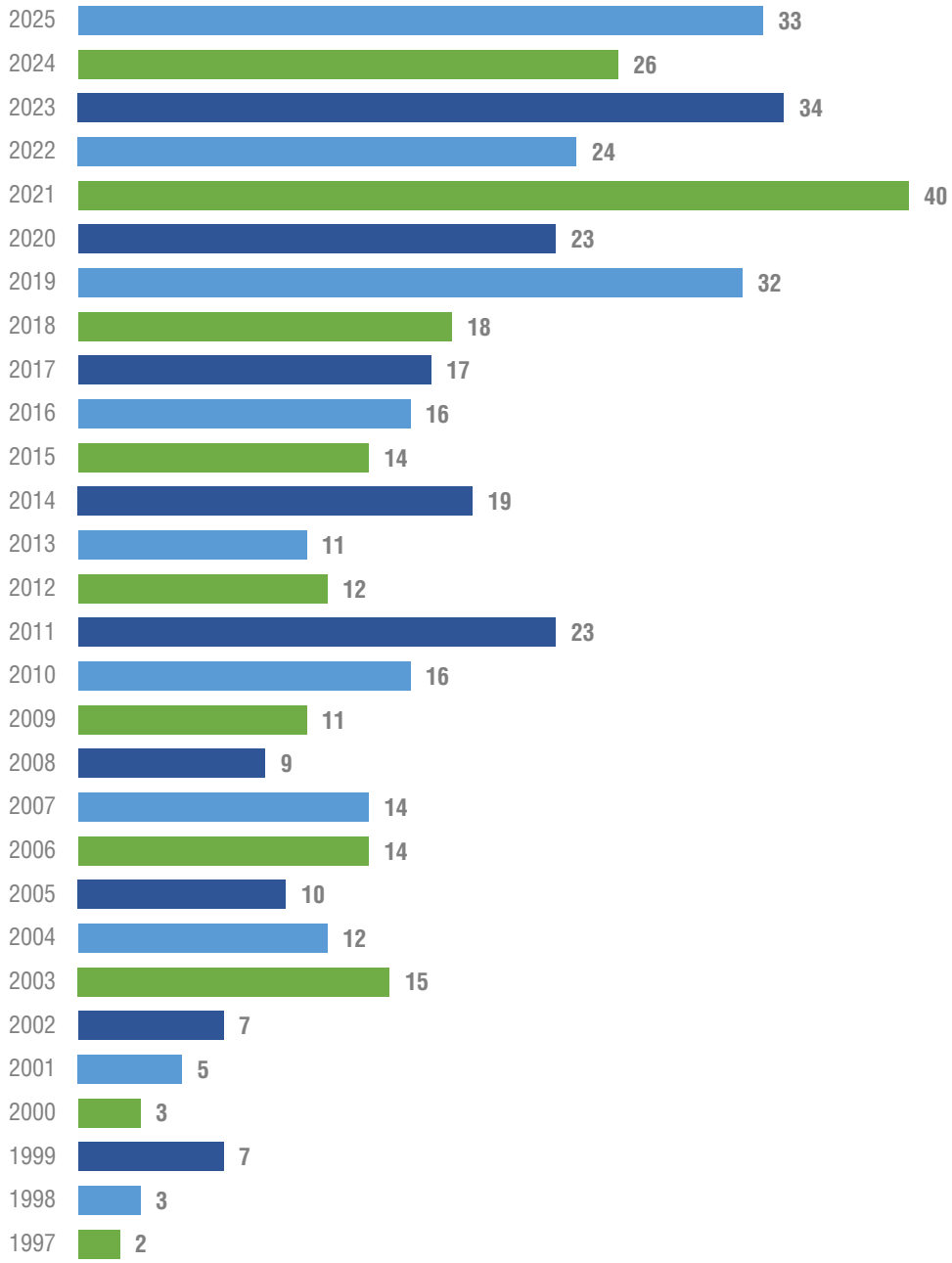
Total: 8



Note: This graph shows the number of cases by country in which the IACHR made the decision not to send the case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and to proceed with the publication of the Report.

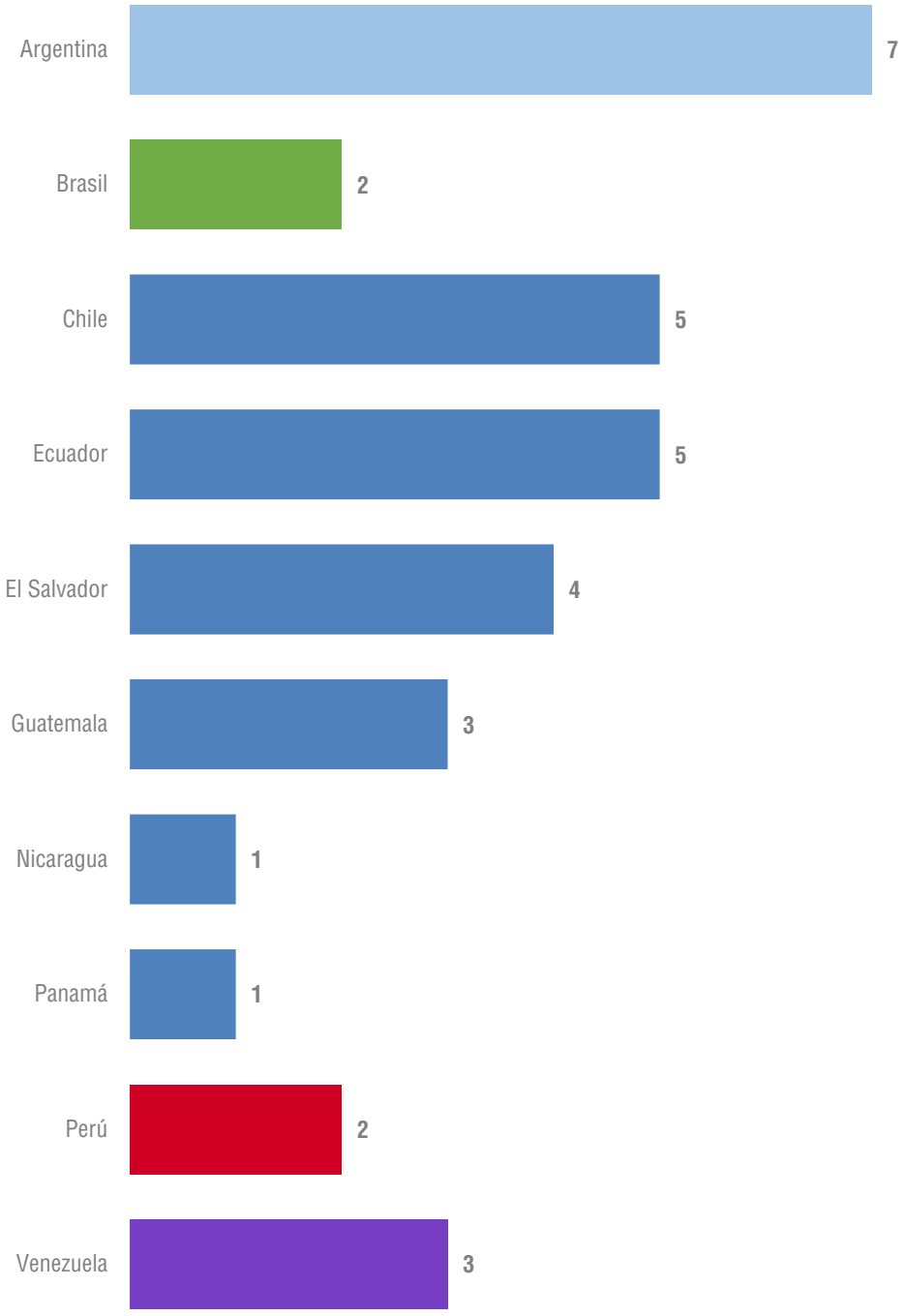
Cases submitted to the **I/A Court H.R.**

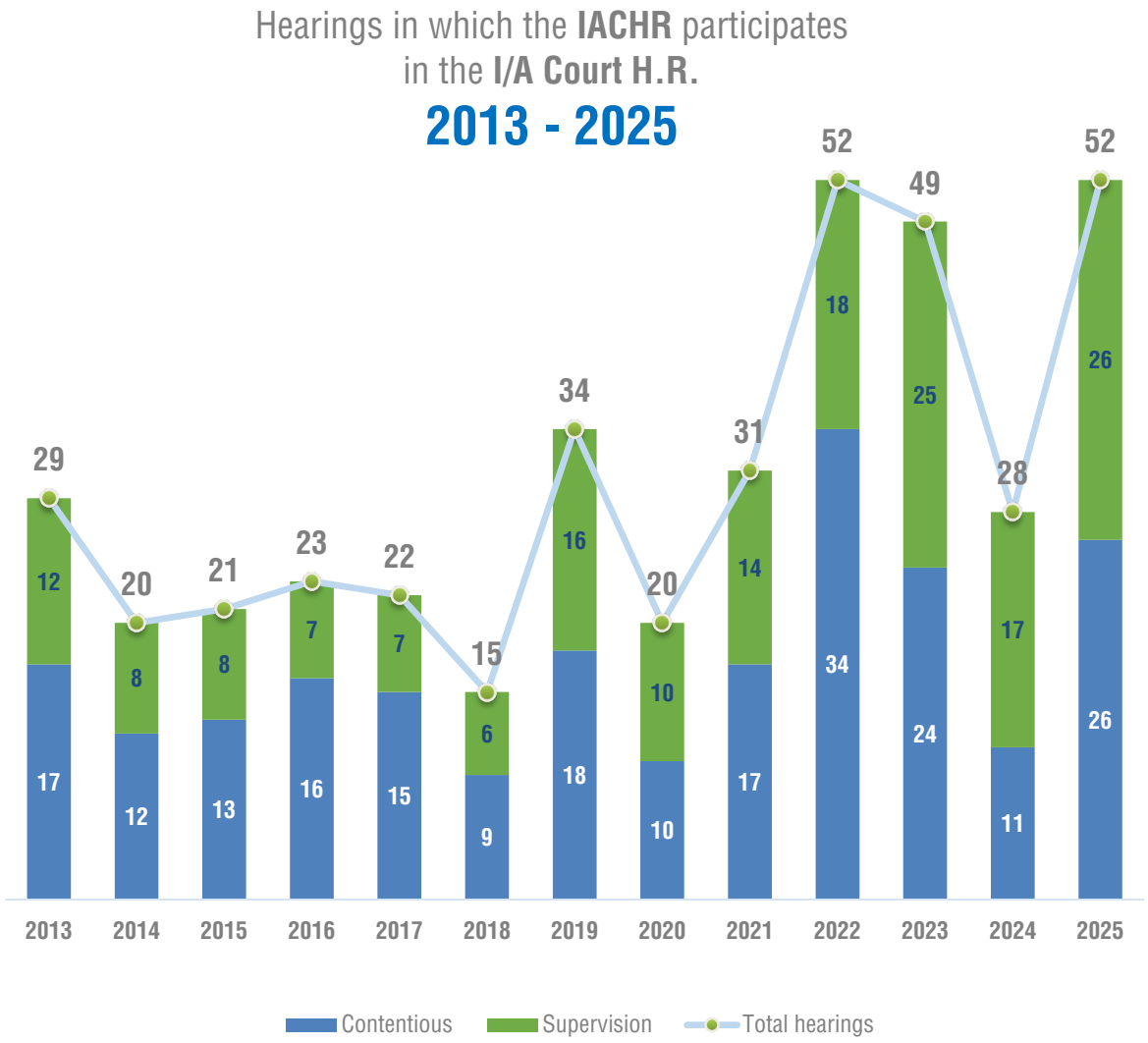
por Año



Cases submitted to the **I/A Court H.R.** by country

Total: 33

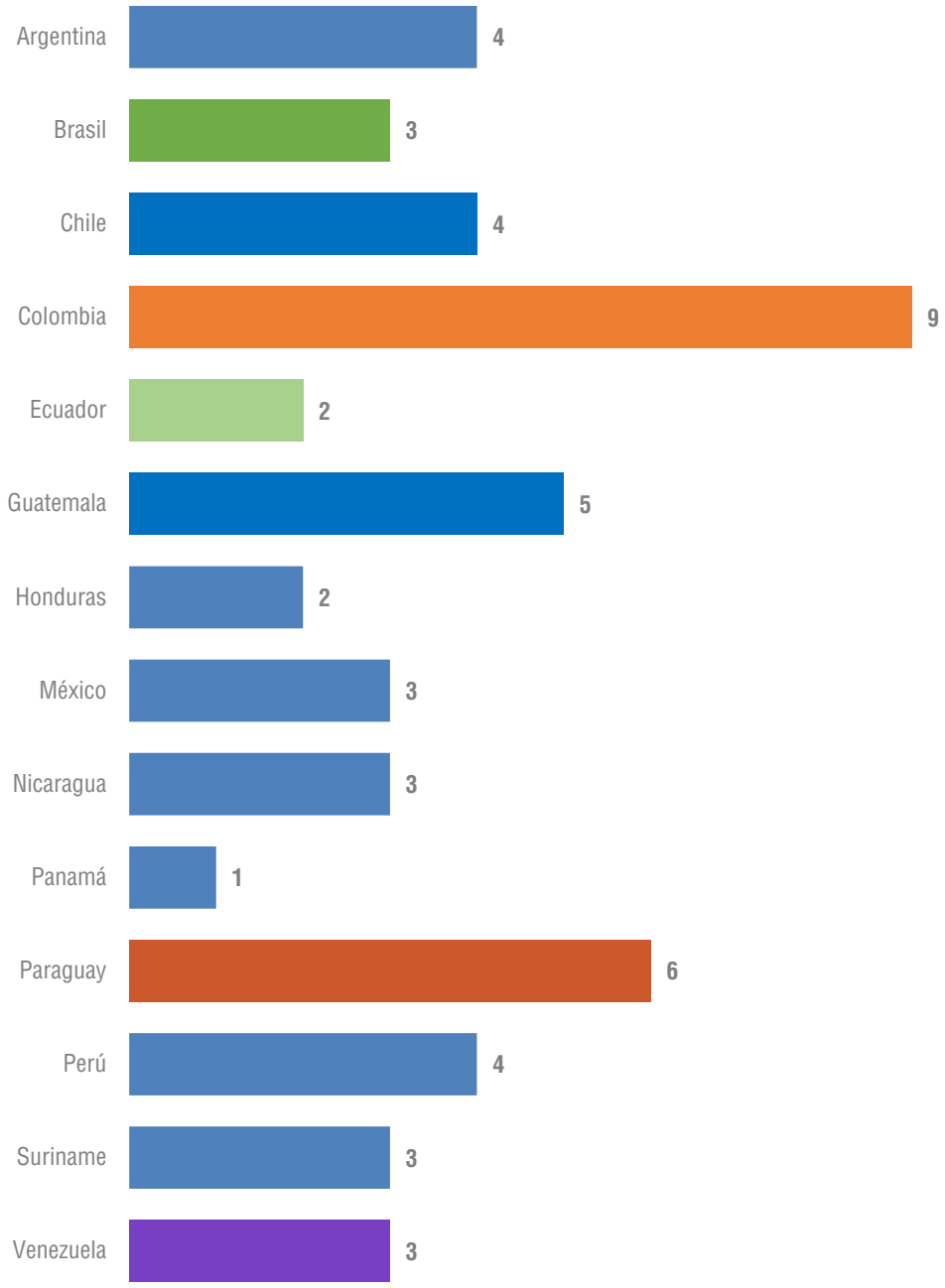




Note: The chart reflects the number of hearings of cases pending or supervised before the **I/A Court H.R.**

Hearings before the **I/A Court H.R.** by country

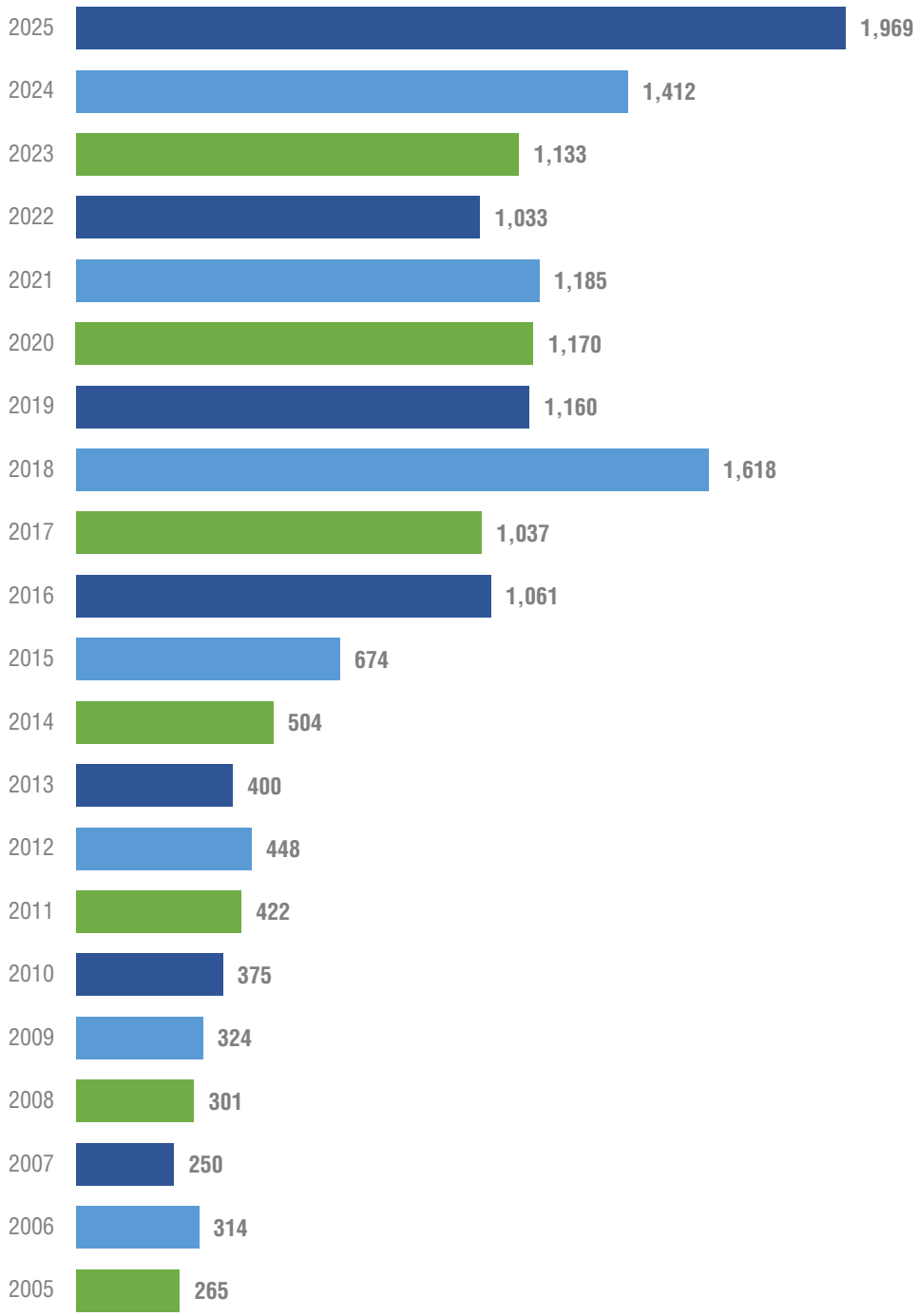
Total: 52



Note: The number refers to hearings related to contentious cases in processing or under the supervision of judgment.

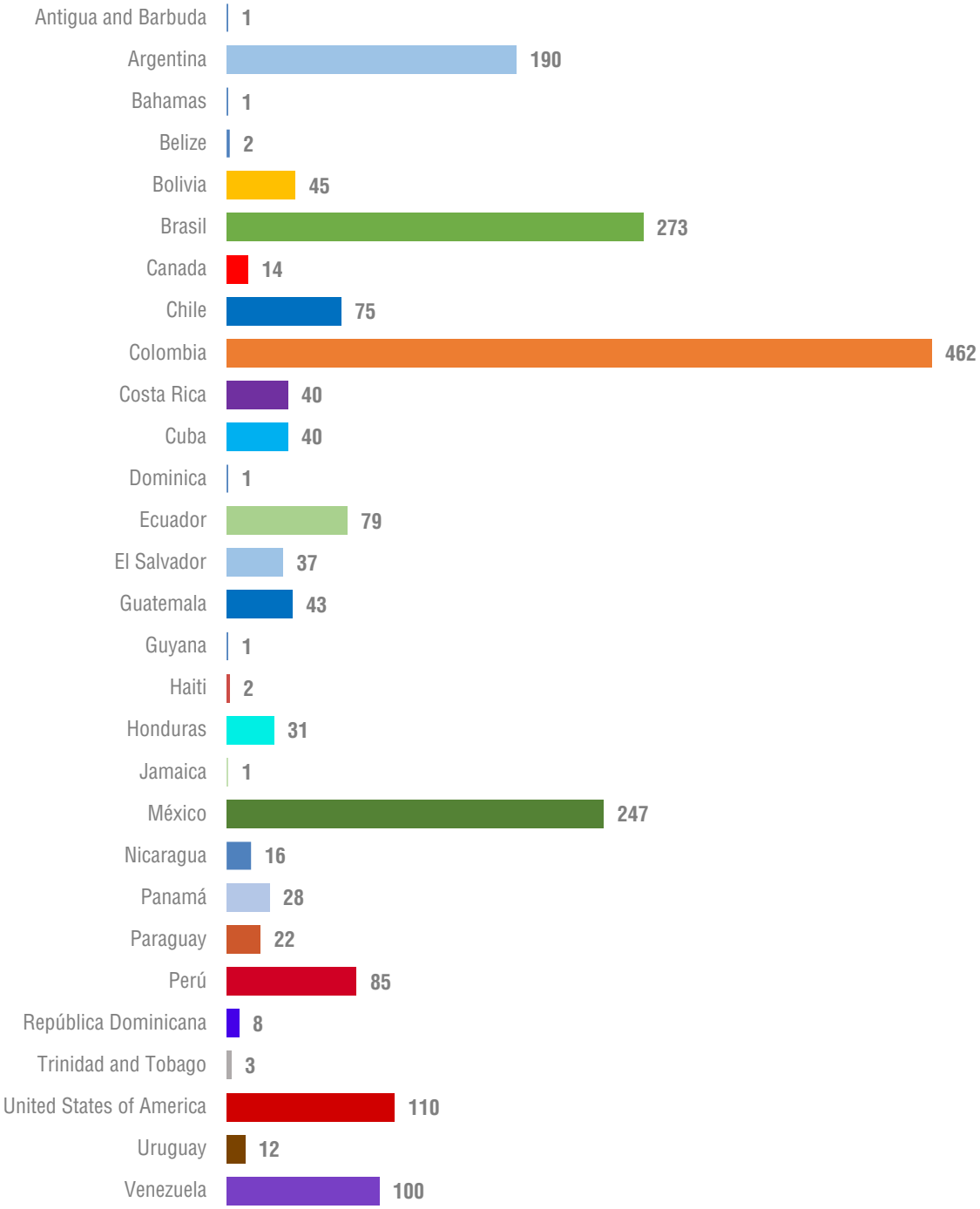
Requests for precautionary measures received

by Year



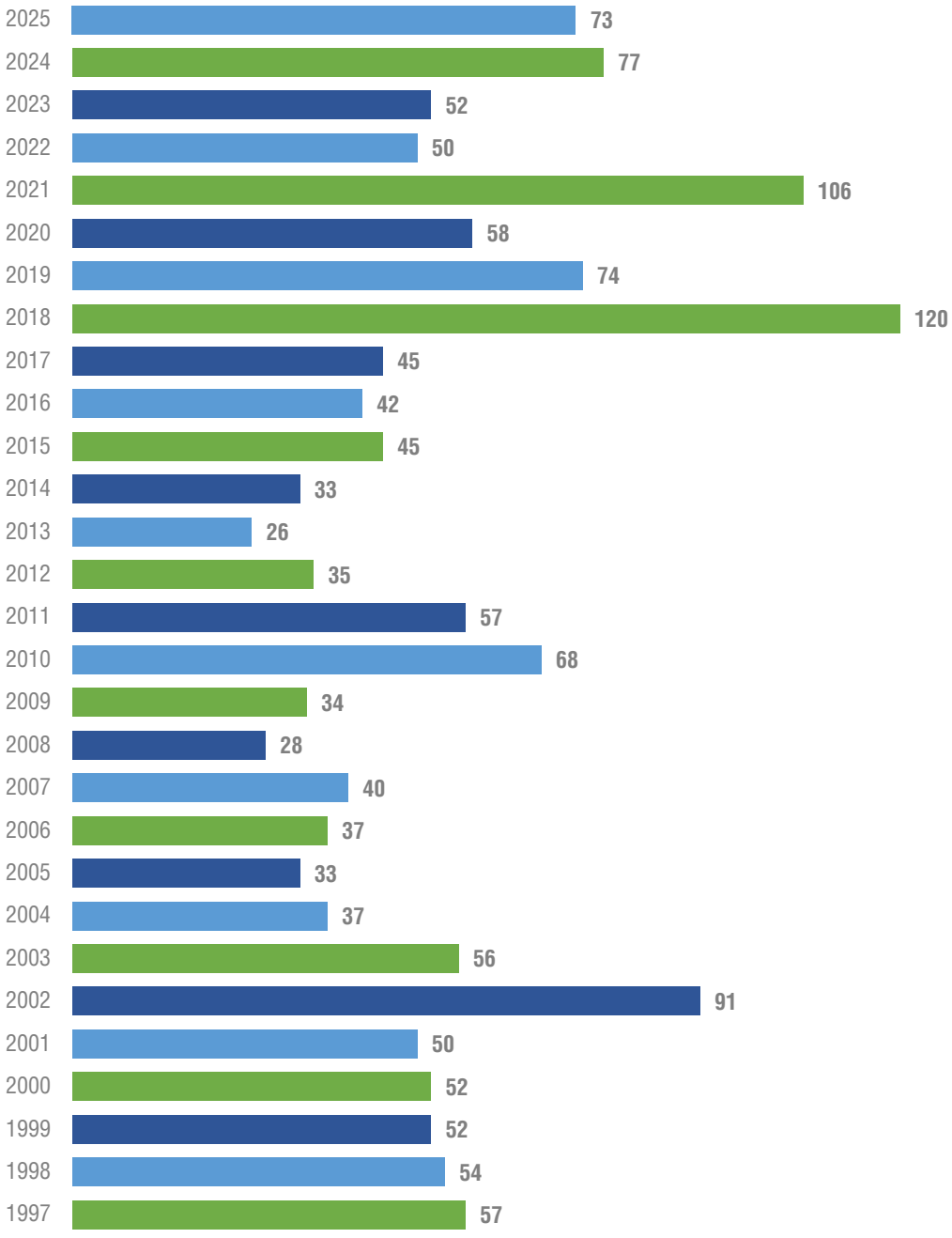
Requests for precautionary measures received by country

Total: 1,969



Precautionary measures granted or extended

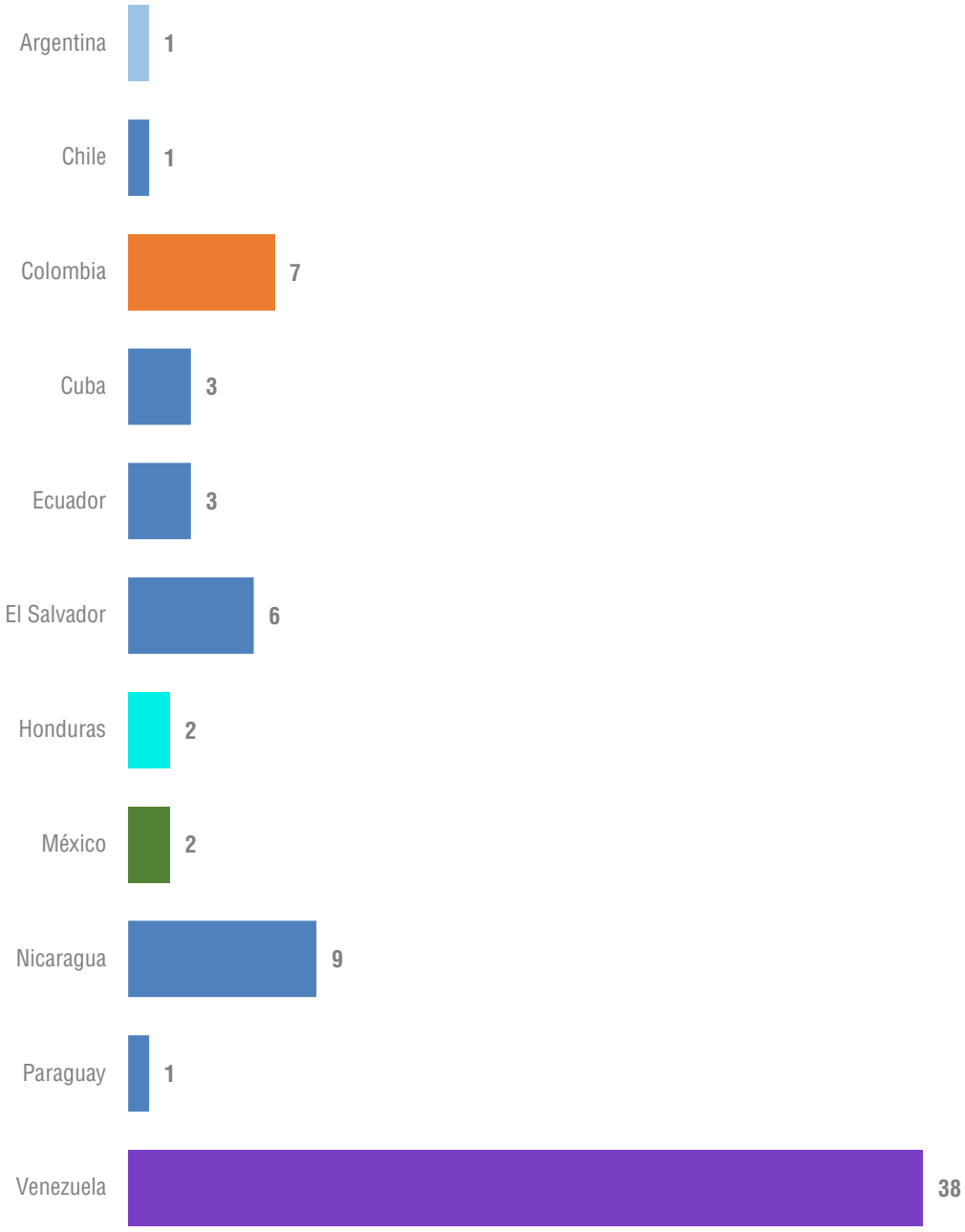
by Year



Note: Precautionary measures granted may include requests presented in previous years.

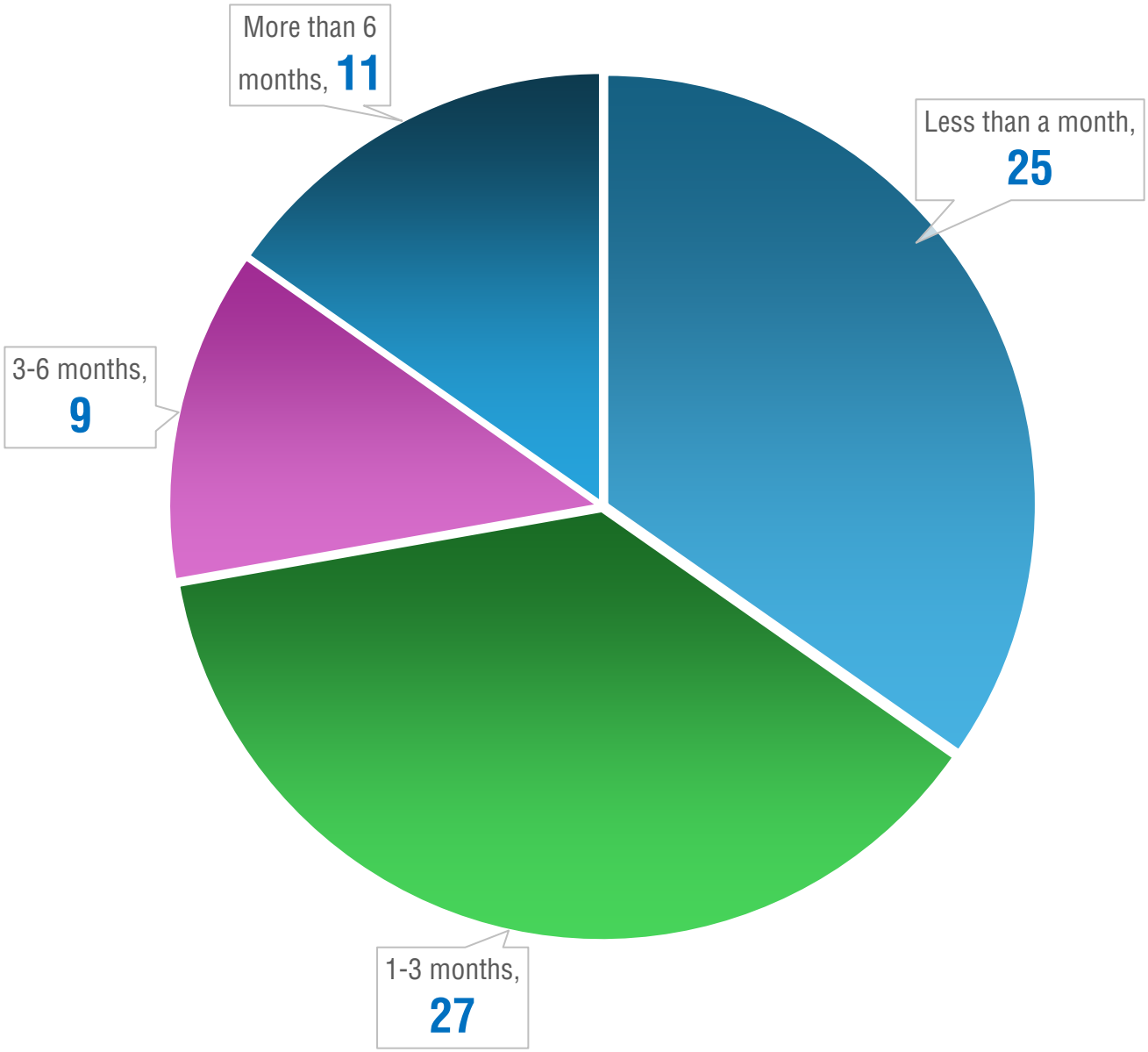
Precautionary measures granted or extended per country

Total: 73



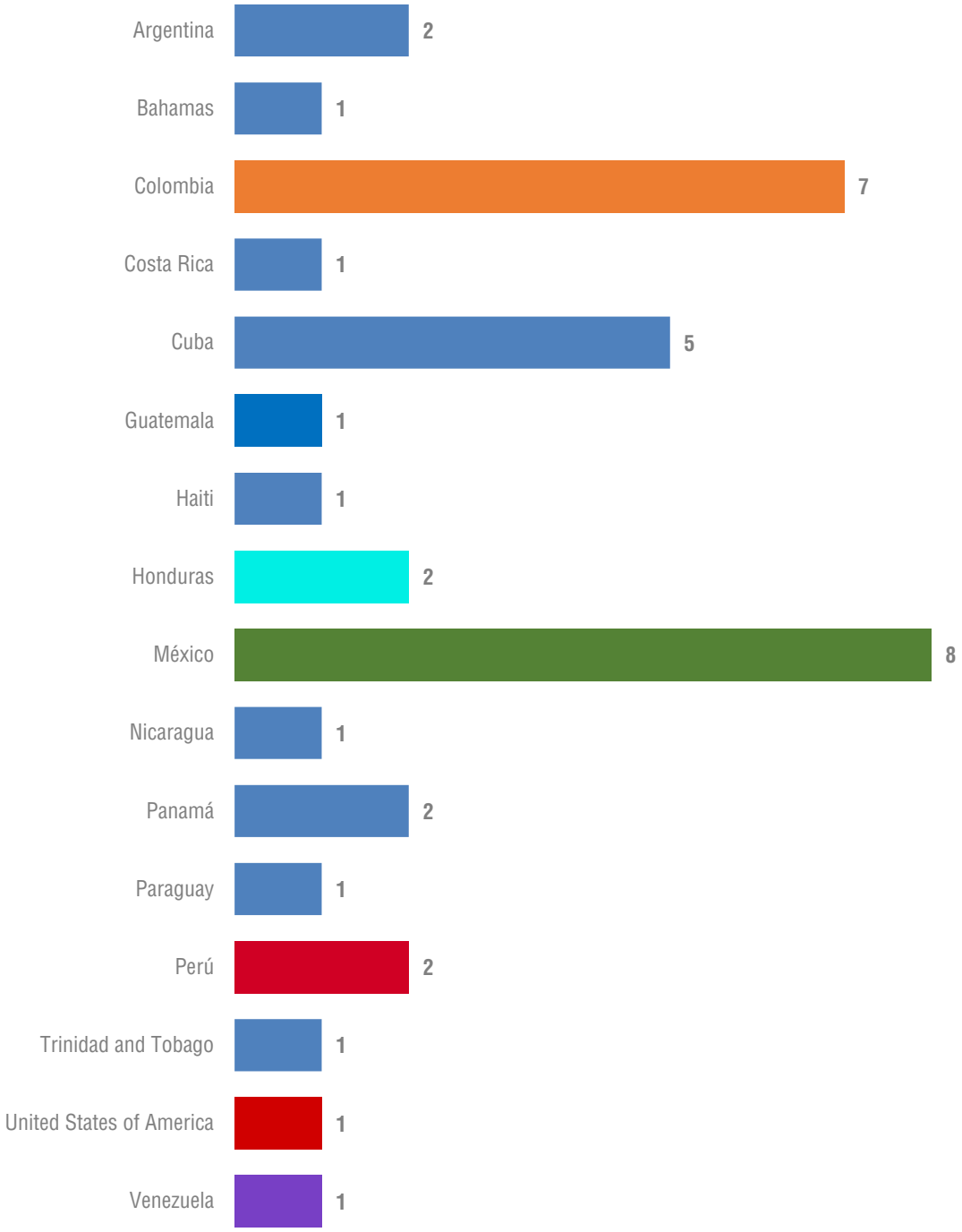
Note: The total may also include decisions of requests received in previous years.

Granting or extention time of precautionary measures



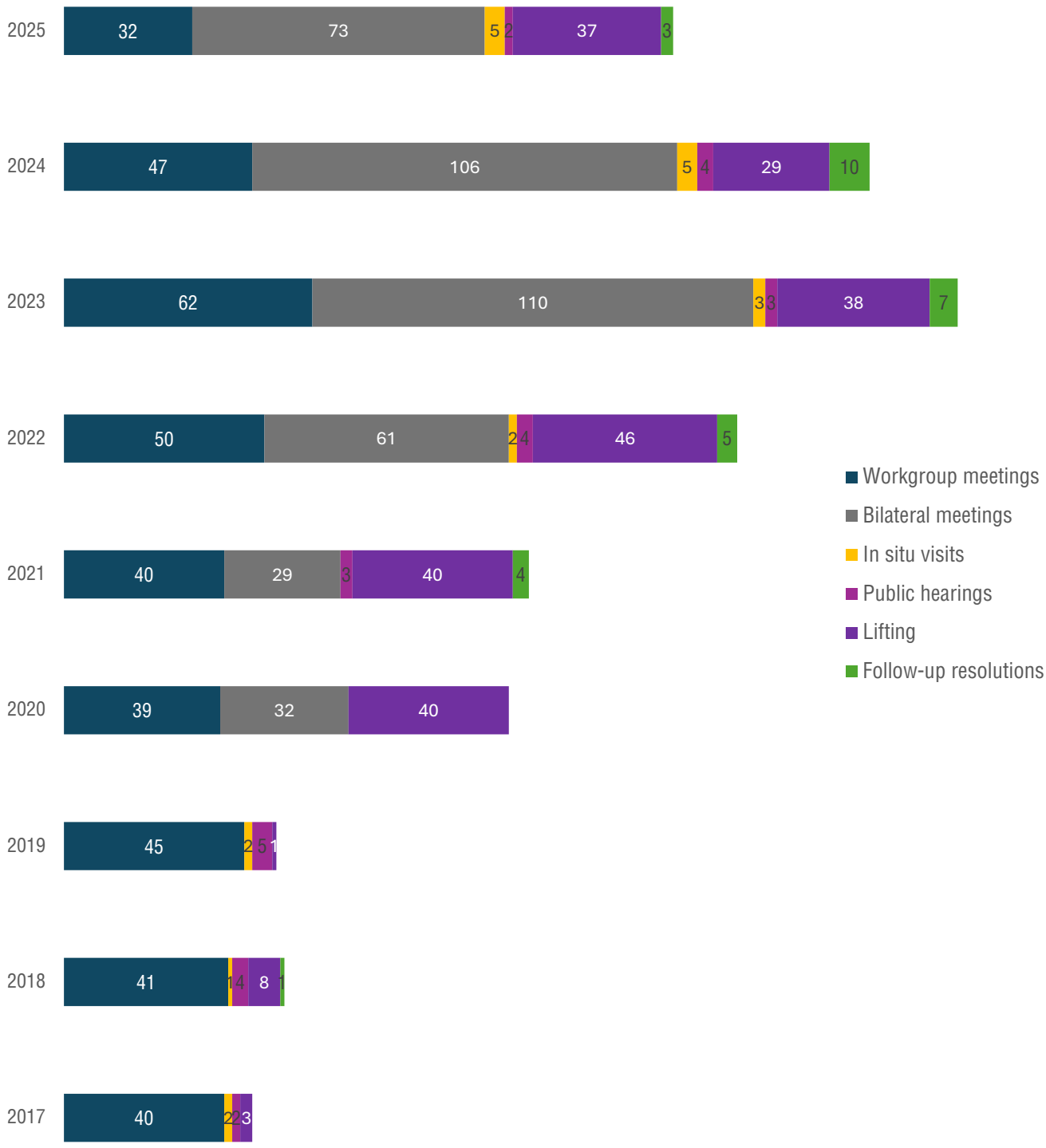
Precautionary measures lifted by country

Total: 37



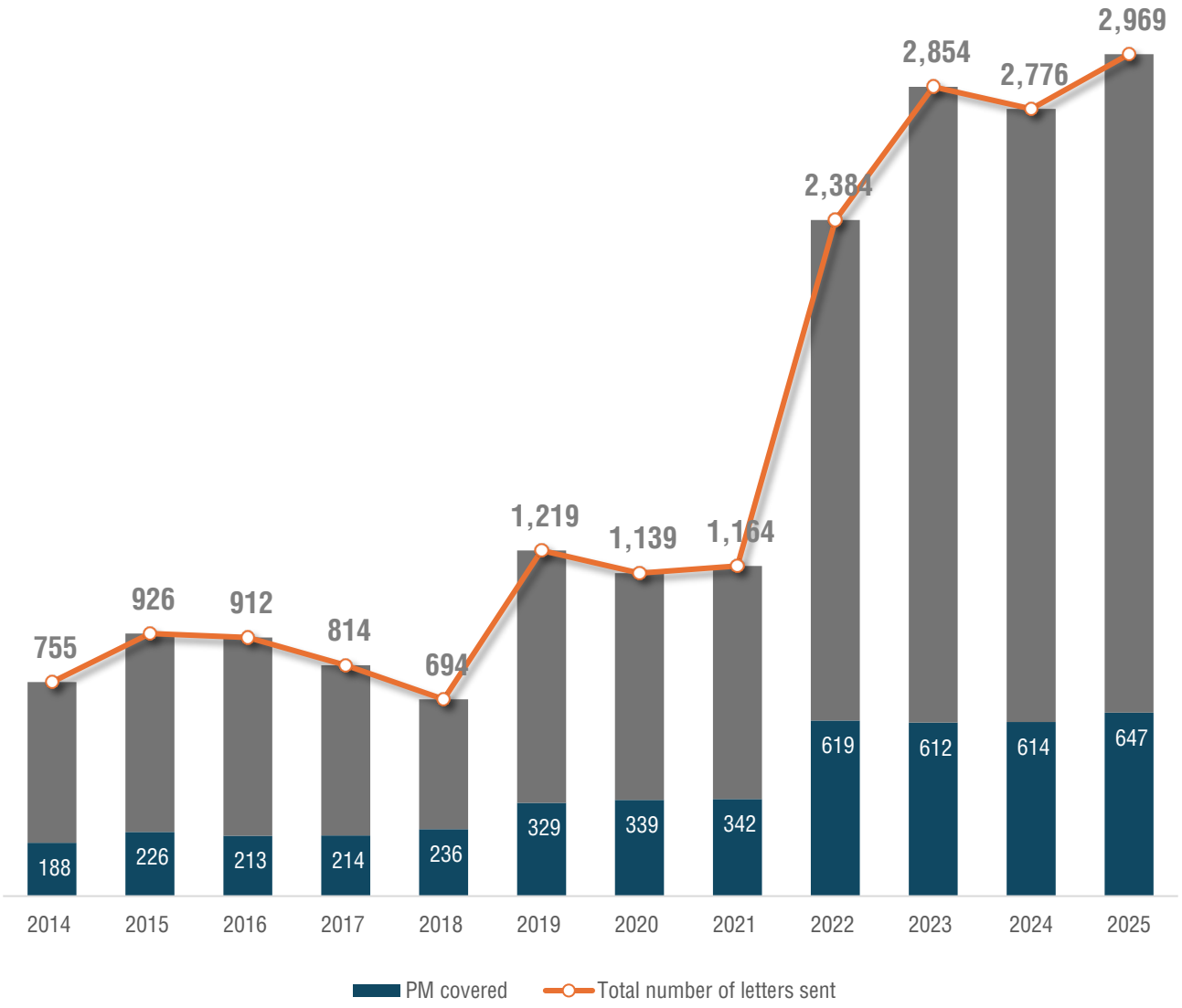
Follow-up actions of precautionary measures in force

by Year



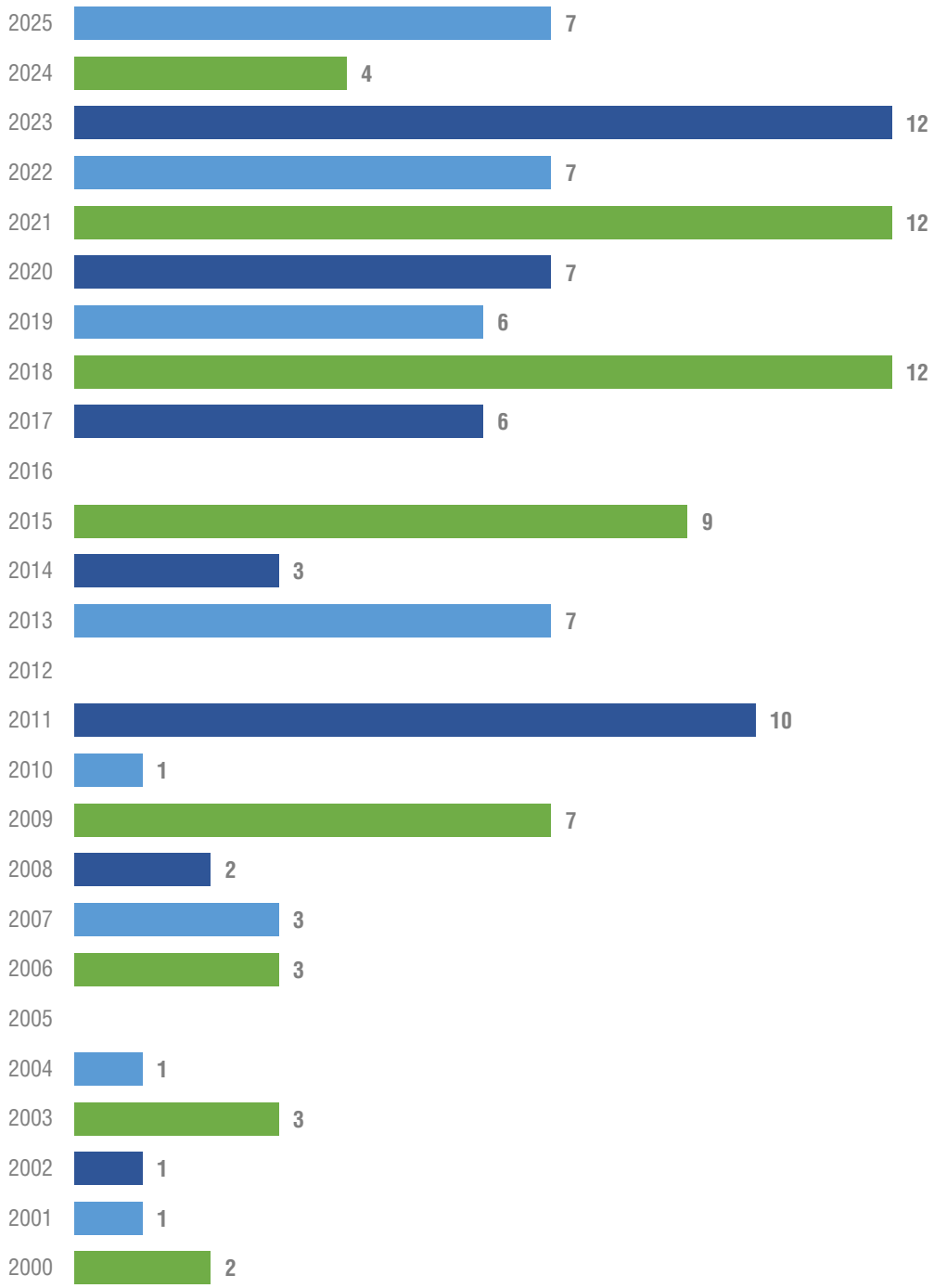
Letters sent by the **IACHR** on precautionary measures in force

by Year



Thematic and country reports approved

by Year



II

Activities of the thematic and country rapporteurships and promotion and training activities

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CHAPTER III

ACTIVITIES OF THE THEMATIC AND COUNTRY RAPPORTEURSHIPS, AND PROMOTION AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

I. PART A. ACTIVITIES OF THE THEMATIC AND COUNTRY RAPPORTEURSHIPS

1. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (the Commission or the IACHR) carries out its functions of observation and monitoring of specific human rights issues through its country rapporteurships and thematic rapporteurships. These functions are performed in the countries of the region in different ways, including through *in loco* visits, working visits, press releases, requests for information to the States (letters based on Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights [1] and Article 18 of the Statute of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights[2]), among other instruments.

2. Additionally, the Commission carries out training and promotion activities by means of its special work units —and many times in conjunction with the rapporteurships— as part of their dissemination and training efforts to promote the inter-American human rights standards created through the Inter-American Human Rights System (IAHRS) doctrine and jurisprudence. Their purpose is to help civil society, networks of social players and member states to better understand these standards and to apply and incorporate them into national decisions, regulatory frameworks and public policy with a focus on human rights. In the Commission's view, strengthening state institutions is the foundation for the realization of human rights in the countries of the region.

3. As for the rapporteurships, they were appointed by the Inter-American Commission starting in 1990 and are aimed at serving certain individuals, groups and collectives that are particularly exposed to human rights violations due to their vulnerability and the historical discrimination against them. The purpose of having thematic rapporteurships is to strengthen, foster and systematize the work of the Inter-American Commission on specific issues, and to raise awareness of human rights among the peoples of the Americas[3]. The rapporteurships also support the Commission's work in developing legal standards; contribute to the dissemination of the inter-American system mechanisms; and promote access to national and international justice for individuals, groups and collectives related to their thematic focus. The Commission's rapporteurships work in close collaboration with different sectors from their particular fields of expertise, including the rapporteurships of the United Nations and other universal mechanisms, civil society organizations, States, academia, among others.

4. The thematic rapporteurships are governed by Article 15 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure[4], as well as by the practices established by the Commission's Plenary. The Commission approves the reports and work plans of each rapporteurship and oversees the day-to-day execution of their mandates. Since these are specialized thematic offices created by the Commission itself, its Rules of Procedure precisely regulate their creation and the election of thematic rapporteurs. The Rules of Procedure also govern the functions of the Commission in which its rapporteurships participate. These important sets of practices and regulations govern the conduct of rapporteurships and establish rigorous procedures for action.

[1] See: OAS, American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José), adopted in 1969, Article 41(d).
[2] See: OAS, Statute of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, adopted in 1979, Article 18 (d).
[3] See: OAS, Statute of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, adopted in 1979, Article 18 (a).
[4] See, IACHR, Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Article 15.

5. Thematic rapporteurships collaborate in the fulfillment of the Commission's main function of advocating for and defending human rights and serve as a consultative body of the OAS to this end[5]. In this regard, they may request information from the States' governments[6] and produce reports on the human rights measures they adopt[7]. They also issue recommendations for the implementation of progressive measures to promote human rights, in accordance with the mandate of the Commission[8]. The rapporteurs also prepare studies and reports, relevant to their thematic functions[9]. Additionally, as part of their work, the rapporteurs may conduct working visits to the States and participate in *in loco* visits by the Commission, with the consent of or invitation from the relevant government[10].

6. The Commission currently has eleven thematic rapporteurships:

- *Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (1990);*
- *Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women (1994);*
- *Rapporteurship on Human Mobility (1996);*
- *Rapporteurship on the Rights of the Child (1998);*
- *Rapporteurship on Human Rights Defenders and Justice Operators (2011[11]);*
- *Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty (2004);*
- *Rapporteurship on the Rights of Afro-Descendants and against Racial Discrimination (2005);*
- *Rapporteurship on the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Persons (2014);*
- *Rapporteurship on Memory, Truth and Justice (2019[12]);*
- *Rapporteurship on the Rights of Older Persons (2019); and*
- *Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2019).*

7. The Commission also has the authority to create special rapporteurships headed by other persons designated by the Commission itself.[13] It is within this framework that, since 1997, there has been an Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (SRFOE)[14]. This is a permanent office, with independent operations and functions, working within the legal framework of the Commission.

8. On April 3, 2014, the Commission decided to create an Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (REDESCA), considering the interdependent and indivisible nature of human rights and the importance of the protection and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights in the region. By appointing this new rapporteur, the Commission sought to reinforce and deepen its work in the defense and protection of economic, social and cultural rights in the Americas. This special rapporteurship was created as part of the process of strengthening the inter-American system, since both OAS member states and other parties of the inter-American system had expressed their interest in directing greater attention to the issue of economic, social and cultural rights. This process resulted in the Commission promoting specialized institutional spaces. It was during its 146th regular period of sessions, held from October 29 to November 16, 2012, that the Commission established the Unit on Economic, Social and

[5] See OAS, Charter of the Organization of American States , Article 106; and OAS, American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San Jose), adopted in 1969, Article 41 (e).

[6] See OAS, American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San Jose), adopted in 1969, Article 41 (d); and OAS, Statute of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, adopted in 1979, Article 18 (d).

[7] See: OAS, American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San Jose), adopted in 1969, Article 41 (c).

[8] See: OAS, American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San Jose), adopted in 1969, Article 41 (b).

[9] See OAS, American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San Jose), adopted in 1969, Article 41 and IACHR, Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Article 58.

[10] See, IACHR, Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Chapter IV.

[11] The Commission created the Human Rights Defenders Unit in 2001, which was transformed into a rapporteurship in 2011.

[12] The IACHR created the Thematic Unit on Memory, Truth and Justice in 2017, which became a Rapporteurship in 2019.

[13] See, IACHR, Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Article 15 (4).

[14] The activities of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression are presented in the annex to this Annual Report.

Cultural Rights (ESCR Unit), which later became the current Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (REDESCA).

9. Regarding the latest changes in the structure of the thematic rapporteurships, it should be noted that the mandate of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty was expanded to include the prevention of and fight against torture, and the mandate of the Rapporteurship on Human Rights Defenders was expanded to include the situation of justice operators. Finally, it should be noted that in 2024 the IACHR decided to change the name of the "Rapporteurship on the Rights of Migrants" to "Rapporteurship on Human Mobility" in order to reinforce the broad scope of its mandate.

10. By virtue of their mandates, rapporteurships have promoted initiatives on priority issues in the region relevant to their focal areas. These regional initiatives have been strengthened by means of participatory information-gathering processes, in which the views of States and the civil society were included; the preparation and presentation of regional reports on pressing issues; outreach activities to disseminate knowledge of the inter-American system standards; questionnaires and consultations with experts; thematic hearings and working visits; press releases; and other mechanisms. As for individual cases, the rapporteurships participate and play a key role in the specialized processing of individual petitions regarding human rights violations received by the Commission. They also take part in the analysis of requests for precautionary measures and provide support in hearings and friendly settlements.

11. As part of their role in monitoring and protecting human rights, the Commission's thematic rapporteurships strive to consistently work in an articulated and strategic manner, taking into consideration intersectionality and the fact that certain individuals, groups and collectives are at an increased risk of human rights violations in the hemisphere. In addition, over the years, the rapporteurships have identified issues that require cross-cutting and joint action by the different thematic specialists, such as those involving indigenous women or migrants deprived of liberty, among others, which has led to initiatives based on the interaction of the different thematic rapporteurships.

12. In light of the foregoing and considering the many different observation, monitoring, promotion and training activities of the Commission's rapporteurships, this chapter has been divided into two sections: the first one addresses human rights observation and monitoring activities carried out by the Commission through *in loco* and working visits, press releases, requests for information and thematic and country reports (A), and the second one reports on training and promotion activities (B).

A. IACHR observation and monitoring activities in 2025

1. *In loco* visits

13. During this period, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights did not conduct *in loco* visits.

2. Working, promotional and technical cooperation visits

14. During this period, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights conducted **13** working, promotional and technical cooperation visits.

- **Working visit to Panama**

15. The Commission conducted a working visit to Panama between February 10 and February 13, 2025, with the main purpose of observing the situation of people in the context of human mobility in transit through Panama, from a regional perspective, as well as to receive information on the measures adopted by the State for the protection of the human rights of this population.

16. The delegation was led by Commissioners Gloria Monique de Mees, Rapporteur for Panama, and Andrea Pochak, Rapporteur for Human Mobility, accompanied by specialists from the Executive Secretariat.

17. During the visit, the Delegation held 12 meetings with high-level authorities and representatives of the Executive Branch, the Attorney General's Office, the Ombudsman's Office, with different civil society organizations, representatives of indigenous communities, human rights defenders, persons in human mobility, and United Nations agencies. The Delegation also visited the Temporary Migrant Reception Stations (ETRM) of Lajas Blancas and San Vicente in the Province of Darién, as well as the Male Administrative Detention Center in Panama City, and interviewed persons in human mobility. Similarly, the delegation visited the transitional shelter for unaccompanied children in human mobility, called La Casita. It also visited the Bajo Chiquito indigenous community, in the Emberá-Wounaan region, where the delegation was able to observe the dynamics of the community and the State's response to the transit of people.

18. The Commission issued the Press release No. 066/25 and its observations on the visit. A fact sheet on the visit is included in the table below.

State	Panama
Dates / Locations	From February 10 to February 13, 2025; Panama City, Province of Darién and Emberá-Wounaan region.
Topic(s) / rapporteurships	Human mobility
Institutions visited	• Temporary Migrant Reception Stations (ETRM) of Lajas Blancas and San Vicente in the Province of Darién; • Transitional shelter for unaccompanied children in human mobility, called La Casita; • Male Administrative Detention Center in Panama City.
Commissioner / Rapporteur	Commissioner Gloria Monique de Mees, Rapporteur for Panama, and Commissioner Andrea Pochak, Rapporteur for Human Mobility.
Observation	Observations of the Working visit to Panama (available in Spanish)

- **Working visit to Colombia**

19. The Commission conducted a working visit to Bogotá, Colombia between March 11 and March 13, 2025, with the main purpose of collecting the testimonies of Venezuelan people in mobility and presenting the report: "Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections" before Venezuelan journalists and human rights advocates living in the country. This visit was conducted within the framework of the efforts of the Commission to document human rights violations in connection with the elections and to reinforce the promotion of its findings and recommendations.

20. During the visit, the Delegation participated in high impact encounters, including a round table with eleven exiled Venezuelan journalists. These activities allowed to gather updated information on the situation of freedom of expression in Venezuela, strengthen the role of the IACHR as a key actor in denouncing human rights violations, and socialize the main conclusions of the report with journalists and representatives of the European diplomatic service with presence in Colombia.

State	Colombia
Dates / Locations	From March 11 to March 13; Bogotá

Topic(s) / rapporteurships	Special Monitoring Mechanism for Venezuela (MESEVE)
Institutions visited	N/A
Commissioner / Rapporteur	Special rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Pedro Vaca
Observation	N/A

- **Technical visit of the Special Monitoring Mechanism for Venezuela (MESEVE)**

21. The main objective of the visit of the Special Monitoring Mechanism for Venezuela (MESEVE) to Miami, Florida, conducted from April 21 to April 22, 2025, was to strengthen the documentation and promotion of the human rights situation in Venezuela.

22. The Delegation was made up of human rights specialists from the Executive Secretariat, who collected the testimonies of Venezuelans in exile and presented the report "Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections" at Miami University and Florida International University.

23. A fact sheet on the visit is included in the table below.

State	United States
Dates / Locations	From April 21 to 22; Miami, Florida
Topic(s) / rapporteurships	Special Monitoring Mechanism for Venezuela (MESEVE)
Institutions visited	• Miami University • Florida International University
Commissioner / Rapporteur	N/A The delegation was made up of specialists from the Executive Secretariat.
Observation	N/A

- **Protocol visit to Uruguay**

24. The IACHR conducted a protocol visit to Uruguay, on April 25, 2025.

25. The Delegation of the Commission was led by Commissioner Andrea Pochak and members of the technical team of the IACHR's Executive Secretariat.

26. During the visits, the Delegation held meetings with authorities of the Executive Power, including the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs. It also held different meetings with civil society organizations.

27. A fact sheet on the visits is included in the table below.

State	Uruguay
Dates / Locations	April 25, 2025; Montevideo
Topic(s) / rapporteurships	Protocol visit
Institutions visited	• Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Commissioner / Rapporteur	Commissioner Andrea Pochak, country rapporteur
Observation	Post in X: https://x.com/CIDH/status/1916921754070536477

- **Promotional visit to Colombia**

28. The IACHR conducted a promotional visit to Cartagena, Colombia between May 13 and May 15, 2025, with the aim of participating in the International Seminar on Forced Displacement of Indigenous Communities.

29. The Delegation of the Commission was led by Andrea Pochak, Rapporteur for Human Mobility, and Javier Palumno, Special Rapporteur for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (DESCA), as well as by specialists from the Executive Secretariat.

30. A fact sheet on the visit is included in the table below.

State	Colombia
Dates / Locations	From May 13 to May 15, 2025; Cartagena de Indias
Topic(s) / rapporteurships	Human mobility Indigenous Peoples
Institutions visited	N/A
Commissioner / Rapporteur	Commissioner Andrea Pochak, Rapporteur for Human Mobility Javier Palumno, Special Rapporteur for Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights
Observation	Participation in panels with representatives of organizations and communities affected by forced displacement from Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

- **Protocol visits to Mexico**

31. The Commission conducted three protocol visits to Mexico on June 6, September 10 and November 25, 2025.

32. The Delegation of the Commission was led by Andrea Pochak, Rapporteur for Mexico and Tania Reneaum Panszi, Executive Secretary of the IACHR.

33. During the visits, the Delegation held meetings with Executive Power authorities, including the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and the Secretariat of the Interior. A protocol visit to the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation was also held.

34. A fact sheet on the visits is included in the table below.

State	Mexico
Dates / Locations	June 6, 2025; September 10, 2025, and November 25, 202, City of Mexico
Topic(s) / rapporteurships	Protocol visits
Institutions visited	• Secretariat of Foreign Affairs • Secretariat of the Interior • Supreme Court of Justice

Commissioner / Rapporteur	Commissioner Andrea Pochak, country rapporteur
Observation	Posts in X: https://x.com/cidh/status/1965845620704329942?s=48&t=-o9IzxSMms827WQRnikG7Q https://x.com/cidh/status/1932171369892155442?s=48&t=-o9IzxSMms827WQRnikG7Q https://x.com/cidh/status/1993421552843735438?s=48&t=-o9IzxSMms827WQRnikG7Q

- **Promotional and technical visit to Ecuador**

35. The IACHR conducted a promotional and technical visit to Ecuador from June 23 to June 26, 2025 with the aim of 1) collecting information about the situation of access to justice for women, adolescents and girls to identify the good practices and challenges in the administration of justice; and 2) offering trainings to public officers and members of the civil society on the inter-American standards related to women's rights to a life free of violence.

36. A fact sheet on the visit is included in the table below.

State	Ecuador
Dates / Locations	June 23 to June 26, 2025; Quito
Topic(s) / rapporteurships	Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women
Institutions visited	• Subsecretariat for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women, Children and Adolescents within the Ministry of Women and Human Rights; • National Directorate for Access to Justice and School of Judicial Function of the Council of the Judicature; • National Council for Gender Equality; • Centro Violeta, Quito • Specialized Judicial Unit on Violence against Women or Family Members of the province of Pichincha; • Special unit within the General Prosecutor's Office specialized in gender-based violence and comprehensive care services; • Mechanism for the prevention of violence against women and gender-based violence of the Office of the Ombudsman.
Commissioner / Rapporteur	N/A The Delegation was made up of the technical team of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women, of the Department of Promotion and Training and of the Department of Press and Communication.
Observation	Four training sessions were held during the visit, three of them addressed to state agents and one to

	members of the civil society, on the working mechanisms of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the inter-American standards related to women's rights to a life free of violence. The Delegation also held a promotional event on sexual and reproductive rights, with the participation of State and Civil Society representatives.

- **Promotional visit to Brazil**

37. The Commission conducted a promotional visit to Brazil between August 17 and August 23, 2025, with the aim of gathering information about the current situation of indigenous peoples in the country and promoting inter-American standards on the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and the LGBTI+ population.

38. The Commission's delegation was led by Commissioner Arif Bulkan, in charge of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the LGBTI+ Persons, who was accompanied by specialists from the Executive Secretariat.

39. During the visit, the Delegation held different meetings with organizations, advocates, community leaders, communities and grassroots movements on subjects affecting indigenous peoples, traditional communities and LGBTI+ persons.

40. A fact sheet on the visit is included in the table below.

State	Brazil
Dates / Locations	From August 17 to August 25, 2025; São Paulo and Mato Grosso do Sul
Topic(s) / rapporteurships	Indigenous Peoples LGBTI+
Institutions visited	• Public Defender's Office of the State of São Paulo • Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo • Faculdade Intercultural Indígena - FAIND • Universidade Federal da Grande Dourados • Universidade Federal e Mato Grosso do Sul
Commissioner / Rapporteur	Commissioner Arif Bulkan, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the LGBTI+ Persons
Observation	The visit was held in coordination with the Public Defender's Office of the State of São Paulo and the Conselho Indigenista Missionário. The Delegation also visited indigenous villages in Campo Grande and Dourados.

- **Promotional visit to Bolivia**

41. The Commission conducted a promotional visit to Bolivia between September 15 to September 17, 2025, with the aim of participating in the international seminar "Cartographies of Indigenous Territories" and organizing trainings on the Inter-American Human Rights System targeted at women members of indigenous organizations and communities.

42. The Commission's delegation was made up of the technical team of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from the Executive Secretariat.

43. A fact sheet on the visit is included in the table below.

State	Bolivia
Dates / Locations	September 15 to September 17, 2025; Santa Cruz de la Sierra
Topic(s) / rapporteurships	Indigenous Peoples
Institutions visited	• Artecampo • ORE • FUNDESOC
Commissioner / Rapporteur	N/A The Delegation was made up of the technical team of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
Observation	Participation in the seminar with representatives of Asia, Africa and America, to discuss the importance of cartography in the demarcation of indigenous territories. Meetings to promote the inter-American standards on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Inter-American Human Rights System.

- **Working visit to Mexico**

44. The Commission conducted a promotional visit to Tijuana, Mexico, on October 6, 2025, with the aim of gathering information about the situation of people in the context of human mobility in the region.

45. The Delegation was made up of Commissioner Andrea Pochak, Rapporteur for Human Mobility. During the visit, the Commissioner made a presentation on the inter-American standards on human mobility within the framework of an activity organized by Ibero University and visited UNHCR' orientation center for migrants and refugees, other international organizations and public authorities.

46. A fact sheet on the visit is included in the table below.

State	Mexico
Dates / Locations	October 6, 2025; Tijuana
Topic(s) / rapporteurships	Human mobility
Institutions visited	N/A
Commissioner / Rapporteur	Commissioner Andrea Pochak, Rapporteur for Human Mobility

Observation	Gathering information about the situation of people in the context of human mobility in the region.

- **Promotional visit to the United States**

47. The Commission conducted a promotional visit to the United States on November 22, 2025, at the end of the period of hearings held in Miami, aimed at exploring the center His House International, an institution dedicated to caring for unaccompanied children that operates under the umbrella of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), and holding a meeting with the migrant population and civil society organizations.

48. The delegation was led by Commissioners Roberta Clarke, Country Rapporteur, and Andrea Pochak, Rapporteur for Human Mobility, accompanied by specialists of the Rapporteurship on Human Mobility from the Executive Secretariat.

49. A fact sheet on the visit is included in the table below.

State	United States
Dates / Locations	November 22, 2025; Miami, Florida
Topic(s) / rapporteurships	Human mobility
Institutions visited	• His House International
Commissioner / Rapporteur	Commissioner Roberta Clarke, Rapporteur for the United States, and Commissioner Andrea Pochak, Rapporteur for Human Mobility
Observation	The purpose of the visit was to explore the center His House International, an institution dedicated to caring for unaccompanied children that operates under the umbrella of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and hold a meeting with migrants and civil society organizations.

- **Working visit to Brazil**

50. A working visit was held from December 2 to December 6, to observe on the ground the situation of human rights in the context of the police operation known as "Operation Containment" ("Operação Contenção") in the state of Rio de Janeiro, as well as the impact of organized crime on the security situation in the country.

51. The Delegation was led by Commissioner José Luis Caballero, IACHR's president, and also featured Executive Secretary Tania Reneaum Panszi, Assistant Executive Secretary María Claudia Pulido, and members of the IACHR Executive Secretariat's technical staff.

State	Brazil
Dates / Locations	December 2 to December 6, 2025; Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro
Topic(s) / rapporteurships	Citizen Security
Institutions visited	• Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Ministry of Justice • Ministry of Economy

	• National Secretariat of Public Security • Federal Police • Presidency of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies • Public Security and Human Rights Committee • National Council for Human Rights • Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro • Rio de Janeiro City Hall • Federal Public Ministry • Public Ministry of the State of Rio de Janeiro • Federal Public Defender's Office • Defender's Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro
Commissioner / Rapporteur	Commissioner José Luis Caballero, country rapporteur
Observation	Press release No. 244/2025

- **Promotional visit to Guatemala**

52. The Commission conducted a promotional visit to Guatemala between December 1 and December 2, 2025, aimed at presenting at a press conference the report entitled "Situation of Human Rights in Guatemala", the outcome of an *in loco* visit to the country conducted over the period July 22–26, 2024.

53. The Delegation of the Commission was led by Vice-president of the IACHR, Andrea Pochak, Rapporteur for Guatemala. Who was accompanied by IACHR's Executive Secretary Tania Reneaum Panszi, and specialists of the Executive Secretariat.

54. During the visit, the delegation held meetings with high authorities of the Executive Power, including the President of Guatemala, Bernardo Arévalo, the Supreme Court of Justice and the Congress of Guatemala. It also held a meeting with civil society organizations.

State	Guatemala
Dates / Locations	December 1 to December 2, 2025; city of Guatemala
Topic(s) / rapporteurships	General human rights situation, particularly in connection to democratic institutions and judicial independence.
Institutions visited	• Presidency of the Republic and representatives of Judicial Power • Supreme Court of Justice • Congress of the Republic
Commissioner / Rapporteur	Commissioner Andrea Pochak, country rapporteur
Observation	Posts in X: https://x.com/cidh/status/1995522084957495545?s=48&t=-o9IzxSMms827WQRnikG7Q https://x.com/cidh/status/1995856745130828133?s=48&t=-o9IzxSMms827WQRnikG7Q

	https://x.com/cidh/status/1995902093618491549?s=48&t=-o9IzxSMms827WQRnikG7Q https://x.com/cidh/status/1996233473258922057?s=48&t=-o9IzxSMms827WQRnikG7Q

3. Press releases

55. As part of its mandate to monitor the situation of human rights in the Americas, during 2025, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights issued **124** press releases, among the **291** published during the year. Through these, the Commission had the opportunity to take a stand on specific situations regarding human rights violations as well as on emerging and structural crises; to reinforce the promotion of and adherence to inter-American standards; and to recognize States' good practices. This contributed to strengthening the Commission's position in favor of the protection of human rights. Through this mechanism, the Commission addressed the situation of human rights in **23** countries of the region (Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Santa Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela).

56. Through press releases and statements on social media, the Commission has addressed all of the issues defined as priorities in its Strategic Plan.

57. In 2025, the Commission paid special attention to **the rights of women**, through at least six press releases, which addressed substantive equality and the eradication of gender-based violence. Some of these press releases highlight the need to develop a gender-based approach for all women, girls and adolescents; prevent maternal mortality among indigenous women and eradicate violence against women, girls and teenagers with sensory disability. The Commission also emphasized the obligation of the States to adopt comprehensive legal frameworks, cross-sectoral public policies and accessible and non-discriminatory services, as well as to remove the structural barriers that reproduce patterns of inequality and violence.

58. As regards the **rights of girls, boys and adolescents,** the IACHR issued at least seven press releases, which highlighted the need to consolidate comprehensive protection systems with a community approach, prevent and eradicate child, early and forced marriages and unions, and guarantee violence-free environments in family, educational and institutional spaces. The Commission urged the States to adopt legislative, administrative and budget measures focused on guaranteeing the comprehensive protection of children, including effective mechanisms to prevent, report, investigate and punish violence, as well as age-appropriate psychosocial support and access to justice services.

59. The Commission also paid constant attention to the **rights of persons in the context of human mobility**, including migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, displaced people and returnees. Through at least seven press releases, the Commission, together with United Nations experts and other regional mechanisms, urged the States to protect the rights of persons in human mobility, guarantee the effective protection of refugees and avoid regulatory and practical setbacks that may worsen the vulnerable situation of these people. The Commission also addressed the need to develop measures and reforms in terms of human mobility in specific countries and reminded the obligation to abide by the principle of non-refoulement, guarantee access to fair and efficient procedures and the prohibition of arbitrary migration-related detentions.

60. Regarding **the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex persons**, the Commission issued at least eight press releases to give visibility to the impacts of violence and structural discrimination and urge the States to adopt comprehensive protection measures. These press releases included calls to guarantee an effective response to violence against trans people; to respect the rights of intersex persons in medical

contexts; to guarantee the right to health of trans and diverse gender persons; and to protect the rights of LGBT persons, strengthening their participation and avoiding surveillance or criminalization-based approaches. Through these releases, the Commission reminded of the prohibition of non-consensual medical practices, the standards regarding gender-identity recognition and the need to eradicate prejudices and hate speech from all environments.

61. The Commission monitored the situation of **the rights of Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination** through at least four press releases highlighting, among other things, the obligation of the States to guarantee climate justice for people of African descent and to adopt measures to ensure equality and freedom of structural discrimination. In these releases, the Commission underscored the interrelation between racism, poverty, socio-economic exclusion and climate impacts, as well as the need for the States to incorporate the ethnic-racial perspective in their public policies, especially in terms of development, environment, citizen security and access to justice.

62. The Commission also focused on **the rights of indigenous peoples** and issued at least five press releases focused on the protection of their territories, natural resources and lifestyles, as well as on the prevention of violence and cross-sector discrimination. Among other things, the IACHR and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (REDESCA) made an urgent call to respect the rights of indigenous peoples in the face of the impacts caused by extractive industries and welcomed state measures that strengthen the right to self-determination of indigenous peoples. In these releases, the Commission reminded the principles of consultation and free, prior and informed consent, and the obligation of the states to prevent and sanction violence and aggressions against indigenous leaders and communities.

63. As regards the situation of **people with disabilities,** the IACHR issued at least five press releases that addressed the subject of political participation, deinstitutionalization and violence from an intersectional approach. The Commission called on the States to guarantee the equal participation of people with disabilities in political affairs; to adopt measures for their deinstitutionalization and transition to community services and supports; and to put an end to violence against women, girls and adolescents with sensory disability. The IACHR also published a specific report on the rights of people with disabilities, which focused on recommendations on accessibility, supports for making decisions and the need to have suitable physical and social environments.

64. Likewise, the Commission emphasized the **rights of older persons** through at least five press releases. These releases made a call to guarantee the safety of older people in face of the climate emergency, to eradicate abuse and violence against them and to adopt protection measures in care facilities. The Commission also addressed the compliance by the States of the region with the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, highlighting the importance of consolidating the autonomy, independence and full participation of older persons in all aspects of social, political and community life.

65. With respect to the rights of **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission issued at least six press releases to shed light on conditions of detention, situations of torture and abuse, as well as the rights of the people with affective ties to persons deprived of liberty. The Commission adopted a specific resolution on the rights of family members and persons with affective ties of persons deprived of liberty and addressed cases of forced disappearances and serious violations to the integrity of persons in contexts of deprivation of liberty. In these releases, the IACHR reminded the standards on the prevention of torture, due diligence in the course of investigations and the obligation to guarantee detention conditions that respect the value of human dignity.

66. In relation to **economic, social, cultural and environmental rights**, the Commission, through the REDESCA and other mechanisms, issued at least six press releases which highlighted the interrelationship between social rights and the climate crisis, access to health and other aspects of well-being. These releases made a call to guarantee climate justice for people and communities in a special vulnerable situation, such as indigenous peoples, persons of African descent and older persons, and emphasized the obligation to guarantee the right to health of trans and diverse gender persons. The Commission underscored

the obligation of the States to adopt structural measures to face climate emergency, strengthen the health and social protection systems and guarantee equality in access to essential goods and services.

67. The IACHR also made repeated statements on the situation of **human rights defenders**, through at least four press releases, including the publication of the Third Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas. Through these statements, the Commission emphasized the need to protect the civic space, guarantee the security of human right defenders and prevent criminalization and attacks against them. In this context, the Commission urged the States to adopt legislative frameworks and comprehensive protection policies, duly investigate attacks against human right defenders and publicly acknowledge the legitimacy of their work.

68. As for **memory, truth and justice**, the Commission issued at least three press releases, which followed up on the central importance of clarification and accountability processes in connection to serious human right violations. Together with experts of the United Nations, the IACHR called on the States to strengthen their efforts in terms of memory, truth and justice and issued statements on emblematic cases, reminding the obligations of search, investigation, sanction and integral reparation. These press releases highlighted the importance of preventing impunity, guaranteeing the participation of victims and their families and consolidating public policies on memory that incorporate intersectional and gender-based perspectives.

69. In terms of **democracy and rule of law**, the IACHR issued at least seven press releases warning about electoral reforms, impact of the balance of powers and restrictions of civic space in different countries in the region. Among other things, the Commission raised its concerns on electoral reform processes, undefined presidential reelections and situations that might weaken judicial independence and democratic institutions. The Commission reminded that respect for the separation of powers, legality and political participation, as well as guarantees for the opposition and civil society are essential elements of democracy, and issued specific recommendations to prevent authoritative setbacks and strengthen the rule of law.

70. Likewise, the IACHR addressed the issue of freedom of expression through specific press releases and joint statements with its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (SRFOE), which condemned attacks against journalists and means of communication, as well as restrictions to the exercise of the right to social protest. These press releases reminded of the importance of guaranteeing a safe and favorable environment for independent journalism, preventing and sanctioning violence against communicators and journalists and guaranteeing that security or public order policing measures are not used to inhibit the democratic debate or criticism of authorities.

71. Finally, the Commission followed up on **human rights crisis situations** in specific countries, through press releases in which it raised its concern over serious human rights violations, excessive use of force, deadly violence, violations of judicial independence, prolonged states of exception and consolidation of authoritative patterns. The IACHR published reports on the human rights situation in certain countries, condemned acts of violence and called on the States to adopt urgent measures to prevent new violations, guarantee the protection of the affected population and promote processes of truth, justice and reparation. As a whole, 2025 press releases were a key tool for early action, visibility of risks and articulation of specific recommendations aimed at strengthening the effect of human rights in the Americas.

Press Releases 2025		
Regional: various topics	**Total: 50**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR and CMW: States must eradicate xenophobia against migrants	December 18, 2025	274
The international community must renew its commitment to protecting refugees amid global challenges, PIERR and IACHR say	December 15, 2025	267

International Human Rights Day: IACHR reaffirms States' obligations to eradicate femicide in the Americas	December 10, 2025	258
IACHR and UN Human Rights: Safeguarding civic space is protecting the right to defend rights	December 8, 2025	256
IACHR calls for political participation of persons with disabilities	December 3, 2025	252
IACHR: States must ensure gender-sensitive development for all women, girls, and adolescents	November 26, 2025	243
IACHR calls on States to ensure an effective response to violence against trans persons	November 20, 2025	238
IACHR calls on States to consolidate the community-based dimension of child protection systems	November 20, 2025	237
COP30 | REDESCA urges placing fiscal justice at the center of climate finance with a human rights–based approach	November 14, 2025	230
REDESCA calls for international cooperation in the face of the serious impacts of Hurricane Melissa in the Caribbean	November 3, 2025	224
States in the Americas must recognize care as a human right, IACHR says	October 29, 2025	219
IACHR calls on States to guarantee the rights of intersex persons in medical settings	October 24, 2025	216
IACHR publishes Third Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas	October 16, 2025	211
IACHR: States must adopt measures to end the institutionalization of people with disabilities	October 10, 2025	206
IACHR: States must put an end to child, early, and forced marriages and unions of girls and adolescents	October 10, 2025	205
States must ensure the safety of older persons in climate emergency	October 1, 2025	199
UN and regional experts urge States to stop criminalizing civil society and protests	September 22, 2025	192
IACHR and United Nations Experts: States Must Protect the Rights of Persons in Human Mobility	September 18, 2025	190
REDESCA and SRFOE condemn online violence against children, adolescents, and young people who defend the environment and climate	September 16, 2025	186
IACHR: Protecting civic space and defending human rights is essential for democracy	September 15, 2025	184
IACHR: States must prevent maternal deaths among indigenous women	September 5, 2025	180
IACHR: States must ensure climate justice for people of African descent	August 29, 2025	177
Enforced disappearance inflicts profound suffering on victims and violates their right not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment	August 29, 2025	176
IACHR: States must guarantee the safety and integrity of older persons in care facilities	August 26, 2025	170
IACHR adopts resolution on the rights of relatives and individuals with personal ties to people deprived of their freedom	August 19, 2025	166

IACHR and REDESCA call for urgent respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights amid impacts from extractive industries	August 9, 2025	158
States must eradicate violence against women and girls with sensory disabilities, IACHR says	June 27, 2025	130
IACHR calls on States to uphold LGBTI rights and avoid regressive measures	June 27, 2025	129
IACHR urges States to promote the establishment of national torture registers	June 26, 2025	127
Now Is the Time to Uphold the Rule of Law for Refugee Protection: UN and regional experts	June 20, 2025	126
IACHR urges States to uphold their duty to provide effective protection for refugees	June 20, 2025	125
The SRFOE condemns recent murders of journalists in the Americas and calls on States to prevent, protect, and investigate acts of violence against them	June 18, 2025	124
IACHR calls for the eradication of mistreatment of the elderly and guaranteeing lives free of violence	June 15, 2025	122
REDESCA highlights the Link Between Ocean Protection and Human Rights on World Oceans Day	June 8, 2025	116
Human rights experts call on States to partner with LGBT communities, not police them	May 16, 2025	104
IACHR urges States to guarantee the rights of returned, deported, or expelled people	May 15, 2025	102
IACHR releases report on the rights of people with disabilities	May 13, 2025	100
IACHR Annual Report highlights regional human rights trends and measures to strengthen the inter-American justice system	May 8, 2025	92
States must adopt urgent measures to respect and guarantee the life and personal integrity of lesbians	April 28, 2025	81
REDESCA urges the protection of human rights in the extraction of minerals for the energy transition	April 22, 2025	77
States must ensure trans and gender-diverse persons' right to health	March 31, 2025	64
REDESCA urges to guarantee a human rights approach in reparation policies and responsible exit in development projects	March 27, 2025	62
IACHR and UN call for stronger State action on memory, truth, and justice	March 24, 2025	58
IACHR: OAS States must adopt measures to ensure the rights of persons and People of African descent	March 21, 2025	57
SRFOE condemns the murders of journalists in the region and calls on States to take measures to prevent violence, protect the press and investigate and punish crimes	March 21, 2025	56
REDESCA Warns About the Impact of Illegal Gold Mining and Urges the Guarantee of a Healthy Environment	March 18, 2025	54
The rights of refugee, asylum-seeking, and stateless women and girls must be protected on International Women's Day, and every day	March 8, 2025	51

IACHR: States must guarantee equality and full protection of women's rights	March 7, 2025	49
REDESCA and SRFOE urge the guarantee of the right to access information regarding free trade zones and other special regimes in the Americas	January 23, 2025	21
IACHR calls for immediate release of all political prisoners in the America	January 6, 2025	6
By country: Argentina	**Total: 2**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR concerned about reforms in Argentina regarding human mobility and international protection	October 28, 2025	217
IACHR expresses concern over violence during the Retirees' Protest March and reminds Argentina of inter-American standards	March 19, 2025	55
By country: Bahamas	**Total: 2**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR concludes visit to The Bahamas	December 17, 2025	269
IACHR announces visit to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas	December 3, 2025	251
By country: Bolivia	**Total: 1**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR and UN Human Rights flag risk of impunity concerning Senkata and Sacaba massacres in Bolivia	September 12, 2025	182
By country: Brazil	**Total: 5**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
The SRFOE publishes Special Report on the State of Freedom of Expression in Brazil	December 26, 2025	282
IACHR announces visit to Brazil, to observe the situation of citizen security in the context of "Operation Containment"	December 1, 2025	244
IACHR strongly condemns police raid that left 121 people dead in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	October 31, 2025	221
IACHR condemns violent deaths committed by security agents in Brazil	September 8, 2025	181
Brazil: Criminal accountability for sexual violence against girls must be guaranteed	May 13, 2025	101
By country: Colombia	**Total: 7**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR issues report on the impact of violence on human rights in Colombia	December 16, 2025	268
IACHR condemns the assassination of Miguel Uribe Turbay in Colombia and calls on the State to guarantee the safety of political leaders	August 15, 2025	165
Colombia: IACHR and its SRFOE condemn attack against journalist Gustavo Chicangana and urge the State to strengthen protection measures amid escalating threats	July 24, 2025	147
IACHR welcomes decree strengthening Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in Colombia	July 16, 2025	142

IACHR urges Colombia to reinforce measures to eradicate violence against LGBTI individuals	May 9, 2025	93
SRFOE condemns the murder of the journalist Óscar Gómez Agudelo in Colombia and urges the authorities to investigate the facts effectively and find those responsible	February 4, 2025	32
IACHR asks the State of Colombia to end the violence caused by armed groups	January 24, 2025	23
By country: Cuba	**Total: 1**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
Cuba: SRFOE condemns state repression and calls for respect and guarantee of the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly	July 31, 2025	151
By country: Dominica	**Total: 1**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR expresses concern regarding the electoral reform process in the Commonwealth of Dominica	April 16, 2025	74
By country: Ecuador	**Total: 6**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR urges Ecuador to take effective action against ongoing prison violence	November 26, 2025	242
IACHR stresses call for dialogue to prevent human rights violations in Ecuador	October 14, 2025	208
IACHR calls on Ecuador to respect and guarantee the independence of the Constitutional Court	August 29, 2025	175
SRFOE concludes technical cooperation visit to Ecuador on Mechanism for Prevention and Protection of Journalistic Work	March 5, 2025	48
IACHR condemns the disappearance and subsequent murder of a child and three adolescents of African descent in Ecuador	January 22, 2025	15
IACHR urges Ecuador to take effective action to end ongoing prison violence	January 14, 2025	12
By country: El Salvador	**Total: 3**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR reiterates concern over prolonged and improper use of state of emergency in El Salvador	August 14, 2025	162
El Salvador: IACHR warns of possible impacts on the rule of law in light of indefinite presidential re-election	August 8, 2025	156
El Salvador: IACHR expresses grave concern over measures that restrict the defense of human rights and civic space	June 6, 2025	115
By country: United States	**Total: 7**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR urges the United States to ensure respect for human rights in extraterritorial security operations	December 2, 2025	248
IACHR urges the United States to safeguard judicial independence and prevent retaliation against justice officials	November 5, 2025	225
SRFOE expresses concern over the situation of freedom of expression in the United States	October 11, 2025	207

IACHR concerned over United States' measures that impact the effective exercise of human rights	March 31, 2025	65
IACHR expresses concern over recent migration and asylum policies and measures in the United States	February 12, 2025	37
REDESCA expresses solidarity for the catastrophic losses suffered by the population from the wildfires in Los Angeles and other areas of California	January 17, 2025	14
IACHR welcomes commutation of 37 federal death penalty sentences in the United States	January 3, 2025	2
By country: Guatemala	**Total: 4**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR issues report on the situation of human rights in Guatemala	December 1, 2025	245
IACHR rejects arrest of lawyer Ramón Cadena and criminalization of San Carlos University community in Guatemala	November 21, 2025	239
IACHR condemns criminalization of Indigenous leaders who defended democracy in Guatemala	April 26, 2025	80
IACHR and UN Special Rapporteurs express concern about the return to prison of journalist José Rubén Zamora in Guatemala	March 26, 2025	60
By country: Guyana	**Total: 1**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR Welcomes Guyana's Legislative Progress in Protecting Children's Rights	August 14, 2025	161
By country: Haiti	**Total: 4**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
Haiti: IACHR expresses concern over persistent sexual violence against women, girls, and adolescents	December 19, 2025	277
IACHR concerned over escalating violence and humanitarian crisis in Haiti	April 17, 2025	75
IACHR condemns deteriorating security situation in Haiti	March 12, 2025	52
IACHR urges the State of Haiti to take measures to prevent massacres, forced displacement and impunity	January 24, 2025	22
By country: Honduras	**Total: 1**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
SRFOE expresses concern over reports of attacks on the press in Honduras and reaffirms its commitment to monitoring freedom of expression in the country	May 30, 2025	110
By country: Mexico	**Total: 5**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
Mexico: IACHR, through its REDESCA, expresses solidarity after the floods and calls for strengthening responses to guarantee human rights	October 17, 2025	214
Eleven years after Ayotzinapa, IACHR urges Mexico to continue the search for truth and justice	September 26, 2025	196
SRFOE condemns the murder of journalist Salomón Ordóñez Miranda in Mexico and calls on the authorities to clarify the facts	July 11, 2025	139

IACHR calls on Mexican State to increase efforts to investigate events and identify human remains found in Teuchitlán, Jalisco	March 27, 2025	61
SRFOE condemns the murder of two journalists in Mexico and calls on the State to strengthen prevention and protection measures for the press	January 29, 2025	28
By country: Nicaragua	**Total: 5**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR publishes report on violence against Indigenous peoples and people of African descent on Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast	October 30, 2025	220
Nicaragua: IACHR condemns the deaths of two opposition figures deprived of liberty	September 26, 2025	198
Nicaragua: IACHR condemns transnational repression	July 14, 2025	140
IACHR expresses concern over new violations of the right to nationality in Nicaragua	July 10, 2025	137
Seven years after the beginning of the crisis in Nicaragua, IACHR condemns consolidation of the authoritarian regime	April 14, 2025	73
By country: Panama	**Total: 2**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR Calls for Continued Dialogue and the respect for rights in the face of Social Conflict and State of Emergency in Panama	July 11, 2025	138
IACHR Presents Observations from its Working Visit to Panama on Persons on Human Mobility	April 1, 2025	66
By country: Peru	**Total: 6**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR urges Peru to specify the scope of subjective constitutional tools that continue to destabilize its democracy	October 16, 2025	212
IACHR urges Peru to refrain from passing laws granting amnesties for serious human rights violations	June 26, 2025	128
The SRFOE condemns the murder of journalist Raúl Célis López in Peru and calls on the authorities to continue investigating crimes against the press	May 22, 2025	109
Peru: IACHR expresses serious concern over articles of the law modifying the international cooperation agency	May 12, 2025	98
REDESCA expresses concern about spill in Peru's Piura region and the importance of mitigation measures	February 27, 2025	44
SRFOE condemns the murder of journalist Gastón Medina in Peru and urges an investigation into the crime, considering his journalistic work as a possible motive	January 30, 2025	29
By country: Saint Kitts and Nevis	**Total: 1**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR welcomes St. Kitts and Nevis' ratified two key Conventions on human rights on older persons and persons with disabilities	June 10, 2025	117
By country: Santa Lucía	**Total: 1**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**

IACHR welcomes decision to decriminalize consensual sexual relations between same sex adults in Saint Lucia	August 12, 2025	160
By country: Trinidad and Tobago	**Total: 1**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
IACHR urges Trinidad and Tobago to respect LGBTI persons' rights and guarantee non-discrimination	May 9, 2025	95
By country: Venezuela	**Total: 7**	
Title	**Date**	**Number**
The SRFOE Warns of Ongoing Violations of Freedom of Expression in Venezuela and Calls on the International Community to Support the IACHR's Request for an On-Site Visit	December 29, 2025	284
IACHR reaffirms its authority over Venezuela and seeks approval for an on-site visit	September 16, 2025	185
Venezuela must restore the unlawfully and arbitrarily revoked passports of opposition activists, rights defenders, and journalists, IACHR says	May 20, 2025	106
SRFOE warns about the serious deterioration of the media ecosystem in Venezuela and urges the State to respect and guarantee freedom of expression and of the press	May 5, 2025	88
IACHR urges Venezuela to immediately release political prisoners and to end the practice of holding them incommunicado	April 11, 2025	72
Experts urge Venezuela to comply with international law to prevent irreparable harm to victims of enforced disappearance	February 28, 2025	45
IACHR publishes report on human rights violations following the elections in Venezuela	January 7, 2025	7

4. Requests for information

72. In fulfilling its observation and monitoring functions of the human rights situation in the Americas, in 2025 the Commission sent **96** letters requesting information to the States in the region, in accordance with Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of the Statute of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Through this follow-up mechanism, the Commission paid particular attention to specific situations, collected relevant information for the early identification of risks and strengthened its analysis of structural and emerging trends in human rights issues.

73. The requests for information sent over the year addressed several priority topics, in line with those developed through press releases and other monitoring mechanisms of the Commission. Of particular note were requests for information on topics such as **the rights of women, girls and adolescents,** including access to justice with gender perspective, eradication of gender-based violence, early marriages and unions, obstetric violence and sexual and reproductive rights.

74. Likewise, the Commission requested information on the situation of **indigenous peoples**, including violations of their territorial rights, reports of restrictions to the exercise of indigenous leadership and the impact of legislative or administrative decisions on their collective rights. In line with the special attention to the **rights of persons in human mobility**, the IACHR also requested information about migration policies, situations of expulsion and return, as well as the protection of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

75. During the course of 2025, the Commission also requested information about the **situation of persons deprived of liberty,** social reinsertion processes and the situation of trans persons in contexts of

deprivation of liberty, as well as scenarios related to **citizen security**, states of exception and use of force by state agents.

76. As regards the protection of the **right of freedom of expression**, the Commission, through its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, sent requests for information to different States in connection to reports of aggression against journalists, judicial and administrative processes against communicators, legislative projects that could affect the exercise of journalism and guarantees for access to public information. The purpose of these requests was to assess possible impacts on the democratic debate, the civic space and the work of independent press.

77. Additionally, the IACHR sent **questionnaires and requests for information of a regional scope** to several member States, with the purpose of collecting information for the preparation of studies and thematic reports on different subjects, such as access to justice with gender perspective and social reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean, which allowed to obtain compared information about the legislative frameworks, public policies and state practices in the region.

Requests for information in 2025				
Country	**Title**	**Issue date**	**Response**	**Basis**
Antigua and Barbuda	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	Yes	Art. 18
Antigua and Barbuda	Questionnaire – Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 18
Argentina	Argentina - Derogation of extension of Act 26 160 and impact on territorial rights of indigenous Peoples.	January 13, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Argentina	Institutionalization conditions of children and adolescents in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina	March 06, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Argentina	Situation of access to justice with gender perspective - Regional study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 41
Argentina	Request for information regarding reports that might affect the exercise and guarantee of the right to freedom of expression and media freedom in Argentina	July 14, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Argentina	Argentina - Decree of Necessity and Urgency (DNU, as per the acronym in Spanish) No. 366/2025	August 14, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Argentina	Argentina - Situation of social rights and social protest	September 19, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Argentina	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 08, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Argentina	Request for information regarding the situation of trans persons deprived of liberty	October 28, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Bahamas	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 18
Bahamas	Questionnaire – Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 18

Barbados	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 41
Barbados	Questionnaire – Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41
Belize	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 18
Belize	Transition process from Office of the Ombudsman to a National Human Rights Institution (Article 18 – IACHR Statute)	July 10, 2025	No	Art. 18
Belize	Belize – Reports of possible risks to nine Haitian girls in the country.	August 28, 2025	Yes	Art. 18
Belize	Questionnaire – Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 08, 2025	No	Art. 18
Bolivia	Request for information regarding child and adolescent marriages and early unions	March 27, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Bolivia	Bolivia - Reports of prohibition of access to indigenous leaders	August 11, 2025	No	Art. 41
Bolivia	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41
Brazil	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Brazil	Measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish police violence in Brazil	April 02, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Brazil	Rapporteurship on the situation of freedom of expression in Brazil	April 16, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Brazil	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Brazil	Obstetric violence and persecution of human right defenders	October 14, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Canada	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 18
Canada	Request for information on the institutional and public policy framework for the protection of women's rights	May 13, 2025	No	Art. 18
Chile	Situation of access to justice with gender perspective - Regional study	March 25, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Chile	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Colombia	Threats against teenager Francisco Vera, human rights defender in Colombia	April 16, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Colombia	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Costa Rica	Situation of access to justice with gender perspective - Regional study	March 25, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Costa Rica	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	Yes	Art. 41

Cuba	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41
Dominica	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 41
Dominica	Questionnaire – Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41
Ecuador	Ecuador - Reports of possible refugee and asylum seekers' deportations.	August 22, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Ecuador	Request for information on reports of aggressions against the press and progress of legislative projects that could have an impact on the exercise and guarantee of the right to freedom of expression and association in Ecuador.	September 04, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Ecuador	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41
El Salvador	Request for information on the approval of laws that could affect the right to freedom of expression and privacy, as well as reports on harassment of the press.	January 07, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
El Salvador	Situation of access to justice with gender perspective - Regional study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 41
El Salvador	Situation of people expelled to El Salvador	May 12, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
El Salvador	Request for information related to recent reports of alleged arrest warrants against journalists in El Salvador	July 29, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
El Salvador	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
United States of America	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 18
United States of America	Expulsion of migrants to El Salvador- United States of America	May 12, 2025	No	Art. 18
United States of America	Request of information concerning reports regarding events that may have an impact on the exercise and guarantee of freedom of expression and of the press in the United States.	August 06, 2025	No	Art. 18
Grenada	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 41
Grenada	Questionnaire – Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41
Guatemala	Guatemala – Complementary information of IACHR's in loco visit	January 03, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Guatemala	Situation of access to justice with gender perspective - Regional study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 41

Guatemala	Request for information regarding the situation of journalist José Rubén Zamora Marroquín.	April 07, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Guatemala	Detention of defender Leocadio Juracán	August 22, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Guatemala	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Guyana	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 18
Guyana	Guarantees in place to ensure the right of access to public information in the Co-operative Republic of Guyana	September 03, 2025	Yes	Art. 18
Guyana	Questionnaire – Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 18
Haiti	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	April 02, 2025	No	Art. 41
Haiti	Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 08, 2025	No	Art. 41
Honduras	Request for information regarding judicial proceedings against journalists and media in Honduras, that could have an impact on the guarantees of freedom of expression and media freedom.	April 16, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Honduras	Situation of sexual and reproductive rights of women, girls and adolescents in Honduras	May 13, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Honduras	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Jamaica	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 41
Jamaica	Questionnaire – Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41
Mexico	Situation of access to justice with gender perspective - Regional study	March 25, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Mexico	Initiation of administrative and judicial proceedings against journalists and public interest communicators in Mexico.	August 15, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Mexico	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Nicaragua	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41
Panama	Situation of access to justice with gender perspective - Regional study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 41
Panama	Situation of persons in human mobility - Panama	June 09, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Panama	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41
Paraguay	Situation of access to justice with gender perspective - Regional study	March 25, 2025	Yes	Art. 41

Paraguay	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41
Peru	Situation of access to justice with gender perspective - Regional study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 41
Peru	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41
Dominican Republic	Situation of access to justice with gender perspective - Regional study	March 25, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Dominican Republic	Implementation of migration policies and their impact on human rights in Dominican Republic	July 09, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Dominican Republic	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	Yes	Art. 18
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Questionnaire – Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 18
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 18
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Questionnaire – Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 18
Saint Lucia	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 18
Saint Lucia	Questionnaire – Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 18
Suriname	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 41
Suriname	Questionnaire – Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41
Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago – State of Emergency	March 03, 2025	No	Art. 18
Trinidad and Tobago	Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective - Regional Study	March 25, 2025	No	Art. 18
Trinidad and Tobago	Questionnaire – Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 18
Trinidad and Tobago	Detention and mass deportation of people in human mobility	December 24, 2025	No	Art. 18
Uruguay	Legal citizens' identity document and travel situation - Uruguay	March 18, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Uruguay	Situation of access to justice with gender perspective - Regional study	March 25, 2025	Yes	Art. 41
Uruguay	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41
Venezuela	Questionnaire - Social Reintegration in Latin America and the Caribbean	October 8, 2025	No	Art. 41

5. Published reports, guides and resolutions in 2025

78. In 2025, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights published a total of **4** country reports, **3** thematic reports and **1** resolution.

79. The following is a list of reports published and approved during this period.

Published reports in 2025	
Publications	**Date of publication**
Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections	January 7, 2025
Observations of the Working visit to Panama (available in Spanish)	April 1, 2025
Report "The Situation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Americas" (available in Spanish)	May 13, 2025
Resolution on the Rights of Family Members and Persons with Affective Ties of Persons Deprived of Liberty	August 19, 2025
Third Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas	October 16, 2025
Report on "Violence against indigenous peoples and people of African descent on Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast"	October 30, 2025
Report of the Situation of Human Rights in Guatemala (available in Spanish)	December 1, 2025
Report on "The Impact of Violence on the Situation of Human Rights in Colombia" (available in Spanish)	December 16, 2025

II. PART B. PROMOTION AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

80. The Inter-American Commission carries out its mandate to promote human rights in the region in keeping with the Charter of the Organization and the American Convention on Human Rights, as well as its Statute and Rules of Procedure. In this regard, it raises public awareness about human rights in the countries of the Americas, and it recommends measures that contribute to their protection to OAS Member States.

81. Within that framework, the Commission conducts its promotion and training activities on its working mechanisms and the inter-American human rights standards that have been established through the doctrine and jurisprudence of the Inter-American Human Rights System. The aim is to further a deeper understanding on the part of civil society, the networks of social actors and the member states about their scope and, as relevant, about their application to and incorporation into decisions, regulatory frameworks and public policies with a human rights perspective.

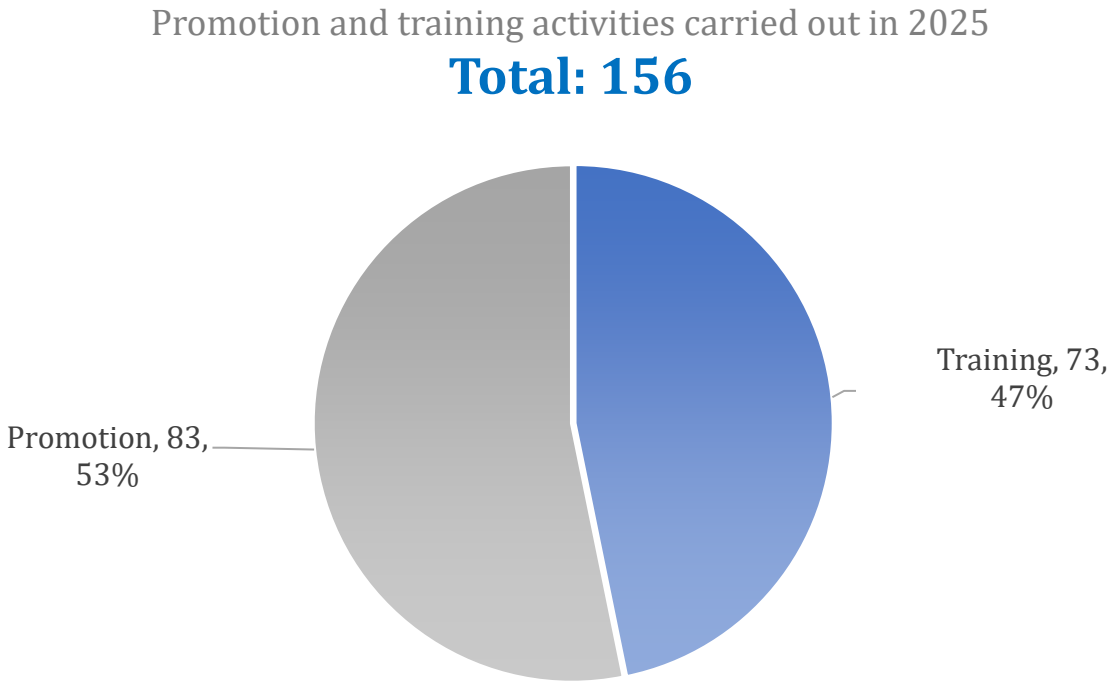
82. In 2025, with the implementation of the new 2023–2027 Strategic Plan, the Commission established as one of its strategic objectives the strengthening of the capacity of state agents and civil society organizations to promote, respect and guarantee human rights. For that purpose, two programs were created; namely, Programs 20 and 21, focused on the development of an orderly strategy to disseminate information

and provide training on inter-American standards and the Commission's protection mechanisms to help promote respect for human rights in the countries of the region.

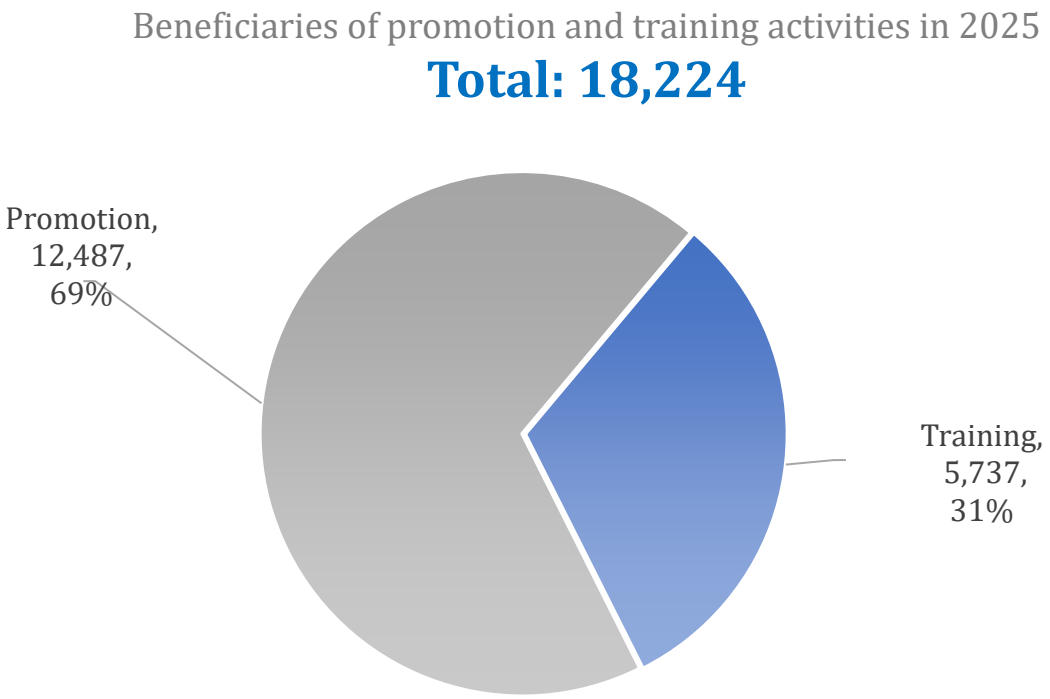
83. Throughout 2025, the Commission continued to offer promotion and training activities both virtually and in person. The wide range of virtual activities enabled greater reach, dissemination and access for the public, which was able to join the events by registering for them through the Commission's channels on X, Facebook and/or YouTube[15].

84. In 2025, 156 events were held, comprising 73 training activities and 83 promotion activities, which included six webinars or report releases. In addition, the REDESCA organized a total of 47 activities, which comprised 43 promotion activities and 4 training sessions. The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (SRFOE) carried out 29 activities. Out of these, 28 were related to promotion and one to training. Out of the total activities, it is reported that 18,224 people benefited from the activities held by the Commission in 2025. Out of these, 5,737 received training and 12,487 participated in the Commission's promotion activities through different means.

85. The data presented in the previous paragraph is displayed in the graphs below:



[15]For the purposes of this report, whenever the total number of people attending promotion and/or training events virtually is mentioned, it will refer to the total that includes broadcasting media such as Zoom, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and X.



A. Promotion activities

86. The general objective of the promotion activities is to give publicity to the standards developed by the main bodies of the Inter-American Human Rights System, as well as to the specific activities of the Commission and its decisions. These activities seek to contribute to the promotion of a culture based upon respect for and the protection of the human rights of all persons in the Americas.

87. In 2025, 83 events were held to promote and disseminate inter-American standards, reaching 12,487 people who joined them in person or virtually.

88. Examples of these promotion activities:

1. First World Congress on Enforced Disappearances

89. The IACHR participated in the First World Congress on Enforced Disappearances on January 15, 2025, an event organized by the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Commissioner Andrea Pochak, vice-president of the IACHR, addressed the contributions of the Inter-American Human Rights System on the protection of all the persons against enforced disappearance, as well as the future outlook in terms of enforced disappearance.

2. European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights

90. As part of the activities of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights, on April 8, 2025, there was a hearing in Brussels to analyze the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba. The panel had the participation of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, represented by its First Vice-president, Andrea Pochak, as well as defenders and international experts, including Rosa María Payá, José Daniel Ferrer and Juan Pappier, of Human Rights Watch. The hearing addressed persistent structural concerns, especially the criminalization of social protest and dissent, the restrictions to

freedom of expression, the situation of persons deprived of liberty, the harassment of family members and activists and the worsening of food insecurity. The space allowed to give visibility to systematic patterns of human rights violations and strengthen the importance of scrutiny and action by the international community regarding the situation on the island.

B. Human Rights month

91. On June 5, Commissioner Roberta Clarke participated in *Current Challenges and Opportunities in the Inter-American Human Rights System*, organized by the American University Washington College of Law. This panel was part of the Human Rights Month, sponsored by the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, in parallel with the Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. The panel was open to the public.

1. Inter-American Standards on Sexual and Reproductive Rights

92. A panel on inter-American standards on sexual and reproductive rights was held on June 26 in Quito, Ecuador, as part of a comprehensive program funded with Canadian funds. The panel featured a recorded presentation by Roberta Clarke, rapporteur on the rights of women, and the presence of important local panelists who addressed the progress made and the current challenges in terms of sexual and reproductive rights in Ecuador. Some of the panelists were representatives of the Constitutional Court, the Ministry of Public Health and representatives of civil society organizations. The activity was organized with the collaboration of the Universidad San Francisco de Quito. More than 100 people participated in the event.

2. Inter-American Human Rights System Forum – Inter-American Court of Human Rights/Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

93. The Inter-American Human Rights Forum is a joint initiative carried out since 2017 by the IACHR and the I/A Court HR to share and promote inter-American standards on relevant subject matters for the organs of the system. This promotional activity is carried out by sharing knowledge with the different players that are part of the Inter-American Human Rights System (IAHRS) and is aimed at the general public.

94. On July 10, the seventh edition of the forum was held online, under the name Democracy in the Spotlight of Human Rights (hereinafter called, the Forum): the role of political participation, freedom of expression and independence of the judiciary, and featured welcome and closing remarks, as well as three panels of discussion with international experts. The Forum reached 8,791 persons (Zoom: 400, YouTube 895, Facebook: 7496)

95. Opening panel: Democracy in the Spotlight of Human Rights: the role of political participation, freedom of expression and independence of the judiciary. The welcome remarks presented a general vision on the three pillars of the Forum, highlighting how arbitrary expulsions, political violence and smear campaigns have affected democratic participation. It also addressed current threats to freedom of expression, such as indirect censorship and misinformation, and highlighted the importance of an independent judicial power in the face of attempts of political instrumentalization.

96. First panel: Participating in democratic life since and beyond elections. Political participation and human rights. The first panel highlighted the need to guarantee political participation, critical expression and access free of discrimination. It addressed the progress made in the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Human Rights System in terms of electoral integrity and the growing political violence and reflected on its impact on representativity and democratic quality, including the recent advisory opinion to the I/A Court H.R made by Guatemala.

97. Second panel: Democracy in Balance: The role of free speech. The panel looked into the deterioration of freedom of expression in the region, marked by legal restrictions, government surveillance and attacks on journalists and defenders. The panel also addressed the new risks associated with artificial

intelligence, such as manipulation of information and polarization, highlighting the need for public policies that strengthen free and safe political spaces.

98. Third panel: Democratic Guarantees: A critical dialogue on judicial independence, and closure. This panel addressed the growing threats to judicial independence, including arbitrary dismissals, political pressures and instrumental use of the legal system. The panel emphasized how these practices affect public confidence and democratic balance and reviewed the inter-American standards that demand transparent processes and guarantees for judges and prosecutors.

99. The Forum evidenced the need to strengthen democracy in the region from a comprehensive human rights perspective. These three panels showed that political participation, freedom of expression and judicial independence are inseparable pillars whose violation endangers democratic legitimacy. The discussions allowed to identify setbacks, worrying practices and emerging challenges — such as political violence, manipulation of information and instrumentalization of justice. They also reaffirmed the commitment of the Inter-American System organs and participating actors to advance the standards, support the States and promote stronger, more transparent and inclusive institutions. This way, the Forum consolidated a space of dialogue and cooperation that makes a direct contribution to the strengthening of the democratic Rule of Law in the Americas.

3. The Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly

100. On December 3, Commissioner Roberta Clarke spoke at the event called *Human Rights Dimension of EU – Latin America Relations*, organized by *The Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, as a follow up to the EU-27 and CELAC-33 Summit of Leaders.* The presentation focused on the trends and good practices that represent progress for Caribbean states in terms of human rights.

4. Cycle of dialogue with the Supreme Court of Justice of Mexico

101. Within the framework of the cooperation agreement in force between the Supreme Court of Justice of Mexico (SCJN) and the IACHR, a thematic dialogue was held on December 11 to exchange experiences, strengthen institutional dialog and promote learning and awareness spaces for the general public and justices, strengthening the understanding of the operation, the effects and importance of human rights in the subject matters addressed by the Judicial Power.

102. A virtual session was proposed for this year, with the participation of an officer of the Executive Secretariat for the Petition and Case System of the IACHR, a representative of the civil society and the head of the General Unit of Scientific Knowledge and Human Rights of the SCJN. The General Secretary of the Presidency of the SCJN opened the session, which was moderated by a representative of the SCJN. The selected theme was the comprehensive reparation of the damage, with emphasis on the coordination between public policies and the efficacy of the reparation, the inter-American standards on comprehensive reparation and its impact on collective rights, as well as the challenges and opportunities to incorporate collective reparation in Mexican jurisprudence. The event was published on the social media platforms of the IACHR and the SCJN.

103. The activity was broadcast on the social media platforms of the IACHR and the SCJN and reached a total of 484 people.

5. Webinars and report releases of the IACHR

104. There were eight webinars or report releases in 2025 – both virtual and in person –. The table below provides further information:

WEBINARS, REPORT RELEASES AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS		
Name of webinar	Date	Attendees
The work of human right defenders and civil organizations in the context of human mobility in Central America and Mexico	January 31	121
Five presentations of the report "Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections" before Venezuelan journalists in exile.	January 24 January 28 March 11	92+
International protection and refugee statute determination (RSD) - Due process in the context of determination of refugee status	June 20	82
Launch of the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants - Externalization of migration governance and its effect on the human rights of migrants (A/80/302)	October 23	No data available
Presentation of the report on "Violence against indigenous peoples and people of African descent on Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast"	November 20	No data available
Launch of the report on the Situation of Human Rights in Guatemala	December 1	No data available

C. Training activities

105. The purpose of the training activities is to give to the civil society, social actors and States of the Americas a deeper understanding of the scope of the Inter-American Human Rights System, the use of its mechanisms and the application of inter-American decisions and jurisprudence, as well as their incorporation into domestic regulations, policies and practices. Likewise, through capacity building, training activities seek to contribute to the adoption of public policies and the development of a culture under a human rights-based approach.

106. The Commission continued to consolidate its catalog of free virtual, hybrid and in-person training activities during 2025, having developed a total of 73 trainings that included 11 MOOC/virtual classrooms. In 2025, the Commission trained a total of 5,737 people.

107. The Commission also offered three paid courses. The purpose of the program of paid courses is twofold: on the one hand, it aims to open courses that are already developed but cannot be implemented due to lack of funds; on the other hand, it aims to fund the reopening and review of contents of existing free courses, as well as the development of new courses. The people who attended the courses represented a diverse group: some were linked to state agencies, others were connected to civil society organizations, whereas others were students, members of academia and private individuals.

108. On the other hand, it is worth mentioning that at the end of 2025, the IACHR opened its own virtual campus, where interested persons will find all courses offered by the Commission.

109. The following is a summary of the courses that were available to the public or to specific groups and whose main purpose was to increase knowledge of the decisions, jurisprudence and mechanisms of the Inter-American Human Rights System.

1. Massive open online courses (MOOC)[16]

110. MOOC courses are designed for mass audiences, allowing people to access the platform and navigate the proposed contents as well as the suggested activities with complete autonomy, so that each participant can learn in their own time based on their availability. Such flexibility makes it possible for a greater number of people to access training activities and provides an alternative for those who have limited availability and cannot adapt to more structured courses. Participants are offered the possibility of simply exploring the content of the course or of obtaining a certification after completing a series of assessments of the topic. During 2025, 2,648 people took the five MOOCs offered, and, out of these, 725 participants opted to obtain certificates.

111. With regard to gender, it is worth noting that more women than men enrolled in the MOOCs open in 2025, reaching a total of 1,449 women and 823 men, one non-binary person and one who decided not to provide their gender identity.

a. MOOC – Inter-American Human Rights System – Fifth Edition

112. During 2025, the fifth edition of this course was open to all countries in the hemisphere. The MOOC on the Inter-American Human Rights System is a self-directed short course that allows participants to discover the inter-American system and learn about its bodies, functions and mechanisms. It was developed using simple language, thus making it accessible to anyone who wants to learn about the system. In addition, it includes additional material so that interested participants can study the system in greater depth.

113. Between January 1 and December 31, 1,050 people enrolled in the course. Out of these, 290 downloaded their certificate of completion. Out of the total number of people who enrolled in the course, 58% were women. The country with the highest enrollment rates was Mexico, with 180 (19%) of participants, followed by Peru, with 135 participants (14%) and the United States, with 96 participants (10%). Colombia came in fourth place, with 87 participants (9%).

114. The knowledge survey was responded to by 511 people. Out of these, 147 were linked to state agencies, 130 to academia, 96 to civil society organizations and 82 to the private sector. 23 people worked in national human rights institutions.

115. On the other hand, the satisfaction survey was completed by 290 people. Out of these, 95% rated the course as extremely or very useful. Finally, 203 participants indicated that what they had learned on the course would be extremely or very applicable in their work; and 203 considered that they had acquired new knowledge.

116. The course on the Inter-American Human Rights System is perceived as a highly useful and high quality educational tool, which fulfills and exceeds the participants' expectations in the acquisition of fundamental knowledge about the inter-American system and its applicability in diverse professional and personal contexts. The main strengths of the course are the clarity of contents, the teaching methodology and the easy use of the platform.

117. During the course, the participants constantly highlighted the clarity, organization and relevance of the contents, as well as the diversity of the teaching tools used. In particular, the participants

[16] Hereinafter, "MOOC". The acronym MOOC stands for "massive open online course." MOOCs are online courses that allow participants to learn at their own time and pace, according to their needs and circumstances. Since the courses do not provide support by tutors, they can reach a mass audience.

pointed out that the material was accessible, understandable and updated, allowing them to enrich their knowledge in a practical and significant manner. The self-directed modality, the time flexibility, the variety of resources — videos, iconographies, summaries, interactive activities — and the quality of the explanations and the facilitating team were mentioned as the core strengths of the course. Likewise, participants valued the usefulness of the course to get a better understanding of the inter-American system, promote changes in public policies, strengthen the capacities for the defense of human rights and promote access to reliable information. For many people, the learning experience was motivational, didactic and deeply formative.

b. MOOC – Inter–American Human Rights System – Third Edition in English

118. This MOOC is the first to be offered in English and is based on the Spanish-language MOOC on the IAHRS but adapted to the legal system of English-speaking countries. The course seeks to bring the Inter-American Human Rights System closer to States, the civil society and academia in English-speaking countries, by means of simple tools and by using accessible language as well as digital resources such as videos, audios, readings and practice activities that help participants to understand the concepts and their application.

119. The total course load of the second edition is 25 hours, to be completed in about five weeks. It is entirely self-directed, which allows participants to complete the activities at their own pace, on the days and at the times that best suit their personal and professional situation.

120. In 2025, 723 people enrolled in the course. Out of these, 176 downloaded their certificate of completion. Out of the total number of people who enrolled in the course, 484 (67%) were women. The country with the highest enrollment rates was Peru, with 117 participants (16%), followed by Mexico, with 96 participants (13%), and Colombia, with 77 participants (11%). Ecuador came in fourth place, with 61 participants (8%). It should be mentioned that the satisfaction survey was responded to by 166 people. Out of these, 165 rated the course as extremely or very useful. In turn, 80 participants indicated that what they had learned on the course would be extremely or very applicable in their work; and 130 considered that they had acquired new knowledge.

c. MOOC – Inter-American standards on Human Mobility

121. During 2025, the second free edition and the third paid edition of the MOOC – Inter-American standards on Human Mobility were open, with 602 people enrolled (418 women, 182 men, 1 non-binary and 1 who chose not to state their gender identity). Out of the total enrolled people, 259 downloaded their certificates of completion.

122. The second edition of this MOOC took place from April 17 to June 17 and was free of charge. The objective was to conceptualize the rights of persons in human mobility, know the obligations of the States towards persons in human mobility and know the regional and international protection mechanisms. The course was thought to be completed in around 30 hours. A total of 540 persons enrolled in the course, 226 of which decided to download their certificate of completion. In general terms, the people who took the course mentioned that it was useful, that the objectives were clear and that they had acquired new knowledge. The countries with the highest registered participation were Peru, with 87 participants (16%); Colombia, with 68 participants (13%); Mexico, with 57 participants (11%); Guatemala, with 53 participants (10%); and Ecuador with 46 participants (9%). Out of the total number of participants (540, 100%), women participation rate was almost twice that of men: 378 (70%) as compared to 162 (30%), respectively.

123. The third edition of this MOOC took place from September 16 to November 18 and was a paid course. The objective was to conceptualize the rights of persons in human mobility, know the obligations of the States towards persons in human mobility and know the regional and international protection mechanisms. The course was thought to be completed in around 30 hours. A total of 62 persons enrolled in the course, 45 of which decided to download their certificate of completion. During this course, there was a synchronous class with the participation of Commissioner and Rapporteur for Human Mobility, Andrea Pochak, accompanied by members of staff of IACHR's Executive Secretariat. A total of 45 people responded the final survey. In general

terms, the people who took the course mentioned that it was useful, that the objectives were clear and 60% mentioned that they had acquired new knowledge. The country with the highest enrollment rates was Mexico, with 12 participants (19%), followed by Peru, with 7 participants (11%), Women participation rate (65%, 40) was almost twice that of men (32%, 20). This edition raised special interest among people working in civil society organizations, 14 participants (23%); and in academia, 12 participants (19%). Those participants linked to state agencies, human rights institutions or law-enforcement represented 19% (14) of the participation rate.

d. MOOC - Inter-American standards to fight violence and discrimination against women, girls and adolescents

124. Within the framework of the celebration of 16 days of activism for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, on December 10, the second edition of this self-directed course was offered for 100 people of the general public, presenting an overview in simple language of the inter-American standards on violence and discrimination against women, girls and teenagers, complemented with follow-up material for people who are already familiarized with the system. This course allows people to understand the concepts of violence against women, girls and adolescents, know the standards on the right of women to be free of discrimination, as well as the specific standards applied to girls and adolescents. The course also offers an opportunity to get familiarized with the existing stereotypes in this area and their effect on women, girls and adolescents, as well as the obligations of the State. There were 273 people enrolled in this edition. Women accounted for the highest enrollment rates, with 89% (243 participants). Men accounted for 10% (28 participants) and non-binary persons accounted for 0.7% (2 participants) of the enrollment rate. The countries with the highest enrollment rates were Argentina (20%, 55 participants), Mexico (26%, 45) and Peru (10%, 29). Registration for this MOOC opened on December 10 and closed on December 12 due to the high demand. For this occasion, the IACHR facilitated 100 places and the Educational Portal 173. There are not available data yet regarding the people who obtained their certificates of completion.

2. Virtual classrooms and short courses

125. During 2025, two virtual classrooms and two short courses were developed. The virtual classrooms are asynchronous courses that are combined with live sessions (synchronous) and are supported by an academic tutor (a subject-matter expert from the Commission) as well as a technical tutor. During 2025, 921 people participated in these four virtual classrooms, including the short courses. Out of the total number of enrolled people, 385 downloaded their certificates of completion.

a. Short course on how to document human rights violations

126. The short course on how to document human rights violations took place from April 16 to May 30. The course was free of charge. The objective of the course was for participants to strengthen their capacities to document human rights violations, as well as to acquire practical skills in gathering testimonies from victims and family members. The course was thought to be completed in around 10 hours. A total of 219 persons enrolled in the course (128 women and 91 men), 116 of which decided to download their certificate of completion. The countries with the highest enrollment rates were Colombia and Mexico, with 34 participants (16%) and 33 participants (15%), respectively; followed by Peru, with 23 participants (11%) and Guatemala, with 21 participants (10%). In general terms, the people who took the course mentioned that it was useful, that the objectives were clear and that they had acquired new knowledge.

b. Two short courses on how to file a precautionary measure

127. During 2025, three editions –two free and one paid – of the short course on how to file a precautionary measure were open, with 534 people enrolled (301 women, 233 men). Out of the total number of enrolled people, 226 downloaded their certificates of completion.

128. The objective of the course is for participants to acquire practical skills in requesting a precautionary measure to the Commission and in following up on the processing and resolution of the request. It is developed using simple language and with a focus on practice, so that participants can learn about the mechanism and are able to use it properly. Its estimated duration is 10 hours.

129. The first edition of this short course was conducted free of charge from August 11 to September 11, 2025, using the remaining funds from the 2024 pilot paid course. A total of 400 persons enrolled in the course, 191 of which decided to download their certificate of completion. Women accounted for more than half of the people attending the course, with an enrollment rate of 55% (F, 220), as compared to men, with an enrollment rate of 45% (M, 180). The country with the highest enrollment rate was Mexico, 20% (81 participants), followed by Ecuador (18%, 70), Peru (11%, 40) and Bolivia and Colombia (9%, 36 and 35, respectively). Academia (44%, 21) and the State (30%, 63) were the sectors with the highest enrollment rates. A total of 212 people responded to the satisfaction survey. Out of these, 67% mentioned that the course was "extremely useful", whereas 27% said it was "very useful". 188 people mentioned that they had acquired new knowledge.

130. The second edition of this short course was a paid course, at the request of the UNHCR. A total of 30 people enrolled in this course. Out of these people, women accounted for 56.67% (17) and men accounted for 43.33% (13). As of December 31, 2025, 23% (9) of the participants had received their certificate of completion. The country with the highest participation was Ecuador, with 6 participants (20%), followed by Panama, with 4 participants (13%) and Brazil, with 3 participants (10%).

131. During this edition, there were two synchronous sessions, one with a specialist from the IACHR, which clarified some technical concepts. Based on the results of the evaluation activities, participants enhanced their knowledge of the subject: in the final test, all of them could state the difference between a petition and a precautionary measure, and they could also confirm that the identity of the person requesting precautionary measures can be kept confidential and not revealed to the State.

132. In turn, for the third edition of the course, there were 104 persons enrolled, 62% (64) of which were women and 38% (40) were men. Up to this date, 26 people (25%) have obtained their certificate of completion. The country with the highest participation rate is still Mexico, which accounts for 25% of enrollment (28 participants), followed by Argentina, with 17% enrollment (18 participants). This edition of the course is expected to end on January 30, 2026.

c. Standards by the Judiciary

133. Between June and August, the Commission ran a paid virtual Workshop on the Inter-American Standards by the Judiciary with the objective of strengthening the knowledge about the Inter-American system, with a special focus on its standards related to the duties of the State in general and of the Judiciary in particular, in terms of human rights in the context of democracy and the rule of law. The course was comprised of four modules and ran over approximately eight (8) weeks, for a total of 30 hours. A total of 111 enrolled in the paid course: 57,5% women, 41,2% men and 1,3% not identified. Out of these, 106 participated in the virtual workshop and 80 opted to download the certificate of completion.

134. The course was targeted at justice operators, including judges, prosecutors and public defenders who want to improve their knowledge of the Inter-American system, especially in terms of the inter-American standards on due diligence, conventionality control and sentence analysis.

135. The virtual workshop deepened in the concept and scope of conventionality control. The course focused on promoting the application of human rights principles; therefore, each module included a practical activity. One of the most important goals of the course was to create a sense of community among the participants through a series of activities that promote interchange. The course also tried to facilitate access to the highest number of specialists and members of the Commission, so as to enrich knowledge and experiences,

including videos and synchronous meetings. A total of 80 people responded to the final survey. Out of these, 77 rated the course as extremely or very useful and 78 mentioned that they had acquired new knowledge.

d. Interamerican standards on memory, truth and justice in contexts of transitional justice

136. From November 12, 2025, to January 31, 2026, the Commission ran the paid virtual workshop on memory, truth and justice in contexts of transitional justice. A total of 54 persons enrolled in the course (32 women and 22 men), 33 (61%) of which decided to download their certificate of completion. Colombia accounts for 22 % (13) of the people enrolled, almost one quarter of the participants, followed by Mexico and Peru, with an enrollment rate of 13% (7) and 11% (6), respectively. At the end of the course, 32 people (59%) chose to download their certificate of completion.

137. A total of 32 persons responded to the survey. Out of these, 27 mentioned they had enhanced their knowledge of the subject, whereas 28 persons mentioned that they could apply the content of the training to perform their functions.

138. The course was complemented with the synchronous class taught by Commissioner Andrea Pochak, Rapporteur for Memory.

3. Hybrid and in person courses

a. National School of Formation and Improvement of Labor Magistrates (ENAMAT)

139. On February 17 and 18, in coordination with the National School of Formation and Improvement of Labor Magistrates (ENAMAT), the Commission held a training activity in Brasilia, entitled Access to Labor Justice and Human Rights: reflections based on inter-American standards. The goal of the course was to provide professionals working in the Brazilian labor justice system with information of inter-American standards on human rights relevant for access to justice, with a special focus on: 1. raising awareness on the relevance of the inter-American system in the Brazilian context and strengthening the capacities of magistrates and public officers who work in Labor Justice; 2. presenting the major developments in terms of access to justice for groups in vulnerable situation and the element of comprehensive reparation in the IAHRS, with case studies on the main inter-American Labor Justice standards on these subjects. A total of 90 officers participated in this training.

b. Richmond University

140. On April 11, the Commission held a training session in the IACHR headquarters for students of the Law School of Richmond University, USA, on the Inter-American Human Rights System and its mechanisms. This training session exposed the students to the basic concepts of the Inter-American Human Rights System, including a glimpse into the system of petitions and cases, precautionary measures and the portal system. A total of seven people participated in the training, five of which were women. The session also represented an opportunity to promote other aspects of the training and advocacy efforts of the IACHR, including the MOOC.

c. San Diego University

141. On April 30, there was a training session targeted at civil society members, organized by the Washington Brazil Office and Behner Stiefel Center for Brazilian Studies at San Diego University. The training focused on sharing knowledge on the Inter-American Human Rights System and its mechanisms. There were 25 participants in this course.

d. William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies

142. On June 10, 2025, the Commission held an on-site training workshop at the premises of William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies. The workshop focused on several elements of the IAHRS, including the structure and composition of the IACHR; differences between the mandates of the IACHR and the Inter-American Court; technical cooperation and technological tools for the use of the system (Portal). The students were mostly military or police officers from various countries in the region, including Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Mexico and Peru. The event was of crucial importance to raise awareness on key aspects of the Inter-American Human Rights System and provide tools to state agents on how to increase access and use of the system. Fifty persons were trained, 16 of whom were women.

e. Superior School of the Public Ministry of the Union, Brazil

143. Between August 12 and 15, the IACHR and the Superior School of the Public Ministry of the Union jointly organized a course on "Inter-American standards applied to the criminal justice system" to train agents of the Brazilian legal system on the inter-American standards related to deprivation and restriction of freedom, preventive imprisonment, judicial guarantees and protection of accused people, victims and their families. The course yielded significant results by promoting a plural space for dialogue between more than 60 justice operators. Group discussions and work allowed to identify structural challenges in the Brazilian criminal system, as well as the need to strengthen the central role of victims, face lethal use of force by police, improve detention conditions and guarantee differentiated approaches for groups in vulnerable situation. The course also promoted a collective learning of the practical application of inter-American jurisprudence, which translated into specific proposals for public policies, control mechanisms and legal reforms, which represented a valuable input for the work of the IACHR in Brazil.

f. Miami University

144. On September 4, the Commission held a virtual training session, mainly targeted at students of the Law School of Miami University. This session focused on the subjects of hearings and precautionary measures. Many students were expected to attend the 194th period of sessions on November (in Miami) and, therefore, they would want to get an idea of how the IACHR handles hearings and precautionary measures in the context of a period of sessions. Some students and professors at the University of Southern California also participated in the session. In total, this session had 45 participants, including 29 women.

g. "Héctor Fix Zamudio" Diploma Program on the Inter-American Human Rights System

145. Between September 8 and 9, the 13th edition of the "Héctor Fix Zamudio" Diploma Program on the Inter-American Human Rights System was delivered in a hybrid format. This activity is run within the framework of a cooperation agreement with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). The program was organized by the Institute for Legal Research and the Office of the General Counsel of the UNAM, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mexico, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Electoral Judicial School attached to the Electoral Tribunal of Mexico's Federal Judiciary.

146. The purpose of the training was for participants to learn about the general characteristics (origin, legal sources, bodies, mandate, mechanisms) of each of the bodies that make up the Inter-American Human Rights System, as well as about the standards and jurisprudence that have been developed with respect to some human rights. A total of 49 students —34 of which were women— attended the course. Forty-four (44) of the students enrolled in the 2025 edition of this training were Mexican. The remaining 5 participants were Argentinean, Bolivian, Brazilian, Ecuadorian and Peruvian.

147. This training initiative comprised nine sessions and a total load of 22 class-hours, with compulsory modules on international human rights law, the Inter-American Human Rights System, relevant inter-American jurisprudence and the protection of persons in vulnerable situations. Upon reaching the end of the core modules, students were able to choose between three optional modules on different topics: international standards on the right of women to a life free of violence; the link between the inter-American and universal systems of human rights and other regional systems, as well as other instances of International Human Rights Law or political rights: conventionality control in connection to democracy and electoral processes. During the course, Commissioners Andrea Pochak, José Luis Caballero, Arif Bulkan and Stuardo Ralón Orellana, together with specialists from the IACHR participated as lecturers in seven classes, which covered topics such as independence of the judiciary and the rule of law; human rights and democracy; the human right to care; the protection of human rights in groups in vulnerable situation; compliance with the decisions of the inter-American system, as well as sessions addressing the contributions, difficulties and current challenges for the Inter-American Human Rights System.

h. Toronto Metropolitan University

148. On September 18, the IACHR, in collaboration with Toronto Metropolitan University, held an online dialogue with Canadian academics on diverse topics, such as freedom of expression; economic, cultural, social and environmental rights, and the basic mechanisms of the Inter-American Human Rights System. This session had the participation of Commissioner Arif Bulkan. This dialogue enabled Canadian academics to discuss these diverse topics, with the aim of increasing their use of the IAHRS. In total, there were seven participants, including three women.

i. International Course on Public Policies on Human Rights

149. On September 3, 2025, the call for applications was launched for the eighth edition of the International Course on Public Policies on Human Rights, which is run jointly with the MERCOSUR Institute for Public Policy on Human Rights (IPPDH)[17]. On September 30, 2025, a list was published with 70 individuals selected from a total of 2,157 applications from 21 countries[18]. The International Course on Public Policies on Human Rights is a comprehensive training course targeted at public officials responsible for devising, managing, implementing and assessing public policies, as well as at members of social organizations and movements, and scholars from MERCOSUR and OAS member states.

150. The first part of the course was delivered virtually between October and November and included an optional specialization workshop on the Inter-American Human Rights System, which was held on November 13. The virtual phase was structured around nine synchronous sessions, including thematic modules on organized crime, corruption and human rights, as well as participative experiences in the care policies of the region. Participants also had the opportunity to take the MOOC (massive open online course) on the Inter–American Human Rights System, available during the virtual session. Also, the participants of the course interested in getting an in-depth knowledge of the public hearing mechanism within the inter-American system could opt to attend the hearings, both virtually and in person, within the framework of the 194th period of sessions of the IACHR, held in Miami, United States, from November 17 to November 21, 2025.

151. Subsequently, between December 9 and 12, the closing week of the course took place in person and with mandatory attendance, at the IPPDH headquarters, located in Espacio Memoria y Derechos Humanos ex ESMA, in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, with the participation of Commissioner Andrea Pochak, who made a presentation at the end of the course. Fifty participants met the passing criteria and received their certificate. The in-person phase included spaces for exchange that were complemented by theoretical-practical lectures with experts in public policy evaluation, indicator systems, and budget and

[17]IACHR (2025, September 3) Call for the eighth edition of the International Course on Public Policies on Human Rights. Available at: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/spcct/courses/default.asp?Ci=42 .

[18]IACHR (2025, September 30) *List of individuals selected for the eighth edition of the International Course on Public Policies on Human Rights*. Available at (in Spanish and Portuguese only): https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/spcct/cursos/2025/42_nota.asp .

gender, so as to round off the course face to face; there was also a panel on participation in public policies, which featured activists and representatives of civil society organizations.

4. Specialized attention plan for the Caribbean

a. University of the West Indies

152. On October 22, the Commission held a lecture on the Inter-American Human Rights System for students of the School of Law of Cave Hill, UWI, Barbados. The main objective was to present the students with the key mechanisms of the IAHRS, including cases and petitions, precautionary measures, legal framework of IAHRS and monitoring. There were around 25 participants, including 13 women.

b. Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA)

153. The Commission had two regional meetings (on April 29 and September 11) with the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA), with the participation of 18 representatives in each of them. Both regional meetings focused respectively on Belize's transition from an Ombudsman Institution to a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI); and on making the Ombudspersons familiarized with the standards and mechanisms of the Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. Commissioner De Mees made a presentation.

c. Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ)

154. In line with the Joint Work Program with the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), on October 10 the Commission held a virtual webinar with 50 judicial officers and lawyers of the CCJ, the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers and Lawyers Associations. The webinar highlighted the need for historically discriminated populations, such as people with disabilities and older persons, to be treated equally in terms of dignity and value, as well as the need to advocate for the adoption of good legal practices shared in all the region. Commissioners Caballero, Clarke and De Mees attended the webinar.

155. On November 12, during the 194th period of sessions of the IACHR, there was a high level dialog with the CCJ, aimed at promoting and facilitating technical exchange and strengthening the mandates of both institutions to protect individuals and groups against human right abuses in the Caribbean.

156. The IACHR also called for meetings with civil society organizations (CSO) to promote and protect human rights in the subregion. On October 29, the IACHR held a meeting with the president of the Civil Society of Bahamas (CSB), who addressed the important role of the organization, composed by around 1,500 groups. On May 13, the Commission held a meeting with the Caribbean Association for Youth Development (CAYD), which expressed its concern about the deterioration of democratic institutions in several Caribbean countries. The IACHR shared diverse mechanisms for the protection of human rights with the CAYD.

d. Caribbean Dialogue Network (CDN)

157. On April 29, 2025, the IACHR held a virtual dialogue with a Caribbean CSOs (Caribbean Dialogue Network) on the human rights of older persons. The session included a presentation by Commissioner De Mees (Rapporteur on the Rights of Older Persons). The dialogue provided an opportunity for CSO to present information on the problems and challenges that affect older persons in the Caribbean. It also allowed to share essential information on the inter-American standards for the protection of older persons in the region. In total, this session had 19 participants, including 17 women.

158. On June 25, the IACHR organized an online training session with Caribbean civil society organizations (Caribbean Dialogue Network). The main goal of this training module was to improve the capacity of Caribbean civil society organizations to understand and use the Inter-American Human Rights System. During the session, participants were exposed to several mechanisms, including the petition and case system, hearings and technical cooperation. In total, this session had 14 participants, including eight women.

159. On August 5, the IACHR held a virtual seminar with Caribbean civil society organizations (Caribbean Dialogue Network) to promote dialogue about the right to education and children rights in the Caribbean. This session, organized in collaboration with the Inter-American Children´s Institute (IIN) and the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP), offered a general view on the sources, the content and the scope of inter-American standards on the right to education. Besides, this activity served to explore good practices and current challenges to guarantee children's right to education in the Caribbean. In total, this session had 21 participants, including 16 women.

160. On September 16, the IACHR held a virtual seminar with Caribbean civil society organizations (Caribbean Dialogue Network) on the Commission's follow-up mechanisms. This session provided the opportunity to discuss with participants the legal and institutional framework governing follow-up mechanisms. Besides, this activity served to strengthen the participant's capacity to understand and better use these follow-up mechanisms. In total, this session had 22 participants, including 16 women.

161. On October 23, the IACHR held a virtual seminar with Caribbean civil society organizations (Caribbean Dialogue Network) on the Commission's annual report. This event also provided the participants with the opportunity to get involved in the structure, the purpose and the writing process of the annual report. It also allowed to encourage civil society organizations to share information that could be included in the annual report. Commissioners Bulkan, Clarke and De Mees participated in the event. In general, this session had 25 participants, including 19 women.

e. In person trainings on precautionary measures

162. From April 22 to 23 and April 25 to 26, there were two training programs co-organized by the IACHR and the Center for Research and Popular Education (CINEP) targeted at civil society organizations in Bogotá and then in Cali, Colombia, aimed at strengthening the capacities of members of Colombian civil society organizations related to the precautionary and provisional measures mechanisms of the Inter-American Human Rights System. This initiative was organized within the framework of the cooperation project "Increasing the protection of human right violation victims in Latin America, especially of people belonging to historically excluded groups," financed by the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation, under the scheduled workshops "IACHR protection mechanisms: Precautionary measures and their implementation." The trainings featured presentations by José Luis Caballero Ochoa, president of the Commission. In Bogotá 15 people received training, whereas in Cali 24 people received training.

163. From June 5 to June 6, the IACHR and the International Center for Human Rights Research (CIIDH) co-organized a training targeted at civil society organizations in the city of Guatemala, Guatemala, aimed at strengthening the capacities of members of Guatemalan civil society organizations related to the precautionary and provisional measures mechanisms of the Inter-American Human Rights System. This initiative was organized within the framework of the cooperation project "Increasing the protection of human right violation victims in Latin America, especially of people belonging to historically excluded groups," financed by the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation, under the scheduled workshops "IACHR protection mechanisms: Precautionary measures and their implementation." Twenty people received training.

164. From October 9 to 11 several in person trainings were held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, targeted at members of civil society organizations and the State. These trainings, organized by the Legal Center for Human Rights (*Centro Jurídico por los Derechos Humanos*, CJDH, as per the acronym in Spanish) had the participation of Commissioner Andrea Pochak and IACHR's support staff. The activity yielded qualitative results aimed at strengthening the capacities and increasing the practical knowledge of the IACHR's precautionary measure mechanism, with a focus on implementation and follow-up. The workshop attracted human right defenders from different regions and profiles (grassroots organizations, feminists, indigenous peoples, peasants, LGBTI people) and state institutions. Twenty-one people received training.

D. Other promotion and training activities related to thematic rapporteurships, special procedures and follow-up of recommendations

165. Below is a summary of the promotion and training activities of the Commission's thematic rapporteurships and other work carried out throughout the year in relation to its human rights promotion mandate. Many of these activities were organized in cooperation with other actors, thus strengthening collaboration with civil society organizations, academia, regional and international institutions, and States.

166. As for the special rapporteurships, the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (REDESCA) carried out 47 activities this year. Out of these, 43 were related to promotion and four were related to training. For more information on these activities, please refer to REDESCA's annual report. The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (SRFOE) carried out 29 activities. Out of these, 28 were related to promotion and one to training. For more information on these activities, please refer to SRFOE's annual report.

1. Thematic rapporteurships

167. The mandate of the thematic rapporteurships is based on Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of the Statute of the Inter-American Commission, which establish the Commission's specific functions in terms of human rights promotion. Below is a brief description of the various promotion and training activities carried out by each of the thematic rapporteurships in 2025.

a. Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PROMOTION ACTIVITIES							
Name of activity	**Organized by**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**No. of persons**	**Objective**
Inter-American System Tools for the Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Zero Tolerance Initiative	Civil society organization (hereinafter called CSO)	Regional	Online	August 21	45	Knowing the advocacy tools before the Inter-American Human Rights System in the context of the collective protection of indigenous peoples
International Seminar on Cartographies of Indigenous Territories	IWGIA	Mixed	Bolivia	In person	September 15	59	Highlighting the importance of the use of cartographies for the protection of territorial rights of indigenous peoples in the jurisprudence developed by the IAHRS.
Two meetings with indigenous leaders of the Ayoreo and Guarani communities	IWGIA and ORE	CSO	Bolivia	In person	September 17	29	Disseminating information on the available tools in the inter-American system for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and applicable standards in terms of consultation and

							previous, free and informed consent.
2025 United Nations Trailblazer Award for Women Justice and Corrections Officers – Side Event: "Bridging the divide between customary and statutory justice in conflict-prone environments"	Justice and Corrections Service (JCS), Department of Peace Operations (DPO)	Mixed	UN Headquarters - New York City	In person	October 7	106	Disseminating the inter-American standards for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples affected by internal conflicts.
Master class on the rights of indigenous peoples and traditional communities in the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo	PUC-SP and CIMI	Academia	Brazil	In person	August 18	72	Strengthening the knowledge and the understanding of the Inter-American Human Rights System standards on the rights of indigenous peoples and traditional communities. Commissioner Arif Bulkan participated in this masterclass.
Conference at the Federal University of Grande Dourados (UFGD)	UFGD and CIMI	CSO	Brazil	In person	August 21	170	Strengthening the knowledge and understanding of the rights of indigenous peoples within the framework of the Inter-American Human Rights System, promoting the dialog between indigenous leaders, members of academia, students and social movement representatives. Commissioner Arif Bulkan participated in the conference.
2025 General Meeting of Artecampo	Artecampo and IWGIA	CSO	Bolivia	In person	September 16	127	Training representatives of 14 associations of female indigenous leaders and craftswomen that are part of Artecampo on topics such as the IAHRS and inter-American standards on the rights of indigenous peoples,

							including the right to self-determination, consultation and previous, free and informed consent, as well as the rights of indigenous women.
Meeting with Chiquitano female leaders	IWGIA - FUNDESOC - WWF	CSO	Bolivia	In person	September 17	9	Meeting with Chiquitano female indigenous leaders to discuss the IAHRS tools for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. Disseminating practical guidelines No. 1, 2 and 3, published between 2024 and 2025, of the IACHR report on the Right to Self-Determination of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (2021).
International Seminar on Forced Displacement of Indigenous Communities in Latin America.	CIDH-IWGIA	CSO	Colombia	In person	May 13-15	28	Analyzing the causes and consequences of the forced displacement of indigenous peoples, reviewing applicable legislative frameworks, promoting a dialogue with multiple stakeholders and discussing practical solutions. Disseminating infographics of the report on the Right to Self-Determination of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TRAINING ACTIVITIES						
Name of activity	**Objective**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**Number of people trained**
International training "Strategic litigation on the rights of indigenous peoples and	Strengthening the students' capacities for strategic litigation, based on the vision of indigenous peoples and international standards on the rights of indigenous peoples and	CSO	Lima, Peru	Online	November 6	95

mother nature." Session: "International litigation before the inter-American system"	mother nature, in the context of resource extraction projects or lack of consultation before taking measures, to guarantee the realization of such rights.					

b. Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women

Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women PROMOTION ACTIVITIES							
Name of activity	**Organized by**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**No. of persons**	**Objective**
Regional Policy Dialogue 2025. Violence Against Women: Towards a Comprehensive and Coordinated Approach.	Interamerican Development Bank	Mixed	Mexico	In person	June 3-4	No data available	Disseminating standards on access to justice in cases of violence against women and the IAHRS responses from an intersectional and gender approach.
Inter-American Standards on Sexual and Reproductive Rights	University of San Francisco de Quito	Mixed	Ecuador	In person	June 26	100	Increasing the actions by the State to prevent women's rights violations. Raising awareness on the current situation women face in terms of sexual and reproductive rights and disseminating the inter-American system standards on this subject.

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN TRAINING ACTIVITIES						
Name of activity	**Objective**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**Number of people trained**
Inter-American standards related to women's right to a life free of violence	Four trainings on the inter-American standards related to women's right to a life free of violence. Three of the trained groups were made up of people working at different public institutions, including the Council of the Judicature, prosecutors, defenders and public defenders, police officers, members of staff of the Ministry of Women, Ministry of Foreign Relations and the Office of the Ombudsman. A fourth group was made up of people from different civil society organizations.	State and CSO	Ecuador	In person	June 24-26	88

c. Rapporteurship on Human Mobility

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON HUMAN MOBILITY PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES							
Name of activity	**Organized by**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**No. of persons**	**Objective**
Webinar: The work of human right defenders and civil organizations in the context of human mobility in Central America and Mexico	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Mixed	Online	Online	January 31	121	Promoting the adoption of international standards on human rights to migration policies, based on the recommendations and observations from international human rights mechanisms. Presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.
Intersection of Climate Justice and International Law related to Migration	OIM	Mixed	Panama	Online	March 12	No data available	Dissemination of standards on climate justice in the context of human mobility. Presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.
42nd Online Course on International Refugee Law	International Institute of Humanitarian Law	Mixed	Regional	Online	April 28	39	Disseminating standards on human mobility. Presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.
RCM: Forum on access to justice for the protection of human rights of people in a situation of human mobility in the region.	Regional Conference on Migration	Mixed	Regional	Online	May 6	82	Space for joint reflection on the challenges and opportunities in ensuring effective access to justice for migrants, especially in the context of transit and disappearances. Coordinated by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.
Course "Human Mobility and Human Rights"	Council of National Human Rights Institutions of Central America and Dominican Republic	NHRIs	Central America	Online	May 15	150	Disseminating inter-American standards on human mobility, to help improve the services aimed at caring for and defending the dignity of people in a situation of human mobility.
Ordinary Meeting of the Regional	Regional Interagency Coordination	Mixed	Regional	Online	May 19	50	Presenting the observations of the visit to Panama, as

Protection Sector R4V/REDLAC	Platform for Refugees and Migrants (R4V)						well as the situation of forced returns from the Inter-American Human Rights System perspective. Presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.
Third Meeting of the Dialogue Network of the IACHR against Human Trafficking	IACHR	Mixed, CSO	Regional	Online	May 21	26	Discussing the challenges faced by civil society organizations fighting against human trafficking; as well as inviting the members of the Network to cooperate and exchange information with General Prosecutors of the member States. Presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak and her team.
Parallel event on the 59th session of the Human Rights Council: From South to North and from North to South: The increased dehumanization and criminalization of human mobility in the Americas region	American Friends Service Committee – AFSC Center for Legal and Social Studies – CELS Center for Justice and International Law- – CEJIL Franciscans International – FI Franciscan Network for Migrants of the Americas – RFM Franciscan Network for Migrants Colombia – RFM-Colombia Jesuit Network with Migrants of Latin America and the Caribbean – RJM-LAC	Mixed	Geneva, Switzerland	In person	June 23	No data available	Disseminating the situation of the Darién Gap and reflecting on the dehumanization and criminalization of human mobility in the Americas region. Presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.

Round table: Unlocking rights: Due process and human rights of refugees deprived of liberty.	Geneva Human Rights Platform	Mixed	Geneva, Switzerland	In person	June 23	No data available	Disseminating standards and solution pathways to guarantee the rights of detained refugees. Presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.
Parallel event on the 59th session of the Human Rights Council: Rule of law, human rights and protection of refugees	Platform of Independent Experts on Refugee Rights (PIERR), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Mixed	Geneva, Switzerland	In person	June 24	No data available	Disseminating inter-American standards addressing the challenges that States face on this matter, including the limitation on the independence of justice operators in terms of access to asylum. Presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.
Regional meeting on migration in the Americas: from reflection to advocacy in cruel and uncertain times	Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS)	Regional	Mexico City, Mexico	Blended	July 01-02	24	Disseminating information on the role played by the IACHR in protecting and guaranteeing rights in the face of current human mobility challenges. Virtual presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.
Second edition of the International Academy on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling	Project Turquesa, funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by UNDOC and INTERPOL.	Regional	City of Colon, Costa Rica	In person	July 28	35	Promoting the work of the Commission in terms of human trafficking and migrant smuggling
VII Summit on human mobility and human trafficking	National Human Rights Institution	NHRIs	Bogotá, Colombia	In person	August 27-29	307	Strengthening the promotion, protection and effective guarantee of human rights of persons in a situation of human mobility and human trafficking, through the analysis of current challenges, the strengthening of the role of Ombudsman Offices and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).

							Presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.
Routes of encounter: Weaving narratives for migration with dignity	Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Colombia	Mixed, regional	Bogotá, Colombia	In person	August 29	No data available	Presenting the IACHR's concerns for the setbacks in the protection of the rights of migrants, especially in terms as related to deportation and expulsion practices that violate access to justice and due process. Presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.
XVI Human Rights Forum of the SUJ 2025 "Lights and shadows of human rights of migrants in the context of the new government"	Ibero-American University Tijuana	Mixed	Tijuana, Mexico	In person	October 6-7	174	Disseminating inter-American standards on human mobility. Presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.
Sixth edition of the Inter-American Course on Migration and Protection	Section on Migration and Forced Displacement of OAS's Department of Access to Rights	Mixed	Regional	Blended	October 9	231	Disseminating inter-American standards on the protection of displaced persons due to disasters and the impacts of climate change in the region, as well as the actions necessary to strengthen States' responses to these situations.
Legal implications of recent trends in the externalization of migration governance	Cornell Law School, Franciscans International, Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS), Center for Constitutional Rights, Global Strategic Litigation Council, Cornell Migration and Human Rights Program, Jesuit Network with Migrants of	Mixed	Regional	Blended	October 22	No data available	Disseminating inter-American standards on primary and secondary international legal obligations of the States in terms of externalization practices.

	Latin America and the Caribbean (RJM LAC), Movement Law Lab, Global Network of Movement Lawyers, International Institute for Social Responsibility and Human Rights (IIRESODH), Center for Gender & Refugee Studies (CGRS), Boston University International Human Rights Clinic						
Launch of the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants Externalization of Migration Governance and the Impact on the Human Rights of Migrants (A/80/302)	United Nations Special Procedures	International organizations	New York	Blended	October 23	No data available	The objective is to present and disseminate the report among States, UN actors and members of civil society organizations. Virtual presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.
Fourth Meeting of the Dialogue Network of the IACHR against Human Trafficking	IACHR	Mixed, CSO	Regional	Online	November 06	18	Knowing the experiences/good practices of members of civil society organizations related to victim protection during prosecution of human traffickers.
Discussion on the situation of forced mobility due to environmental causes and human rights in Latin America	University of Buenos Aires	Mixed	Regional	In person	November 28	No data available	The objective is to present and disseminate Resolution 2/24 on Human mobility induced by climate change 2/24. Presentation by Rapporteur Andrea Pochak.

Dialogue on human mobility induced by climate change: perspectives and responses from the inter-American system	International Institute of Humanitarian Law, Cornell School of Law and IACHR	Mixed	Regional	Online	December 3	45	Promoting inter-American dialogue on human mobility induced by climate change, based on the dissemination and analysis of Resolution No. 02/24 of the IACHR and Consultive Opinion No. 32/25 of the I/A Court HR. Participation of Commissioner De Mees.

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON HUMAN MOBILITY TRAINING ACTIVITIES						
Name of activity	**Objective**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**Number of people trained**
Training for judiciary servers on International Protection and Human Rights in migratory contexts	Strengthening the capacities of judiciary servers of Cauca Valley and Cauca regions on knowing and applying international protection and human right standards in migratory contexts, to guarantee judicial decisions that respect the principles of human dignity, non-discrimination and access to justice of migrants.	State	Colombia	Online	August 5-14	23
19th Online Course on International Migration Law	The course presents the key aspects of the migration phenomenon from different angles, including the obligations and concerns of States and the rights and responsibilities of migrants.	State and CSO	Regional	Online	September 10	39
Workshop on Displacement in Disaster Contexts in Central America and Mexico	The workshop presents the available tools in the Inter-American Human Rights System related to mobility caused by adverse effects of climate change, disasters and environmental degradation.	CSO	Regional	Online	September 29	No data available
Inter-American Course on Migration and Protection – 6th Edition	The main objective of the course was to contribute to strengthen the response of the States in the context of the current	State and CSO	Regional	Online	October 9	231

	challenges related to the protection of internally displaced persons, migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons, survivors of human trafficking and returnees in need of protection in the Americas.					
Theoretical-practical course on International Protection and solutions in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean: The role of refugee-led organizations (RLO) for an effective advocacy	Training on the IACHR's mechanisms, mainly those of the Rapporteurship on Human Mobility, to promote a strategic use of these mechanisms by refugee and migrant-led organizations.	CSO	Regional	Online	November 10	36

d. Rapporteurship on the Rights of the Child

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD PROMOTION ACTIVITIES							
Name of activity	**Organized by**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**No. of persons**	**Objective**
Regional meeting at the ministry level of the Pathfinding Global Alliance on Ending Violence against Children	Office of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children	Mixed	City of Mexico, Mexico	Online	July 11	53	High level dialogue between pioneer States of the Global Alliance to discuss the actions needed to eliminate violence against children. The IACHR had a special participation in the panel that addressed regional collaboration.
Round table: International Parameters for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents in Brazil	State Board for the Rights of the Child and Adolescent in Santa Catarina	State	Florianopolis, Brazil	Blended	November 11	20	Discussing international standards for the protection of the rights of children and adolescents with different actors of the state board.

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD TRAINING ACTIVITIES						
Name of activity	**Objective**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**Number of people trained**
Course: Inter-American standards on the rights of children and adolescents	Training on inter-American standards on the rights of children and adolescents targeted at justice operators.	State	Brasilia, BR	In person	August 6-8	60
Inter-American Standards on the Criminal Justice System for the Superior School of the Public Ministry of the Union, Brazil	Sharing inter-American standards on the rights of children and adolescents with justice operators. Commissioner Pochak participated	State	Brasilia, BR	In person	August 12-15	66
Training on Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents in the Municipal Environment 2025	Training on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents in the municipal environment, strengthening the capacities of local governments and protection systems to operate public policies focused on human rights, gender perspective and inter-cultural aspects, in agreement with international, national and state standards.	CSO	Mexico	Online	September 18	15
Seminar on Public Defense in Juvenile Criminal Justice for the Ministry of Public Defense of the Province of Santa Fe (Argentina)	Training professionals who defend adolescents in conflict with criminal law.	State	Argentina	Online	October 16	48

e. Rapporteurship on Human Rights Defenders and Justice Operators

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND JUSTICE OPERATORS PROMOTION ACTIVITIES							
Name of activity	**Organized by**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**No. of persons**	**Objective**
Second anniversary of the disappearance of Ricardo Lagunes in Mexico	Inter-Agency Working Group to reduce violence against environmental defenders (IAWG) (US government) and Global Rights	CSO	Washington, DC	In person	January 15	No data available	Disseminating inter-American standards

Independence of the judiciary and prosecutors' safety	Argentine Association of Prosecutors	State	Argentina	Online	April 3	No data available	Disseminating minimum standards to ensure the independent operation of prosecutors' offices
Workshop on the protection of human rights for human right defenders	OHCHR	Mixed	Geneva, Switzerland	Online	May 28	No data available	Disseminating inter-American standards on criminalization of human right defenders in the region.
Human right defenders in the United States	Northeastern University	Academia	NYC	In person	June 2	No data available	Presenting inter-American standards on the situation of human right defenders in the United States and the region. Participation of Commissioner Clarke.
12th Inter-Mechanisms Meeting on Human Right Defenders	World Organization Against Torture	Mixed	Brussels, Belgium	In person	November 24-25	No data available	Discussing the criminalization of human right defenders.

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND JUSTICE OPERATORS TRAINING ACTIVITIES						
Name of activity	**Objective**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**Number of people trained**
Regional workshop on specialized investigation methodologies of crimes against human rights defenders in Latin America	Strengthening prosecutors' knowledge in the context of the investigation of crimes against human rights defenders and offering technical tools focused on human rights that allow to apply international standards on human rights in the investigation of this type of crimes.	State	Bogotá, Colombia	In person	October 23-24	23

f. Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty and to Prevent and Combat Torture

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY AND TO PREVENT AND COMBAT TORTURE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES							
Name of activity	**Organized by**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**No. of persons**	**Objective**
Policy on drugs and women: imprisonment, protection and access to rights	National Secretariat for Drug Policies and Asset Management of the Ministry of Justice and Public	Mixed	Brasilia, Brazil	In person	March 18	50	Disseminating the main findings, standards and recommendations of the Report on Women Deprived of Liberty in the Americas

	Security of Brazil						
Technical meeting within the framework of the project "Drug couriers" of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD, for the Spanish acronym)	CICAD/OAS	Mixed	Washington, D.C. U.S.A.	In person	April 28	19	Disseminating experience based on interviews with persons deprived of liberty and prison authorities and staff using a human rights approach.
Focal point meeting within the framework of the project "Drug couriers and human rights" of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD, for the Spanish acronym)	CICAD/OAS	Mixed	Washington, D.C. U.S.A.	In person	April 30-May 1	30	Disseminating inter-American standards on public policies with a focus on human rights, as well as alternative measures and social reintegration.
Regional seminar "Prevention and eradication of torture in Latin America: Dialogues between International Oversight and Preventive Action"	National Committee for the Prevention of Torture of Argentina, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the Human Rights Center of the School of Law, University of Buenos Aires	Mixed	Buenos Aires, Argentina	In person	October 1	30	Exchanging ideas on the common challenges and opportunities in prison management, as related to the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Presentation of IACHR's Resolution 1/25, by Commissioner Pochak.
Ordinary session of the Committee of Juridical and Political Affairs of the Permanent Council of the OAS Presentation of the IACHR report on "Women Deprived of Liberty in the Americas"	Committee of Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council of the OAS	States	Washington, DC	Blended	October 30	30	Disseminating the report on Women Deprived of Liberty in the Americas to serve as guidance for the humanization of criminal policies. Presentation by IACHR's president José Luis Caballero Ochoa.

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY AND TO PREVENT AND COMBAT TORTURE TRAINING ACTIVITIES						
Name of activity	**Objective**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**Number of people trained**
Course on international standards for the care of persons deprived of liberty, with a focus on the prevention of torture and the application of differential and intersectional approaches	Increasing the knowledge of international standards related to the care and the protection of persons deprived of liberty, reflecting on the scope of the obligation of the states related to the fundamental guarantees of the persons under the custody of the state	State	Costa Rica	Online	July 31	25

g. Rapporteurship on the Rights of Afro-Descendants and against Racial Discrimination

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF AFRO-DESCENDANTS AND AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TRAINING ACTIVITIES						
Name of activity	**Objective**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**Number of people trained**
Training for Colombian Mayors - AMUNAFRO	Training on the inter-American standards on human rights of Afro-descendants.	State	Colombia	In person	May 23	35
Training camp on Incidence of the Network of Afro-Caribbean, Diaspora, and Afrolatin Women (RMAAD, by its Spanish acronym) - Promoted by Race & Equality	Training on the Inter-American System and its mechanisms.	CSO	Regional	Online	October 8	25

h. Rapporteurship on the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Persons

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS AND INTERSEX PERSONS PROMOTION ACTIVITIES							
Name of activity	**Organized by**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**No. of persons**	**Objective**
The transformational role of freedom of expression in the promotion of the rights of	Core Group LGBTI+ OAS	Mixed	Washington, DC	In person	June 5	No data available	Highlighting the transformational role of freedom of expression in the promotion of the rights of 2SLGBTQI+ people

2SLGBTQI+ people							
National meeting for the promotion of political-electoral rights of the LGBTTTIQ+ population	Electoral Tribunal of Mexico's Federal Judiciary (TEPJF, by its Spanish acronym) and the General Directorate of Equal Rights and Gender Parity	Mixed	Mexico	Online	June 27	50	Contributing to a culture of equality, inclusion and acknowledgment of the human rights of LGBTIQ+ people to participate in democratic decision-making processes through holding positions elected by the people that strengthen electoral justice. The meeting had the participation of Commissioner Bulkan.
Conference on the rights of LGBTI people "State Conference on LGBT+ Rights of Mato Grosso do Sul"	Civil Society Organization	CSO	Brazil	In person	August 22	No data available	Promoting inter-American standards on the protection of the human rights of LGBTI persons.
Equality Unbound: Activism, Rights and Constitutional Dialogue	Eastern Caribbean Alliance	Civil Society Organization	Trinidad and Tobago	In person	October 22	20	The convening sought to engage participants through a review of the process and steps beyond litigating, challenging and repealing sodomy/buggery, gross indecency and similar laws that criminalize adult same sex consenting relationships.
III Congress of Corpora en Libertad Network on the rights of LGBTI people deprived of liberty in Latin America.	Corpora en Libertad Network, Lamda, Comcavis trans	Mixed	Guatemala	In person	December 2-3	50	Gathering activists and human rights defenders, representatives of LGBTIQ+ organizations and allies from all over Latin America and the Caribbean, with the purpose of exchanging experiences and building collective strategies to promote equality and social justice for LGBTI people deprived of liberty.

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS AND INTERSEX PERSONS TRAINING ACTIVITIES						
Name of activity	**Objective**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**Number of people trained**
Training on the Inter-American Human Rights System (IAHRS) and the role of the IACHR. Session I	Strengthening the capacities of LGBTIQ+ defenders in the effective use of the IAHRS mechanism in their work for the defense of human rights.	CSO	Regional	Online	May 9	13
"The faces of equity. The rights of LGBTIQ+ persons in Central America" - "Academic visit of the Commissions' Rapporteurship on the Rights of LGBTI people"	Contributing to the improvement of access to human rights for LGTBIQ+ people in Honduras, by strengthening the capacities to develop actions for strategic litigation.	CSO	Honduras	In person	May 14-15	24
Training on the Inter-American Human Rights System (IAHRS) and the role of the IACHR. Session II	Strengthening the participants' knowledge on the IAHRS and the operation of the IACHR.	CSO	Regional	Online	May 29	8
Training on the acknowledgment of the rights of LGBTI people in the inter-American system	Strengthening the participants' knowledge of the IAHRS standards for the protection of the rights of LGBTI people, for State agents	State	São Paulo	In person	August 20	No data available
Standards for the protection and access to justice for LGBTI+ people, with sponsorship funds from the French cooperation	Six trainings on the inter-American standards on the rights of LGBTI+ people, with special emphasis on the prevention of violence and guarantee of access to justice. Each session included three days of training addressed to civil society organizations and two days for state officers. These days had the participation of	State and CSO	São Paulo and Brasilia (Brazil), Medellin and Bogotá (Colombia), Federal District (Mexico)	In person	August, October and November (respectively)	209

	representatives from a wide variety of institutions, including ministries, prosecutors' offices, public defender's offices, police forces, ministries of foreign affairs, judicial organs and national human rights mechanisms.					
III Congress of Corpora en Libertad Network on the rights of LGBTI people deprived of liberty.	Strengthening the capacities for the use of the IAHRS' mechanisms.	CSO	Guatemala	In person	December 3	20

i. Rapporteurship on Memory, Truth and Justice

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON MEMORY, TRUTH AND JUSTICE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES							
Name of activity	**Organized by**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**No. of persons**	**Objective**
First World Congress on Enforced Disappearances	UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances, UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Mixed	Geneva, Switzerland	Online	January 15	No data available	Presenting the IAHRS' contributions to the protection of all people against enforced disappearance, as well as the future outlook in terms of enforced disappearance.
Situation of Human Rights in Guatemala, including transitional justice	European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights	States	Brussels, Belgica	Hybrid	March 19	No data available	Disseminating the Commission's history of actions on Guatemala and country-specific recommendations. Commissioner Caballero Ochoa, IACHR's president,

							participated in the activity.
National Congress on Enforced Disappearance of Persons	Federal Judiciary Council of Mexico: General Directorate of Human Rights, Gender Equality and International Affairs	Mixed	City of Mexico, Mexico	Blended	March 24-25	No data available	Disseminating international and regional standards on enforced disappearance and their implementation within the national legal framework
Internationally adopted good practices with a gender perspective to prevent enforced disappearances and impunity.	General Directorate of Human Rights, Gender Equality and International Affairs of the Federal Judiciary Council of Mexico	State	City of Mexico	Hybrid	March 25	No data available	Disseminating inter-American standards on the prevention of enforced disappearances with a gender perspective
Obligation of the States regarding the denial of serious human rights violations	Memoria Abierta and the Office for Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay of the Heinrich Böll Foundation	Mixed	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Blended	May 16	15	Disseminating the IASHR's legal framework on memory and recent actions of the Commission regarding denialism
Search for disappeared detained people as a state policy	Regional Office for South America of the OHCHR	Mixed	South Cone	Online	August 27	No data available	Giving visibility to the progress made by the search plans in the region
First International Forum on Truth Commissions and Post-conflict Societies	Government of Navarra, Spain	Mixed	Pamplona, Spain	Blended	November 10	No data available	Reflecting and exchanging experiences and good practices on the role of Truth Commissions in the construction of peace, the strengthening of democracy and the reparation of social tissue in post-

							conflict contexts

j. Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PROMOTION ACTIVITIES							
Name of activity	**Organized by**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**No. of persons**	**Objective**
Diploma Program on Human Rights of Austral University	Austral University	Academia	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Online	November 4	No data available	Promoting the first regional report on "The Situation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Americas" (available in Spanish)

k. Rapporteurship on the Rights of Older People

RAPPORTEURSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PEOPLE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES							
Name of activity	**Organized by**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**No. of persons**	**Objective**
CDN – Rights of Older People	IACHR	CSO	Caribbean	Online	April 29	19	Disseminating the IASHR's standards Commissioner De Mees participated in the activity.
Rights of Older People, for Ombudsman Offices	IACHR	NHRIs	Caribbean	Online	September 11	18	Disseminating the standards and mechanisms of the Convention on the Rights of Older People

2. Special mechanisms

a. MESEG – Follow-up mechanism on the implementation of GIEI-Bolivia recommendations

MESEG – FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GIEI-BOLIVIA RECOMMENDATIONS TRAINING ACTIVITIES						
Name of activity	**Objective**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**Number of people trained**
Training on the Reparation Plan, addressed to Executive Power officers	Increasing the capacities for the implementation of Reparation Plans developed by the GIEI Report, including provisions related to the compliance with human right standards.	State	La Paz, BO	In person	February 10	23
Training on the follow-up of Reparations,	Increasing the capacities of officials of the Office of the	State	La Paz, BO	In person	February 11	22

addressed to officials of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture	Ombudsman and the Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture regarding the follow-up of Reparations, based on Reparation Plans presented in the GIEI Report, and the competence of the Commission in terms of reparations.					
Training on Investigation Plans of serious human right violations, addressed to officers of the Judicial Power, prosecutors' offices and public defenders of La Paz and El Alto.	Increasing justice operators' capacities regarding the Investigation Plans acknowledged in the GIEI Report related to serious human right violations.	State	La Paz, BO	In person	February 12	20
Training on Investigation Plans of serious human right violations, addressed to officers of the Judicial Power, prosecutors' offices and public defenders of Cochabamba.	Increasing the capacities regarding the Investigation Plans acknowledged in the GIEI Report for Cochabamba justice operators.	State	Cochabamba, BO	In person	February 13	31
Training on Investigation Plans of serious human right violations, addressed to officers of the Judicial Power, prosecutors' offices and public defenders of Santa Cruz.	Training justice operators on acts of violence in the city of Santa Cruz described in the GIEI Report.	State	Santa Cruz, BO	In person	February 14	15
Training workshops on investigation and human right standards for justice operators in La Paz	Increasing the knowledge of concepts related to investigation, especially the challenges of adapting criminal law to address serious human right violations and the obligation of the State	State	La Paz, BO	In person	April 1	16

	regarding the duty to investigate					
Training workshops on investigation and human right standards for justice operators in Sucre	Increasing the knowledge of concepts related to investigation, especially the challenges of adapting criminal law to address serious human rights violations and the obligation of the State regarding the duty to investigate	State	Sucre, BO	In person	April 2	4
Training workshops on investigation and human right standards for justice operators in Potosi	Increasing the knowledge of the Investigation Plan presented in the GIEI Report and the basic contents of the duty to investigate in connection with human rights violations.	State	Potosi, BO	In person	April 3	32
Workshop on investigation and victim participation in legal processes, addressed to victims in La Paz	Strengthening the role of victim organizations in legal processes concerning serious human rights violations	CSO	La Paz, BO	In person	June 16	5
Workshop on investigation and victim participation in legal processes, addressed to justice operators in La Paz	Strengthening the knowledge of the role of victims in legal processes concerning serious human rights violations	State	La Paz, BO	In person	June 16	16
Workshop on investigation and victim participation in legal processes, addressed to justice operators in Cochabamba	Strengthening the knowledge of the role of victims in legal processes concerning serious human rights violations	State	Cochabamba, BO	In person	June 20	17

b. MESENI - Special follow-up mechanism for Nicaragua

MESENI - SPECIAL FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM FOR NICARAGUA PROMOTION ACTIVITIES							
Name of activity	**Organized by**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**No. of persons**	**Objective**
Message for the Human Rights Collective Nicaragua Never Again (*Colectivo de Derechos Humanos. Nicaragua Nunca Más*), on their sixth anniversary	Human Rights Collective Nicaragua Never Again (*Colectivo de Derechos Humanos. Nicaragua Nunca Más*)	CSO	Costa Rica	Online	April 25	27	Acknowledging the work of civil society organizations in the defense and protection of human rights
Nicaragua: between jail, exile and transnational repression in the context of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly	Collective 46/2	CSO, States	New York	Hybrid	October 30	226	Presenting the IACHR's follow-up on the human rights crisis in Nicaragua

c. MESEVE - Special Follow-Up Mechanism for Venezuela

MESEVE - SPECIAL FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM FOR Venezuela PROMOTION ACTIVITIES							
Name of activity	**Organized by**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**No. of persons**	**Objective**
Presentation of the report on the Situation of Human Rights in Venezuela	Permanent Council / OAS	Mixed	Washington, D.C..	Online	January 24	No data available	Disseminating the main findings of the report "Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections". Commissioner De Mees, Rapporteur for Venezuela, was in charge of the presentation.
Presentation of the report "Venezuela: Serious	IACHR/UNHCR/OIM	Civil Society Organization	Bogotá, Colombia	Online	January 28	54	Disseminating the main findings of the report

human rights violations in connection with the elections" before the R4V platform (UNHCR-OIM)							"Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections"
Presentation of the report "Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections" before Venezuelan journalists in exile	IACHR/FLIP	Mixed	Bogotá, Colombia	In person	March 11	13	Disseminating the main findings of the report "Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections"
Presentation of the report on the Situation of Human Rights in Venezuela	Permanent Council / OAS	Mixed	Washington, D.C..	Hybrid	March 15	No data available	Disseminating the main findings of the report "Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections". Commissioner De Mees participated in the activity.
Venezuela: Intervention in the interactive dialogue of the United Nations Human Rights Council	UN Human Rights Council	Mixed	Geneva, Switzerland	In person	March 18	No data available	Disseminating the main findings of the report "Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections"
Presentation of the report "Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections"	IACHR	Academia	Miami, U.S.A.	In person	April 21	18	Presentation of the report "Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections" at Miami University

Presentation of the report "Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections"	IACHR and Florida International University	CSO	Miami, U.S.A.	In person	April 22	No data available	Giving visibility to the human rights situation in Venezuela in connection with the elections and presenting the Commission's monitoring activities
Balance of the human rights situation in Venezuela, a year after presidential elections of July 27, 2024	Permanent Council of the OAS	States	Washington, DC	Blended	August 6	No data available	Giving visibility to the situation of human rights in Venezuela. Commissioner De Mees participated in the activity.
Presentation of a balance of the Situation of Human Rights in Venezuela	Permanent Council of the OAS	States	Washington, DC	Blended	October 9	No data available	Giving visibility to the situation of human rights in Venezuela. Commissioner De Mees was in charge of the presentation.

3. Follow-up on recommendations and SIMORE

168. During 2025, the Follow-up on Recommendations and Impact Section (SRI) carried out a series of promotion and training activities whose purpose was to share and publicize the features of the inter-American SIMORE. Those activities were intended to encourage member states, civil society organizations and autonomous entities to create accounts and publish information on the follow-up of recommendations on the SIMORE platform. Chapter I of this annual report contains more information on the activities undertaken in the context of the inter-American SIMORE, as well as additional activities involving joint roundtables with civil society organizations to optimize follow-up of recommendations.

169. The following is a list of the main training and promotion activities conducted to disseminate and publicize the SIMORE online tool. Some additional activities related to follow-up of recommendations are also listed.

170. During 2025, based on the training strategy for the use of SIMORE, the Commission continued to conduct training sessions for potential users from OAS member states, the civil society, autonomous organizations and academic institutions.

FOLLOW-UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS AND SIMORE TRAINING ACTIVITIES						
Name of activity	**Objective**	**Audience**	**Location**	**Format**	**Date**	**Number of people trained**
Implementation of recommendations with a gender perspective to officials of the State of Guatemala	Training officials of the State of Guatemala on gender-related standards and follow-up of recommendations with a gender perspective.	State	City of Guatemala, Guatemala	In person	May 5-6	20
Training on the use of SIMORE for the Caribbean Dialogue Network	Strengthening the capacities for the use of the inter-American SIMORE	CSO	Caribbean	Online	September 16	22
Training on the use of SIMORE for the Federal Public Ministry	Strengthening the capacities for the use of the inter-American SIMORE	State		Online	October 9	15
Challenges for monitoring and implementation of international human rights obligations for the Brazilian State - Global and Inter-American Systems	Improving the follow-up and implementation of international human rights obligations by the Brazilian State, with a focus on overcoming the lack of knowledge and structural deficiencies that hinder internal processes.	State	Superior School of the Public Ministry of the Union	Blended	October 14-17	150

IV.a

Situation of Human Rights in the Region

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CHAPTER IV.A

SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE REGION

OVERVIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION BY COUNTRY[1]

METHODOLOGY

1. In accordance with Article 59.2.e.i, the Commission includes in Chapter IV.A of its 2025 Annual Report an overview of the human rights situation in the States of the region. The review focused on the situation of particularly vulnerable groups and the issues prioritized by the IACHR through its Thematic Rapporteurships,[2] as well as on the cross-cutting themes established by the Commission in its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.[3]

2. In preparing this section, the IACHR took into account the information received regarding the human rights situation in the region during 2025, in the exercise of its monitoring function. The IACHR used input from the different mechanisms through which the IACHR has followed up on the situation in the country, such as public hearings, thematic visits, requests for information under Article 41 of the American Convention and Article 18 of the IACHR Statute, and precautionary measures; as well as information from civil society organizations, journalistic notes, decisions and recommendations from specialized international bodies, among others.

3. In addition, and in accordance with the powers established in Article 41 of the American Convention and Article 18 of the Statute of the IACHR, in August 2025, the Commission requested information from the Member States on the rights, themes and cross-cutting issues prioritized in the Strategic Plan mentioned above. The IACHR received responses from the following Member States before the close of this report: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The IACHR is grateful for and appreciates the information sent, which has been included in this chapter.

4. The Commission is grateful for the information provided by institutions and civil society organizations throughout the year through the different monitoring mechanisms, which was included in this section.

5. Below, as an introduction, we present the most significant regional trends identified during the preparatory work for the country-specific human rights overview.

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[1] Chapter not approved by Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido, with a partial reasoned vote. The partial reasoned vote is found at the end of this chapter.

[2] The IACHR has the following 11 thematic rapporteurships: Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women; Rapporteurship on Human Mobility; Rapporteurship on the Rights of the Child; Rapporteurship on Human Rights Defenders; Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty; Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination; Rapporteurship on the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Persons; Rapporteurship on Memory, Truth and Justice; Rapporteurship on Older Persons; Rapporteurship on Persons with Disabilities. There are also two Special Rapporteurships: Special Rapporteurship on Freedom of Expression; and Special Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights.

[3] The IACHR's Strategic Plan 2023–2027 includes the following cross-cutting themes: democratic institutionality; human rights institutionality; gender, intercultural and intersectionality approach; security and violence; access to justice and judicial independence; development and human rights; human rights in the digital environment; promotion of the ratification of inter-American human rights instruments.

TRENDS

6. During 2025, the IACHR observed the persistence of tensions in democratic systems and in the levels of public trust in institutions, in a context characterized by high political polarization, as well as concerns about the progressive deterioration of the checks and balances inherent in the principle of separation of powers and the democratic rule of law. Among the main manifestations are pressure on the system of administration of justice, through acts of harassment, removal and arbitrary transfer of judicial officials, affecting judicial independence. In addition, the Commission identified in some countries processes of concentration of power in other organs of the State, the dissolution of autonomous bodies, and the weakening of human rights institutions.

7. On the other hand, the IACHR warned about the restrictions on civic space derived from the approval and, in some cases, the arbitrary application of regulatory frameworks that limit the registration, operation, and financing of civil society organizations; the increase of control and surveillance mechanisms; as well as the arbitrary use of criminal law and administrative sanctions aimed at deterring civic participation. These measures have generated chilling effects, including the reduction or suspension of activities and, in extreme cases, the exile of defenders. The Commission also observed that these restrictions have had an impact on participation in public and international advocacy spaces, generating a broader deterrent effect on the exercise of fundamental freedoms and democratic debate.

8. The defense of human rights continued to be a high risk activity in the region. Human rights defenders were constantly killed, attacked and threatened. Likewise, criminalization, through the improper use of criminal law, continued to be used as a tool to intimidate, stigmatize and obstruct the work of defense of human rights. These practices were part of contexts of public stigmatization and delegitimizing discourses that increased risks and contributed to a hostile environment for the exercise of human rights defense.

9. In this context, the Commission noted the progress of denialist discourses and cultural battles that seek to relativize, reinterpret, or rewrite the serious violations committed in the past, as well as the reduction or cancellation of resources for the preservation of archives or sites of memory and attacks on them, or the dismantling of the institutions dedicated to memory, truth and justice.

10. Another regional trend is the deterioration of citizen security in a context of the expansion of organized crime and serious acts of violence, accompanied by the growing use of "iron fist" discourses and policies. These include high-lethality police operations, harsh penalties, excessive use of pretrial detention, overcrowding and deplorable conditions of detention, as well as militarization and the extensive use of states of emergency. The Commission emphasizes that these approaches are neither effective nor sustainable, as they do not ensure lasting territorial control or dismantle the economic, financial, and corrupt structures that sustain organized crime, and also reproduce cycles of violence, impunity, and institutional weakening.

11. Violence affecting populations in situations of exclusion, in territories with weak institutions or no state presence, is related, among other factors, to the flow and expansion of illegal economies, such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms trafficking and extortion, as well as to disputes for control of these economies between organized criminal groups, whether, they are cartels, maras or gangs. These dynamics have generated systematic practices of forced recruitment of children and adolescents, territorial control and exploitation, as well as different forms of violence and coercion that directly affect the life, integrity and freedom of people. In some cases, these groups have infiltrated state institutions, also reflecting high levels of corruption. The co-optation of state institutions by corruption not only weakens the state's capacities to prevent, investigate and punish human rights violations, but also generates direct impacts on access to and protection of human rights.

12. In addition, agrarian conflict continued to be one of the main factors generating violence and social tension. Disputes related to land tenure, possession or ownership have generated high levels of social conflict, impacting indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in a differentiated way, and affecting, among other rights, collective property and the right to prior consultation. The Commission observes that the lack of effective mechanisms for conflict resolution, as well as deficiencies in constructive dialogue, consultation, and protection, have contributed to the persistence and escalation of these situations.

13. The IACHR also observed with special concern the persistence and worsening of gender-based violence against women, girls, and adolescents, including alarming and increasing levels of femicides in different countries of the region. These facts reflect structural failures in the prevention, protection and response of the State, as well as patterns of impunity, discrimination and social tolerance in the face of gender-based violence. The IACHR reiterates that the eradication of this violence requires a coherent legislative framework and comprehensive policies, with a gender responsive approach, education, enhanced due diligence, and effective access to justice.

14. Finally, the IACHR is concerned about the increase in the adoption of restrictive migration policies and border management that have expanded the grounds for expulsion, detention, and border control. In practice, these measures restrict rights such as access to asylum, due process, and the principle of non-refoulement. In addition, the weakening of judicial controls, the excessive use of force, including lethal force, and arbitrary detentions affect the rule of law. In addition to the above, manifestations of racism and xenophobia persist in the region and their impact on migration policies. In this regard, the Commission observes with concern the discriminatory treatment, as well as the speeches of authorities and political leaders, and content in the media, social networks, and other digital platforms that promote biased, stigmatizing, and exclusionary narratives that affect migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees.

I. ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

- **General considerations**

15. As it relates to **progress**, the Commission highlights efforts by the State to combat youth, domestic and gender-based violence. Additionally, the IACHR takes note of the proposal to expunge criminal records for persons deprived of liberty for certain offences. Moreover, the Commission welcomes actions undertaken by the State to address discrimination against women.

16. As it relates to **challenges**, the IACHR notes with concern that the Office of the Ombudsman remains without a substantive office holder. In addition, the Commission notes that the juvenile curfew remains in effect in the State without any defined end-term. Furthermore, the IACHR is also concerned about disputes over land governance and consultation in Barbuda.

17. The State did not respond to the request for information to draft this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

18. In relation to **human rights institutions**, the State has an 1Office of the Ombudsman, which is a member of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association, the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, and the International Ombudsman Institute.[4] The functions of the Ombudsman include investigating administrative complaints against government departments and statutory bodies. However, the Office's jurisdiction is limited to administrative violations and does not extend to investigation of human rights

[4] Caribbean Ombudsman Association, Members, 2025; Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, Antigua and Barbuda , 2025; International Ombudsman Institute, Members, 2025.

violations.[5] Presently, there has been no substantive Ombudsman since December 2024, as the mandate of the most recent Ombudsman ended. According to public information, the government is searching for a suitable candidate to assume the Office.[6] Moreover, the State has yet to establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

19. Regarding **citizen security**, for the period April 7 to 30, the State implemented a gun amnesty aimed at addressing gun violence and improving public safety. According to public information, seven firearms and seven rounds of ammunition were surrendered during the amnesty.[7] In addition, in July, the State acceded to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Arrest Warrant Treaty, which provides for the cooperation of States in the arrest and surrender of requested persons for the conduct of criminal prosecutions in the jurisdictions of States Parties to the treaty.[8]

20. Moreover, according to public information, for the period January to October, there were approximately 11 homicides in the State.[9] This represents a homicide rate of 11.7 per 100,000 inhabitants as of October 2025.[10] Regarding general crime trends, it was reported that a total of 2,720 offences were recorded between January and October, compared to 3,034 offences in the same period of 2024. This represents a 10.3% decrease.[11]

21. In relation to **access to justice**, the Commission notes that the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda passed an amendment to the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act, allowing magistrates to conduct remand hearings remotely "on any virtual platform or electronic communication facility available to the court". According to the State, this amendment reflects a step towards modernizing the judicial system through the use of digital technology as well as enhance security by removing the need for physical appearances.[12]

22. Concerning the rights of **children**, as reported by the Commission in its 2024 Annual Report, the State introduced a juvenile curfew in October 2024. In this regard, in July 2025, the State announced the maintenance of this curfew for children and adolescents.[13] The Commission notes that this measure remains without a specified end-term.

23. Additionally, the IACHR highlights the efforts by the State to combat violence. In partnership with the United Nations Population Fund and the University of the West Indies, the State organized a Capacity Building Workshop on the Caribbean Model for Behavioral and Cultural Change. This workshop brought together stakeholders to address youth, domestic and gender-based violence and identified strategies to address violence in Antigua and Barbuda, namely legislative review and reform, capital investment, media engagement, among other areas.[14]

24. Regarding **women´s human rights**, particular attention is drawn to the pending trial before the High Court on the constitutionality of the *Offences Against the Person Act*. This 163-year-old law permits abortion only when the mother's life is at risk and imposes penalties of up to ten years in prison for women who undergo abortions and up to two years for those who assist them.[15] Although the Attorney General's Chambers filed a motion to strike out the constitutional challenge, the High Court ruled that, given its

[5] Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, The Ombudsman Act, 1994; Office of the Ombudsman of Antigua and Barbuda, About the Ombudsman, 2025.

[6] Antigua News Room, PM Says Search Ongoing to Fill Ombudsman Vacancy, October 17, 2025.

[7] Antigua News Room, 7 guns surrendered, Police hail national gun amnesty as a success, May 1, 2025.

[8] Antigua and Barbuda Parliament, Antigua and Barbuda CARICOM ARREST WARRANT BILL 2025, July 10, 2025.

[9] Antigua News Room, Crime Down 10%, More Guns Off the Streets, November 6, 2025.

[10] The IACHR calculated the homicide rate based on the State's population of 93,772 according to data from The World Bank. The World Bank, Population total – Antigua and Barbuda, 2024.

[11] Antigua News Room, Crime Down 10%, More Guns Off the Streets, November 6, 2025.

[12] Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Magistrate's Code of Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2025; Antigua Observer, Parliament gives nod to virtual platforms for remand proceedings, March 5, 2025.

[13] Antigua News Room, No Relaxation: Curfew Laws Remain in Place, July 17, 2025.

[14] United Nations, A Step towards Change: The Government of Antigua and Barbuda Leads the Way in Addressing Violence, March 20, 2025.

[15] Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Chapter 300, *The Offences Against the Person Act*, Part IX, articles 56 and 57.

substantial public interest implications, the question of repeal requires further evidence and careful interpretation through a full judicial process in the form of a trial.[16] In February 2025, the Court of Appeal confirmed this ruling;[17] therefore, the constitutional challenge is expected to proceed to trial in the High Court.

25. On the other hand, efforts have been undertaken to address violence and discrimination against women. According to the State, the Directorate of Gender Affairs (DOGA) is currently leading the development of a National Gender and Social Inclusion Policy and recently finalized a Gender Based Violence Action Plan.[18] In addition, in March 2025 a capacity building workshop on the Caribbean Model for Behavioral and Cultural Change was held, aimed at addressing youth violence, domestic violence, and gender-based violence, bringing together key national and regional stakeholders.[19] However, civil society organizations reported a significant increase in domestic violence cases this year, with 99% of the cases involving female victims.[20]

26. Regarding **trafficking in persons**, the Commission observes that in January, the State incorporated the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Committee (TIPPC) and the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Unit (TIPPU) in its budget for calendar year 2025.[21] The TIPPU follows the principle of "prevention is better than cure" and aims at raising public awareness about human trafficking by using conventional media, a development of a website, the presence of social media to engage younger audiences, and by investing in billboards for counter-trafficking messaging. In addition, the IACHR takes note that in July, the State formalized its participation in the CARICOM Arrest Warrant Treaty, a landmark initiative aimed at facilitating swift and efficient cooperation in the surrender of individuals who are wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence in another member state for different types of offences including trafficking in persons.[22]

27. Regarding advances on the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) led Emancipation-191 commemorations, highlighting memory and reparatory justice.[23] The State also announced a Cabinet committee to recommend street renaming to honor Afro-Antillean leaders[24] and promoted cultural activities that strengthened Afro-Caribbean heritage and youth participation.[25]

28. At the same time, the Commission notes with concern disputes over land governance and consultation in Barbuda, which affect Afro-descendant communities' cultural rights and tenure security. Media reported government plans to relocate the Barbuda Dock near sand-mining zones to accommodate luxury real-estate development, amid questions about community consultation.[26] Likewise, broader infrastructure proposals for Louis Hill were likewise criticized for limited engagement with the Barbuda Council.[27]

[16] Antigua News Room, Open Letter to the Prime Minister: Stop the Indifference to Women's Reproductive Rights, January 21, 2025; Antigua News Room, High Court Postpones Abortion Law Challenge as Appeals Court Decision Awaits, February 7, 2025.
[17] Antigua Observer, Court of Appeal upholds High Court's decision in abortion legislation case, February 28, 2025.
[18] Ministry of Justice, Legal Affairs, Public Safety and Labour, in response to article 18 letter "REF: Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective. Regional study", submitted electronically on April 28, 2025, p. 2. On IACHR´s files.
[19] Eastern Caribbean, A Step Towards Change: The Government of Antigua and Barbuda Leads the Way in Addressing Violence, March 20, 2025.
[20] Antigua Observer, Domestic violence cases on the rise in A&B, advocate says, June 30, 2025.
[21] Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Antigua Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2025, January 2025.
[22] Government of Antigua and Barbuda, CARICOM Arrest Warrant Bill 2025, July 7, 2025; Nevis Pages, Antigua and Barbuda Formalizes Accession to CARICOM Arrest Warrant Treaty, July 10, 2025.
[23] Antigua News, Antigua and Barbuda celebrates 191 years of Emancipation in 2025, July 7, 2025; Antigua Observer Newspaper, Emancipation 2025: 191 years of celebration, July 8, 2025.
[24] Antigua News, ABRSC street renaming marks decisive shift from colonial legacy, July 18, 2025; Antigua Observer Newspaper, Press release: ABRSC street renaming marks decisive shift from colonial legacy, July 19, 2025.
[25] Antigua Observer Newspaper, Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission extends gratitude for a spectacular Carnival 2025, August 12, 2025.
[26] Antigua Observer Newspaper, Govt wishes to relocate Barbuda dock with local input, says Chief of Staff, April 11, 2025.
[27] Antigua News Room, Govt unveils infrastructure plans for Barbuda, April 21, 2025.

29. In addition, the IACHR takes note that in August, a teenager was fatally shot by police in Bolans which resulted in protests outside Police Headquarters demanding accountability. According to press reports, the Acting Commissioner of Police pledged a "thorough, transparent, and comprehensive" investigation.[28]

30. Moreover, there were demands from civil society for greater protection of the population's human rights in the face of the challenges of escalating climate disasters, global financial instability, and entrenched inequalities that threaten the lives and livelihoods of Afro-descendant communities.[29] In that sense, the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service issued short-term drought warnings and projected drier-than-normal conditions, signaling risks for water access that may disproportionately affect low-income Afro-descendant communities.[30]

31. Regarding the rights of **LGBTI persons**, on January 25, a human rights advocate, Orden David, who successfully challenged the country's anti-sodomy laws in a 2022, was reported missing. Mr. David was last seen leaving an establishment in the country's capital city, St. John's. As of the end of November, he had not been located despite extensive police searches using drones and K-9 units.[31] Additionally, in June an anti-LGBTQ+ ad campaign was displayed at V.C. Bird International Airport during the OAS General Assembly, which drew criticism for undermining the OAS's commitment to equality and inclusion.[32]

32. Regarding the situation of **persons with disabilities**, civil society has welcomed the decision to drop charges against an elderly man with disabilities, whose controversial arrest had raised public concern about the treatment of persons with disabilities by law enforcement authorities.[33] Nevertheless, recent research has highlighted that the population with disabilities in Antigua and Barbuda continues to face disproportionate levels of poverty and social exclusion, which hinder the full exercise and enjoyment of their human rights, particularly with respect to access to healthcare, where challenges exist with accessing therapies, medications, and specialized medical professionals.[34]

33. As for **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission values the policy announced in 2025 aimed at the release of persons convicted for possession of small amounts of drugs and for health infractions committed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The measure includes the expungement of criminal records and the possibility of reintegration into the labor market through formal employment programs, such as the "HAPPI Programme," in cases where genuine rehabilitation has been demonstrated.[35]

34. In relation to the **death penalty**, the IACHR notes that the State continues to retain the death penalty punishment, even though no executions have been carried out since 1991, no one is currently under this penalty, and nobody has been sentenced to death since 1991.[36]

[28] Antigua News Room, Fatal Police Shooting of Teen Sparks Outrage in Bolans, August 29, 2025; Antigua News Room, Protest Turns Spotlight on Police Power After Teen's Death, September 24, 2025; Antigua News Room, Fatal Police Shooting of Teen Sparks Outrage in Bolans, August 29, 2025; Antigua News Room, Protest Turns Spotlight on Police Power After Teen's Death, September 24, 2025.

[29] Antigua News, IHO supports Caribbean civil society's call at the OAS for bolder action to secure human rights and prosperity, June 27, 2025.

[30] Antigua News, Antigua Records 7th Driest Early Summer; Drought Warning Issued, August 13, 2025; Antiguan Trumpet, Antigua and Barbuda Faces Drought Concerns as Drier-Than-Normal Conditions Expected in October, October 2, 2025.

[31] Antigua News Room. Help Bring Orden David Home: LGBTQ Advocate Reported Missing in Antigua, January 27 2025.

[32] Antigua News Room, Anti-LGBTQ+ Airport Ads Spark Outcry Ahead of OAS Summit, June 24, 2025.

[33] Observer, Disability advocates welcome the dropping of charges against elderly man, March 12, 2025; Antigua news, Disability Rights Advocate Welcomes Decision to Drop Charges Against Elderly Man Following Controversial Arrest, March 13, 2025.

[34] The Borgen Project, Disability and Poverty in Antigua and Barbuda, March 1, 2025.

[35] Antigua Newsroom, Prisoners actively engaged in the HAPPI Project to be pardoned by GG, June 5, 2025.

[36] World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Antigua and Barbuda, May 2023; last visited: September 2025.

II. ARGENTINA

- **General considerations**

35. In 2025, the Argentine Republic (hereinafter, "Argentina") achieved **progress** on the protection of data in the public administration, reduced poverty rates and enhanced strategies against human trafficking. The Commission also noted the prosecution of cases involving violence against LGBTI persons, as well as the steps taken to advance the appointment of the National Ombudsperson and the head of the Office of the Ombudsperson for the Rights of Children and Adolescents.

36. However, the Commission identified significant **challenges** with regard to judicial independence and the sustainability of human rights institutions amid the closure or restructuring of programs focused on gender, diversity, historical memory and indigenous peoples, alongside legal initiatives that could further deteriorate the human rights situation of historically vulnerable groups. The Commission also noted setbacks in social security protections for older adults, persons with disabilities, retirees and pensioners, as well as reports of repression during peaceful protests. Furthermore, legislative reforms and initiatives relating to citizen security and human mobility, among other issues, were introduced, raising concerns about their potential impact on human rights.

37. On October 6, 2025, the State submitted its response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.[37]

- **Specific issues**

38. With regard to **democratic institutionality**, Argentina created the Personal Data Protection Program within the National Public Administration,[38] aimed at enhancing the safe management of information across public institutions. Official data reported a decline in poverty from 53 percent to 38 percent in the first half of the year,[39] while UNICEF underscored a reduction in child monetary poverty, despite the persistence of marked inequalities.[40] The State also moved forward with a new selection process for the National Ombudsperson, following 16 years of vacancy, and the shortlist for the Office of the Ombudsperson for the Rights of Children and Adolescents was approved.

39. Challenges to citizen participation, a core component of democratic life, were reported. In this regard, the Commission issued a press release expressing concern over the violence that took place during the retirees' protest march in Buenos Aires on March 12, 2025. Said march was part of a series of peaceful demonstrations held weekly since 2024 in opposition to the economic austerity measures implemented by the State and their impact on the rights of pensioners.[41] On that date, the State responded to the protest with a security operation that involved the use of tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons. The operation left 20 people injured, including an 87-year-old retiree who suffered a head injury. Additionally, 114 people were detained, including a 12-year-old boy and a 14-year-old teenager, who were later released by the judiciary. Direct attacks against journalists were also documented, including the case of a photojournalist who was

[37] Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the OAS, Report submitted by the Argentine Republic in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, Diplomatic Note No. OEA 171, October 6, 2025.

[38] *Official Gazette* of the Argentine Republic, Agency for Access to Public Information (AAIP) Resolution No. 145/2025, August 4, 2025.

[39] National Statistics and Census Institute (INDEC), *Incidencia de la pobreza y la indigencia en 31 aglomerados urbanos - Primer semestre de 2025 – Condiciones de vida / Vol. 9, N.º 21* (Poverty and Extreme Poverty Rates in 31 Urban Agglomerations – First semester of 2025 – Living conditions, Vol. 9, No. 21), Buenos Aires, September 2025.

[40] UNICEF, "Cae la pobreza monetaria en hogares con niños y niñas, pero persisten marcadas desigualdades" (Monetary poverty among households with children has declined, yet significant inequalities remain), July 10, 2025.

[41] IACHR, Press Release No. 055/25, IACHR expresses concern over violence during the Retirees' Protest March and reminds Argentina of inter-American standards, March 19, 2025.

critically injured by a tear gas canister, as well as several other journalists who were threatened, physically assaulted and prevented from carrying out their professional duties.[42]

40. As for **human rights institutions**, Argentina moved forward with a new process to select the National Ombudsperson, following 16 years of vacancy.[43] Likewise, the Congress approved a shortlist for the appointment of the new Ombudsperson for the Rights of Children and Adolescents.[44]

41. The State undertook actions that resulted in the dismantling or weakening of human rights public policies and institutions at the national level and across provinces and municipalities. Said actions included the restructuring, merger or shutting down of entities that are key to human rights public policy, such as the dissolution of the Secretariat for Territorial Development, Habitat and Housing, and the proposal to merge the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Security.[45] In particular, at least 30 programs and institutions related to gender and diversity, historical memory, assistance to victims of human trafficking and matters concerning children, adolescents and families were closed or restructured.[46] These measures were adopted as part of a broader policy of fiscal tightening, reductions in public spending and State reorganization pursued by the executive branch.[47]

42. In terms of **citizen security**, the Commission noted the renovation of the Federal Police under the new Federal Police statute, which aligns with standards of the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for the investigation of federal and complex crimes. The State described these measures as part of an institutional response to organized and complex crime, underscoring the need for technological modernization and inter-institutional coordination in criminal investigations and the prevention of high-complexity offenses.[48]

43. However, this reform reportedly empowers the Federal Police to engage in cyber patrolling and other digital surveillance activities, and to conduct warrantless arrests,[49] which, according to civil society

[42] Reporters Without Borders, "Argentina: RSF warns of escalating media repression during peaceful protests," May 29, 2025.

[43] Senate of the Argentine Republic, "Bicameral avanzó en la elección del defensor del pueblo y del procurador penitenciario" (Bicameral committee moves forward with the selection process for the National Ombudsperson and the Prison Ombudsperson), October 22, 2025; Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ), "Defensoría del Pueblo: se inicia un nuevo proceso para designar a su titular tras 16 años de vacancia" (Office of the Ombudsperson: new selection process launched to appoint its head following a 16-year vacancy), September 22, 2025.

[44] Senate of the Argentine Republic, "Se conformó la terna de candidatos para ocupar la Defensoría de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes" (Shortlist of candidates approved for the Office of the Ombudsperson for the Rights of Children and Adolescents), September 22, 2025.

[45] *La Nación*, "El Gobierno reestructuró el Ministerio de Economía con eliminaciones y fusiones de dependencias" (Government eliminates and merges departments in Ministry of Economy overhaul), February 11, 2025. See also: *Canal 26*, "Fusión de los ministerios de Justicia y Seguridad: la proyección de Milei después de las elecciones legislativas" (Merging the Ministries of Justice and Security: Milei's post-legislative election plan), October 23, 2025.

[46] *Forbes*, "Gobierno de Argentina elimina programas contra la violencia de género por 'ideológicos'" (Government of Argentina eliminates gender-based violence programs, labeling them "ideological"), May 16, 2025; *Metadata*, "Amnistía Internacional denunció recortes, cierres de programas y mayor represión en la gestión de Milei" (Amnesty International reports budget cuts, program closures and increased repression during Javier Milei's administration), April 29, 2025; *Río Negro*, "Es oficial: restructurarán el Archivo Nacional de la Memoria y el Museo de Sitio ESMA" (It's official: National Memory Archive and the ESMA Site Museum to undergo restructuring), May 22, 2025.

[47] *Ámbito*, "'Reforma fiscal justa': proponen un nuevo marco para recaudar sin ajustar derechos" ("Fair tax reform": proposal outlines new framework to increase revenue without undermining rights), November 10, 2025; *Diario Hoy*, "El ajuste oficial recortó obra pública y programas sociales" (Government austerity measures reduce spending on public works and social programs), November 10, 2025.

[48] Government of Argentina, "Nueva fuerza de elite en investigación criminal" (New elite criminal investigation force), June 17, 2025.

[49] *El Economista*, "Milei lanza reforma policial al estilo FBI: patrullaje en redes y detenciones sin juez" (Milei unveils FBI-style police reform: online surveillance and detentions without judicial authorization), June 17, 2025; *AP News*, "Milei reforma policía federal inspirado en FBI: espionaje digital y detenciones sin orden judicial" (Milei overhauls Federal Police following the FBI model: digital surveillance and detentions without a court order), June 17, 2025.

organizations, could lead to abuse, population control practices and detention conditions incompatible with human dignity.[50]

44. As regards challenges to **access to justice and judicial independence**, President Javier Milei made recess appointments of two justices to the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation by means of Decree No. 137/2025, without prior Senate approval.[51] The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) warned that such practice could undermine the separation of powers and judicial independence, which are core principles of the Rule of Law.[52] The Senate ultimately rejected both nominations, as neither candidate secured approval from the upper chamber.[53]

45. With regard to **memory, truth and justice**, developments in 2025 included the identification of the 139th granddaughter and the 140th grandson, as well as two foreign nationals who had been disappeared since 1976, underscoring the ongoing relevance of public policies in this area.[54] Human remains were also discovered at an army site where a clandestine detention center had operated.[55] According to the Office of the Ombudsperson for Crimes Against Humanity, between 2006 and September 18, 2025, courts issued 353 judgments, resulting in 1,202 convictions and 213 acquittals for crimes against humanity.[56] Of these judgments, 17 percent featured convictions for offenses related to sexual violence against victims of state-sponsored terrorism.[57]

46. Notwithstanding progress in the search for and identification of disappeared persons, the Commission voices its concern over the situation of the National Genetic Data Bank following the enactment of a presidential decree that revoked its institutional autonomy.[58] The Commission noted challenges arising from the weakening or closure of sites devoted to the preservation of memory, alongside the dismissal of specialized staff and budgetary constraints. Reported cases include the closure of the Haroldo Conti Cultural Center, the suspension of funding for the Memory Site at the Former ESMA, the merger of the National Memory Archive and the Memory Site Museum at the Former ESMA, and the transfer of its building to the Office of the Public Prosecutor,[59] as well as the removal of plaques commemorating the Military Juntas trials from the Supreme

[50] Observatory on the Right to the City, *Análisis Integral del Decreto 383/2025 que crea un nuevo Estatuto de la Policía Federal Argentina y su Impacto en nuestros Derechos* (Comprehensive analysis of Decree No. 383/2025 establishing a new statute for the Argentine Federal Police and its impact on our rights), June 21, 2025.

[51] *Reuters*, "Presidente argentino designa en comisión a dos jueces para la Corte Suprema" (Argentine President makes recess appointments to fill two seats on the Supreme Court), February 25, 2025.

[52] OHCHR, "Argentina: UN expert concerned by appointment of Supreme Court judges by presidential decree," March 12, 2025.

[53] *Página 12*, "Corte Suprema: el Senado rechazó los pliegos de Lijo y de García Mansilla" (Supreme Court: Senate rejects the nominations of Lijo and García Mansilla), April 3, 2025.

[54] *El País*, "Identificados después de 49 años los restos de un uruguayo víctima de la dictadura argentina" (Remains of Uruguayan victim of Argentina's dictatorship identified after 49 Years), September 2, 2025; Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, "Identificación por huellas dactilares de Francisco Tenório Cerqueira Júnior" (Francisco Tenório Cerqueira Júnior identified through fingerprint analysis), September 2025.

[55] *Página 12*, "Cómo fue el proceso que condujo al hallazgo de restos en Campo de Mayo" (Inside the process that led to the discovery of human remains at Campo de Mayo), September 3, 2025.

[56] *Ibid.*

[57] Office of the Public Prosecutor, "58 sentencias y 170 personas condenadas: la estadística sobre el abordaje de los delitos de violencia sexual como crímenes de lesa humanidad (58 judgments and 170 convictions: statistics on the prosecution of sexual violence crimes as crimes against humanity), March 10, 2025.

[58] Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, "Pedimos a la justicia la protección del Banco Nacional de Datos Genéticos" (We urge courts to protect the National Genetic Data Bank), June 11, 2025; Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, "Pedimos a la justicia ampliar las medidas de protección del Banco Nacional de Datos Genéticos" (We urge courts to expand protective measures for the National Genetic Data Bank), June 20, 2025; *TeleSUR*, "Argentina: Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo denuncian cambios en el Banco Nacional de Datos Genéticos" (Argentina: Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo denounce changes to the National Genetic Data Bank), August 16, 2025.

[59] *El Diario AR*, "El Gobierno cerró el Centro Cultural Memoria Haroldo Conti y despidió a decenas de trabajadores" (Government closes the Haroldo Conti Cultural Memory Center and lays off dozens of workers), January 4, 2025; *Página 12*, "Mientras despide trabajadores, el gobierno cierra el centro cultural Conti en la exESMA" (Government shuts down the Conti Cultural Center at the Former ESMA Amid Worker Layoffs), January 2, 2025; *Diario Con Vos*, "Más despidos en la ex ESMA: hay protestas en el Archivo Nacional de la Memoria" (Additional layoffs at the former ESMA amid protests at the National Memory Archive), January 5, 2025; *Ámbito*, "El Gobierno ordenó suspender pagos a un ente de derechos humanos por 3.000 millones" (Government orders suspension of 3 billion in funds to a human rights institution), January 13, 2025; *Página 12*, "El Gobierno busca paralizar el funcionamiento de la ex ESMA" (Government aims to shut down operations at the former ESMA), April 10, 2025; *El Estratégico*, "Cae el presupuesto del Museo de la ex-ESMA – Contexto e

Court building,[60] the destruction of military records relevant to clarifying serious human rights violations from that period,[61] and an attack on the memorial site in Salsipuedes.[62]

47. In relation to the rights of **women**, the Commission observed that existing institutions have been weakened. Fourteen federal programs designed to promote gender equality and to prevent, investigate and address gender-based violence were eliminated. These included, among others, the Urgent Support and Immediate Comprehensive Assistance Program for Cases of Extreme Gender-Based Violence (PAU), the program under which menstrual hygiene products were provided and the National Registry of Social Organizations Working on Gender and Diversity Issues.[63] Moreover, state authorities announced their intention to remove femicide as an offense from the Criminal Code[64] and to criminalize alleged "false complaints" in cases of gender-based violence or sexual violence.[65] If implemented, these measures would

implicancias" (Budget cuts at the former ESMA ite Museum: context and implications), March 29, 2025; *Chequeado*, "24 de marzo: en 2024 cayó un 90% el presupuesto de la ESMA y los espacios de la Memoria y para 2025 no hay fondos previstos" (March 24: funding for ESMA and Memory Sites fell by 90 percent in 2024, with no budget allocated for 2025), April 8, 2025; Ministry of Justice of Argentina [@MinJusticia_Ar], (May 21, 2025), Comunicado Oficial: El Ministerio de Justicia informa que la Secretaría de Derechos Humanos pasará a ser una Subsecretaría (Press Release: Ministry of Justice informs that the Secretariat of Human Rights will be reclassified as an undersecretariat) [X Post], X, https://x.com/minjusticia_ar/status/1925210169782288385; *Clarín*, "El Gobierno degradó la Secretaría de Derechos Humanos y anunció que echará al 30% del personal" (Government downgrades Human Rights Secretariat, says it will lay off 30 percent of staff), January 11, 2025; *Clarín*, "El Gobierno oficializó la reestructuración del Archivo Nacional de la Memoria y el Museo de la ESMA" (Government formalizes restructuring of the National Memory Archive and the ESMA Site Museum), May 22, 2025; *La Nueva Mañana Diario*, "El Gobierno de Milei anunció que le cederá a la Justicia Federal el predio del Museo Sitio de Memoria ESMA" (Milei's government says it will hand over ESMA Site Museum to the federal judiciary), January 16, 2025; *Clarín*, "El Gobierno de Milei les entrega a fiscales de Comodoro Py un predio de 5 mil metros cuadrados en la ex ESMA" (Milei's government hands over 5,000-square-meter site at the Former ESMA to Comodoro Py prosecutors), May 28, 2025; *Página 12*, "El Gobierno oficializó la cesión de un edificio de la ex ESMA a los fiscales, que resisten la mudanza" (Government formalizes transfer of a building at the Former ESMA to prosecutors, who oppose the move), June 5, 2025; *Ámbito*, "El Gobierno desplazó a la directora del Museo Sitio de Memoria ESMA y generó el rechazo de los sobrevivientes" (Government removes Director of the ESMA Site Museum, drawing rejection from survivors), June 4, 2025; *La Nación*, "El Gobierno echó a la directora ejecutiva del museo de la ex-Esma, Mayki Gorosito" (Government dismisses Executive Director of the former ESMA Site Museum, Mayki Gorosito), June 4, 2025.

[60] *Página 12*, "Denuncian que en la Corte Suprema quitaron las placas que recuerdan el Juicio a las Juntas Militares" (Reports raise concerns over removal of Military Juntas trial plaques from the Supreme Court), January 5, 2025; *Agencia 5 continentes*, "Quitan las placas que recordaban el Juicio a las Juntas" (Plaques commemorating the Military Juntas trial removed), January 11, 2025.

[61] Asociación de Trabajadores del Estado, "ATE alerta por la destrucción de archivos históricos de la Armada y eleva un pedido de informes a Defensa" (ATE raises alarm over destruction of navy historical archives, submits information request to the Ministry of Defense), January 30, 2025; *CNN en Español*, "Corren riesgo de destrucción documentos de la Armada que pueden servir para investigar crímenes de la dictadura argentina" (Documents held by the Argentine Navy that could be used to investigate dictatorship crimes face risk of destruction), March 24, 2025; *Página 12*, "La maniobra de la Armada para que no se sepa quién ordenó destruir documentación" (Navy maneuver aims to obscure who ordered the destruction of documents), September 9, 2025.

[62] *Diario Tortuga*, "En Salsipuedes vandalizaron la marca de memoria que recuerda el nacimiento de la agrupación H.I.J.O.S." (Commemorative marker honoring the founding of H.I.J.O.S. vandalized in Salsipuedes), January 14, 2025.

[63] The following programs were eliminated: National Coordination Program for Strengthening Social Organizations Working on Gender and Diversity; Generar (Generate) National Program; Program for Strengthening Territorial Comprehensive Protection Mechanisms for Victims of Gender-Based Violence; Igualar (Equality) National Program for Gender Equality in Work, Employment and Production; Producir (Production) Program; Sembrar Igualdad (Sowing Equality) National Program for Strengthening Gender Perspective and Equality in Diversity in Rural Development; Formar Igualdad (Training Equality) Training Program on Gender Perspective and Diversity for the Private Sector; Urgent Support and Immediate Comprehensive Assistance Program for Cases of Extreme Gender-Based Violence; Menstruar (Menstruate) National Program; Popular Schools for Gender and Diversity Training Program; Access to Rights for Transvestite, Transexual and Transgender Persons; Social and Citizen Participation Program on Gender and Diversity; Acercar Derechos (Bringing Rights Closer) Program for Persons Experiencing Gender-Based Violence. *Official Gazette* of the Argentine Republic, Ministry of Justice Resolution No. 292/2025, May 16, 2025; Mariano Cúneo Libarona [@m_cuneolibarona], (May 16, 2025), Eliminamos 13 programas ideológicos creados por el kirchnerismo, que eran financiados por todos los argentinos (We eliminated 13 ideological programs that were created under Kirchnerism and funded by all Argentines) [X post], X, https://x.com/m_cuneolibarona/status/1923360529856311784?lang=es; *Official Gazette* of the Argentine Republic, Ministry of Justice Resolution No. 466/2025, July 16, 2025.

[64] Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI-OAS) [@MESECVI], (January 28, 2025), El Comité de Expertas expresa profunda preocupación por anuncio de altas autoridades del Estado sobre la eliminación del agravante por femicidio (Committee of Experts expresses deep concern over announcement by senior state authorities regarding the elimination of the femicide aggravating circumstance) [X post], X, https://x.com/mesecvi/status/1884254527274275139?s=48&t=YhxMmLJZhyT1fJ2aW9za2Q; Mariano Cúneo Libarona [@m_cuneolibarona], (January 24, 2025), Vamos a eliminar la figura del femicidio del Código Penal Argentino. Porque esta administración defiende la igualdad ante la Ley (We are going to remove the offense of femicide from the Argentine Criminal Code, because this administration defends equality before the law) [X post], X, https://x.com/m_cuneolibarona/status/1882739623022981436?lang=es.

[65] Senate of the Argentine Republic, Bill No. 228/25, June 4, 2025.

represent a serious setback in the protection and guarantee of the right of women to live a life free from violence.

48. Meanwhile, gender-based violence against women remained at alarming levels. The National Office of the Ombudsperson reported 124 femicides between January and June 2025,[66] while civil society organizations recorded 178 femicides and 287 attempted femicides during the same period. Most of these acts were committed by the victims' current or former partners, and 14 were reportedly perpetrated by members of the security forces.[67] Some cases displayed extreme cruelty and were preceded by enforced disappearances, torture and sexual violence.[68] In addition, access to contraceptive methods was severely curtailed following budget cuts to the National Plan for the Prevention of Unintended Pregnancy in Adolescence (ENIA Plan).[69] Access to voluntary and legal termination of pregnancy within the health system also remained restricted due to the lack of information, delays, dissuasive practices, the abusive use of conscientious objections, and understaffing.[70]

49. As for the situation of **persons with disabilities**, the State reported progress in the reform of the Disability Certification Regulations, together with updates to the National Registry of Professionals and the National Registry on the Situation of Persons with Disabilities. Argentina further informed that programs financed through the National Fund for Social Inclusion (FONADIS) had been implemented to support income-generating activities, strengthen institutions employing persons with disabilities and facilitate access to assistive technology. The State also developed accessibility policies, including the production of materials in Braille and sign language, and carried out training initiatives for national and provincial public officials.[71]

50. Nevertheless, numerous demonstrations led by persons with disabilities and their representative organizations were held in response to austerity measures and reforms that negatively impact their rights.[72] In addition to the presidential veto of the Disability Emergency Law,[73] it was reported that the National Disability Agency (ANDIS) had suspended more than 110,500 non-contributory work-disability pensions.[74] In parallel, the Commission noted an investigation involving the Secretary General of the

[66] National Office of the Ombudsperson, *Informe semestral del Observatorio de Femicidios de la Defensoría del Pueblo de la Nación* (Semiannual report of the National Office of the Ombudsperson's Femicide Observatory), June 30, 2025.

[67] Ahora que sí nos ven Observatory, "178 femicidios en lo que va del 2025" (178 femicide cases recorded so far in 2025), September 2025.

[68] *The New York Times*, "Triple asesinato en Argentina: un brutal crimen transmitido en línea conmociona al país" (Triple murder in Argentina: brutal crime streamed online shocks the nation), September 26, 2025; *BBC News*, "Miles de argentinos salen a las calles para exigir justicia en el caso de los brutales asesinatos de 3 mujeres jóvenes" (Thousands of Argentines take to the streets to demand justice in the case of three young women who were brutally murdered), September 28, 2025; *Bio Bio Chile*, "Crecen los femicidios en Argentina, mientras Milei busca quitar su figura legal" (Femicide cases rise in Argentina while Milei moves to remove the legal status of the crime), April 13, 2025; *Infobae*, "Los escalofriantes posteos de Luna Giardina antes de ser asesinada junto a su madre en Córdoba" (Luna Giardina's chilling social media posts before she was murdered alongside her mother in Córdoba), October 12, 2025.

[69] *Chequeado*, "'Las adolescentes deambulan por los servicios de salud': el impacto del desmantelamiento del Plan ENIA para prevenir los embarazos adolescentes" ("Adolescent girls are left Adrift in the health system": the impact of dismantling the ENIA plan to prevent adolescent pregnancy), September 2, 2025; IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A, Argentina, March 26, 2025, para. 50; *El Editor Mendoza*, "A 20 años de la campaña por el aborto legal: en un año en Mendoza se desplomó 74% el acceso a anticonceptivos" (Twenty years after the campaign for legal abortion, contraceptive access in Mendoza drops 74 percent in a year), May 29, 2025.

[70] Amnesty International, "Se triplican en 2025 las denuncias recibidas por Amnistía Internacional sobre barreras para acceder al aborto" (Reports to Amnesty International on barriers to abortion access triple in 2025), September 26, 2025.

[71] Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the OAS, Report submitted by the Argentine Republic in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, Diplomatic Note No. OEA 171, October 6, 2025, pp. 2, 4 and 9.

[72] *Swissinfo*, "Personas con discapacidad protestan en Buenos Aires contra veto de Milei a aumento de ayudas" (Persons with disabilities rally in Buenos Aires against Milei's veto of benefit increase), August 5, 2025.

[73] *El País*, "El veto de Milei amenaza a atención a las personas con discapacidad" (Milei's veto puts disability care at risk), July 25, 2025.

[74] *Consultor Salud*, "Gobierno de Argentina suspende más de 110 pensiones por discapacidad laboral" (Argentine government suspends over 110 work disability pensions), August 11, 2025.

Presidency, who is also the President's sister, concerning alleged bribes in the procurement of medications for persons with disabilities.[75]

51. With regard to the situation of **older persons**, the executive branch terminated the free medication policy for retirees, leaving between 2 million and 3 million people without full medication coverage.[76] The government also froze pension bonuses[77] and vetoed the law that raised pensions and reinstated the retirement contribution regularization scheme.[78] These measures triggered protests by older persons and trade unions, as noted in the section on democratic institutionality above.

52. Regarding the rights of **indigenous peoples**, the State achieved progress on the issuance of identity cards for communities in the provinces of Tucumán,[79] Catamarca[80] and Santa Fe.[81] However, the repeal of Law No. 26,160 (the Territorial Emergency Law) resulted in eviction operations affecting indigenous communities in Chubut, Río Negro, Tucumán, Jujuy, Neuquen, Chaco and San Juan that were seeking recognition of their ancestral land rights. In this context, these communities reported the destruction of homes and arbitrary arrests.[82]

53. Furthermore, the Community Strengthening Program under the National Institute for Indigenous Affairs (INAI), which was designed to fund legal assistance for the defense of indigenous territories, was dismantled.[83] The Limay Kurref, Suyai Leufu and El Sosneado communities were also affected by the revocation of cadastral and legal surveys previously conducted by the State, through which their traditional occupation of lands and territories had been recognized.[84] Members of indigenous communities and land defenders continued to face criminalization; in particular, a member of the Mapuche community of Pillan Mawiza was arrested for allegedly causing fires.[85] In addition, stigmatization of indigenous peoples in official media persisted.[86] It was further reported that the INAI is projected to undergo budget reductions of 15.5 percent in nominal terms and 25 percent in real terms in 2026,[87] and concerns were raised over the lack of

[75] *El País*, "Sobornos con medicamentos: un golpe al centro del poder de Milei" (Medication bribery allegations rock Milei's inner circle), August 26, 2025; *El Universo*, "Investigan a Karina Milei por presuntos sobornos en compra de medicamentos para discapacitados en Argentina" (Investigation targets Karina Milei over alleged bribes in disability medication purchases), August 28, 2025.

[76] *Swissinfo*, "¿Por qué protestan los jubilados argentinos?" (Why are Argentine retirees protesting?), March 19, 2025.

[77] *Clarín*, "De los 7,5 millones de adultos mayores pensionados, el 63,5 % percibe la jubilación mínima y cerca de 5,4 millones cobran por debajo de la canasta básica" (Of the 7.5 million older adults receiving pensions in Argentina, 63.5 percent receive the minimum benefit, and nearly 5.4 million earn less than the basic food basket), August 28, 2025.

[78] *La Nación*, "Javier Milei vetó el aumento a los jubilados, la moratoria previsional y la emergencia en discapacidad" (Javier Milei vetoes pension increase, pension contribution regularization scheme and disability emergency laws), August 4, 2025; and *Swissinfo*, "Milei formaliza por decreto el veto al aumento de las pensiones aprobado por el Congreso" (Milei issues decree formalizing his veto of pension increase approved by congress), August 4, 2025.

[79] Government of Argentina, "Comenzó la entrega de DNI para comunidades de Tucumán" (National ID cards begin reaching communities in tucumán), January 28, 2025.

[80] Government of Argentina, "Se entregaron 349 DNI en las comunidades indígenas de Catamarca" (349 national ID cards delivered to indigenous communities in Catamarca), April 3, 2025.

[81] Government of Argentina, "Se llevó a cabo el Operativo DNI en Santa Fe" (National ID registration campaign held in Santa Fe), April 3, 2025.

[82] International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), *Los pueblos indígenas en la Argentina de la derecha libertaria. Derechos indígenas y reveses estatales* (Indigenous peoples under Argentina's libertarian right: indigenous rights and state rollbacks), August 2025, p. 14.

[83] *Official Gazette* of the Argentine Republic, National Institute for Indigenous Affairs (INAI) Resolution No. 8/2025, January 31, 2025.

[84] IWGIA, *Los pueblos indígenas en la Argentina de la derecha libertaria. Derechos indígenas y reveses estatales* (indigenous peoples under Argentina's libertarian right: indigenous rights and state rollbacks), August 2025, p. 30.

[85] *Agencia de Noticias RedAcción (ANRED)*, "Anuncian una conferencia de prensa del Lof Pillañ Mawiza en CABA para este martes 1 de abril" (Lof Pillañ Mawiza to hold press conference in Buenos Aires on Tuesday, April 1), March 29, 2025.

[86] Casa Rosada [@CasaRosada], (October 12, 2025), Este 12 de octubre, conmemoramos la llegada de Cristóbal Colón a América como símbolo de progreso y civilización para la humanidad (On October 12, we commemorate Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas as a symbol of progress and civilization for humanity) [X post], X, https://x.com/CasaRosada/status/1977358599396675764.

[87] *Perfil*, "Proyectos económicos en territorios indígenas: los motivos de la caída presupuestaria en el INAI" (Economic projects in indigenous lands: what's behind the budget cuts at INAI), October 4, 2025.

prior consultation with indigenous communities in the adoption of Law No. V-202 in Chubut, under which the protocol for free, prior and informed consultation was created.[88]

54. As for the situation of **persons in the context of human mobility**, Argentina amended Emergency Decree No. 366, which in turn modified Migration Law No. 25,871. The reform seeks to regulate the "uncontrolled" entry of migrants to the country, who are portrayed as a threat to national security and as an excessive burden that could lead to the "collapse" of public services.[89] The decree broadens the grounds for expulsion, abolishes certain appeal mechanisms established under the Migration Law and reduces procedural time limits by half, thus restricting access to justice. The decree also expands the grounds for and increases the duration of detention for the purpose of expulsion, which may extend for up to 30 days even without a final judgment in place.[90]

55. Moreover, the executive branch issued Decree No. 646 to regulate the General Law on the Recognition and Protection of Refugees No. 26,165. Said decree approves the creation of "reception centers" where asylum seekers may be required to remain during the processing of their claims, with departures allowed only for return to their country of origin or onward travel to a third country. The decree also authorizes the rejection of applications deemed "clearly meritless," based on "subjective preferences" or "economic convenience," or considered "incoherent, insufficient or implausible," and provides for the automatic withdrawal of an application, without exception, if the applicant leaves the country while the claim is pending.[91]

56. With respect to **human trafficking**, the Ministry of Justice advanced the implementation of the National Program for Comprehensive Reparations for Victims of Human Trafficking, which provides for financial restitution and compensation for victims of trafficking and exploitation.[92] The Commission also notes that preventive action was taken and victim identification operations were carried out in contexts of forced labor aboard vessels.[93] In addition, searches and seizures were conducted in Córdoba, Mendoza and the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area, resulting in the rescue of adolescents subjected to labor exploitation[94] and persons exploited for sexual purposes.[95]

57. In terms of progress regarding the situation of **persons deprived of liberty**, the State delivered training in agricultural production to improve the prospects for social reintegration of those nearing release from prisons across the country.[96] However, challenges emerged in connection with the enactment of legislation expanding the use of custodial measures. In particular, Law No. 27,785 introduced reforms including the incorporation of the "repeat offending" parameter into decisions on whether to apply alternative measures instead of pretrial detention and the implementation of rules regarding the consecutive serving of sentences.[97] Moreover, Law No. 27,786 authorizes the detention of individuals for up to 48 hours in the investigation of offenses related to organized crime, with the possibility of extending it for up to 15 days in highly complex

[88] *Official Gazette* of the Province of Chubut, Law No. V-202, March 19, 2025.
[89] *Official Gazette* of the Argentine Republic, Emergency Decree No. 366/2025, May 29, 2025.
[90] *Ibid.*
[91] *Official Gazette* of the Argentine Republic, Regulatory Decree No. 646/2025, September 11, 2025.
[92] *Official Gazette* of the Argentine Republic, Ministry of Justice Resolution No. 12/2025 on the Prevention and Punishment of Human Trafficking and Assistance to Victims, January 21, 2025.
[93] Office of the Public Prosecutor, "PROTEX participó en la jornada sobre Trata de Personas y Trabajos Forzados a bordo de buques de Flotas Pesqueras de Aguas Distantes" (The Office of the Prosecutor for Crimes Involving Human Trafficking and Exploitation [PROTEX] participated in a training session on human trafficking and forced labor aboard vessels operating in distant-water fishing fleets), June 2, 2025.
[94] Government of Argentina, "Múltiples allanamientos en Córdoba y Mendoza por presunta trata de personas con fines de explotación laboral" (Multiple searches and seizures in Córdoba and Mendoza over alleged human trafficking for labor exploitation), July 4, 2025.
[95] Government of Argentina, "La PSA desarticuló una organización internacional dedicada a la explotación de mujeres en la industria del contenido erótico" (The Airport Security Police [PSA] dismantled an international organization involved in the exploitation of women in the adult content industry), May 26, 2025.
[96] Government of Argentina, "El Gobierno Nacional impulsa la capacitación en producción agropecuaria en las cárceles de todo el país" (The federal government promotes agricultural production training in prisons across the country), July 15, 2025.
[97] *Official Gazette* of the Argentine Republic, Law No. 27.785, March 7, 2025.

cases.[98] In addition, in the province of Córdoba, the excessive use of pretrial detention has resulted in increased overcrowding and deplorable detention conditions.[99]

58. Meanwhile, the National Chamber of Criminal Cassation (CFCP) upheld the constitutionality of national legislation barring persons convicted of certain drug-related offenses from accessing custodial benefits, including temporary release.[100] Similarly, measures affecting social reintegration were reported, such as the dismantling of student associations within the Federal Penitentiary Service, which has prevented persons deprived of liberty from remaining in educational institutions or study areas beyond their scheduled class hours.[101]

59. With regard to the situation of **Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination**, the Commission takes note of the submission of Bill No. 0698-D-2025 to the Chamber of Deputies, aimed at ratifying the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (A-68).[102] Nevertheless, civil society organizations reported that the closure of specialized institutions, such as the National Institute Against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism (INADI) and the Commission for the Recognition of the Afro-Argentine Community, has hindered access to justice for Afro-descendant persons.[103]

60. Furthermore, the current policy on security and control measures has disproportionately impacted Afro-descendant people and African migrants.[104] In this regard, on February 14, 2025, the City of Buenos Aires Police Force carried out a large-scale operation that evicted more than 5,000 street vendors and conducted dozens of searches and seizures, the majority of those affected being migrants of Senegalese origin.[105]

61. In relation to the rights of **LGBTI persons**, the Commission notes progress in the prosecution of cases involving violence. In particular, prosecutors sought to bring police officers to trial for the transfemicide of Sofía Fernández, who died while in custody in 2023;[106] the National Court of Appeals ordered the reopening of the investigation into the 2024 triple murder of lesbian women in Barracas, mandating that it be pursued with a gender perspective;[107] and the Court of Criminal Cassation of the Province of Buenos Aires upheld a sentence of life imprisonment for aggravated murder motivated by hatred towards the victim's gender

[98] *Official Gazette* of the Argentine Republic, Law No. 27.786, March 10, 2025.

[99] IACHR, thematic hearing "Argentina: Use of pretrial detention in the province of Córdoba," 193rd regular period of sessions, July 25, 2025.

[100] Argentine Legal Information System, Federal Court of Criminal Cassation (CFCP), Resolution No. 7/2025, Plenary Session No. 16, April 8, 2025.

[101] *Official Gazette* of the Argentine Republic, Ministry of Security Resolution No. 372/2025, March 20, 2025.

[102] Chamber of Deputies of Argentina, File No. 0698-D-2025 (ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance, A-68), March 18, 2025.

[103] International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), "CDH58: Un llamado para el restablecimiento de los derechos de las personas afroargentinas" (HRC 58: A call for the restoration of the rights of Afro-Argentine people), April 7, 2025; OHCHR, "Oficina se reunió con agrupación de defensa de derechos de las personas afrodescendientes" (The Office held a meeting with an organization advocating for the rights of afro-descendant people), August 27, 2025; *Diagonal CIEP*, "La discriminación avanza: análisis de las consecuencias del cierre del INADI" (Discrimination moves forward: analysis of the impact of the closure of the National Institute Against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism [INADI]), March 12, 2025.

[104] OHCHR, Joint Letter of Nine Mandate Holders on the Deterioration of Freedoms and the Repression of Protests in Argentina, AL ARG 4/2025, May 12, 2025; Human Rights Watch (HRW), "Argentina: Abusive Response to Protest," April 3, 2025.

[105] *Infobae*, "35 fotos del allanamiento de más de 5 mil manteros en Flores" (35 photos from the raid against more than 5,000 street vendors in flores), February 14, 2025; *Realpolitik*, "Vendedores ambulantes en CABA: 'La orden es no ver a nadie en la calle'" (Street vendors in Buenos Aires: "The order is to make sure no one is on the streets"), March 8, 2025.

[106] *Página 12*, "Piden juicio para policías acusados de un transfemicidio" (Prosecutors seek trial for police officers accused of transfemicide), April 2, 2025; *Resumen*, "Caso Sofía Fernández: sobreseyeron a nueve policías y solo uno irá a juicio por su muerte" (Death of Sofía Fernández: charges against nine police officers dismissed; only one officer will stand trial), July 21, 2025.

[107] *Perfil*, "Lesbicidio en Barracas: la Cámara de Apelaciones ordenó volver a indagar al imputado con perspectiva de género" (Lesbicide in Barracas: Court of Appeals orders the suspect to be re-examined under a gender-based perspective), May 17, 2025; *Presentes*, "La Justicia empieza a hablar de Lesbicidio: ordenan indagar al acusado por el triple crimen de odio" (Courts begin to recognize lesbicide as the accused is ordered to be questioned in the triple hate crime), May 16, 2025.

identity in the case of Tehuel de la Torre.[108] In addition, Federal Court No. 2 of Paraná struck down as unconstitutional a government emergency decree prohibiting gender-affirming treatment for persons under 18, a ruling that was later upheld by the Federal Court of Appeals.[109]

62. In terms of challenges, the Commission took note of the prohibition of gender-affirming treatment and surgeries for persons under 18 years of age;[110] the enactment of Decree No. 61/2025, which prevents the relocation of incarcerated trans persons according to their gender identity by requiring placement based on the sex recorded at the time of the offense;[111] and the removal of comprehensive sex education (ESI) content from official websites.[112] The Commission also noted that crimes motivated by prejudice increased by 70 percent compared with 2024, with 102 such crimes recorded in the first half of 2025, including four murders.[113] Moreover, the Commission learned of reports concerning the systematic torture of trans women in Buenos Aires Province prisons, particularly in Sierra Chica,[114] as well as attacks on the home of trans rights defender Claudia Vásquez Haro.[115]

63. As for progress regarding the rights of **children and adolescents**, the State deposited in September its instrument of ratification of the Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, which will enter into force in Argentina on January 1, 2026.[116] Additionally, in October, the Chamber of Deputies endorsed the candidates proposed by the Bicameral Committee to lead the Office of the Ombudsperson for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, subject to approval by the Senate.[117]

64. However, the State faced challenges following its decision in March to terminate at least 10 social and cultural programs administered by the Secretariat for Childhood, Adolescence and Family of the Ministry of Human Capital. These measures, formalized through 11 resolutions published in the *Official Gazette*,

[108] *Swissinfo*, "Justicia argentina confirma prisión perpetua a asesino de joven trans por crimen de odio" (Argentine court upholds sentence of life imprisonment for the murder of a young trans woman in a hate crime), July 12, 2025; *Palabras del Derecho*, "Caso Tehuel: Casación confirmó la condena perpetua y la agravante por odio a la identidad de género y orientación sexual" (Tehuel case: Court of Cassation affirms sentence of life imprisonment and aggravating factor based on hatred towards gender identity and sexual orientation), July 14, 2025.

[109] *Infobae*, "La Justicia declaró inconstitucional el DNU de Milei que prohibía tratamientos de adecuación de género a menores de edad" (Court declares that Milei's emergency decree banning gender-affirming treatment for minors is unconstitutional), May 30, 2025; *Presentes*, "La Justicia falló a favor de adolescencias trans: decreto de Milei que cambió Ley de Identidad de Género es inconstitucional" (Courts rule for trans adolescents as Milei's decree amending the gender identity law is struck down as unconstitutional), April 25, 2025.

[110] Government of Argentina, "Se limitan los tratamientos de hormonización y las intervenciones quirúrgicas en menores" (Hormone therapy and surgical procedures for minors are now subject to limitations), February 6, 2025; *Swissinfo*, "Argentina prohíbe las cirugías de cambio de género y el tratamiento hormonal a los menores de 18 años" (Argentina bans gender-affirming surgeries and hormone treatment for people under 18 years of age), February 6, 2025.

[111] *Clarín*, "El Gobierno oficializó la prohibición de los traslados de cárcel para presos que cambien de género" (The government introduced a ban on prison transfers for inmates who change their gender identity), February 6, 2025; *Official Gazette* of the Argentine Republic, Regulatory Decree No. 61/2025, February 6, 2025.

[112] *Página 12*, "Ahora el Gobierno nacional busca destruir la ESI" (The federal government is now targeting comprehensive sex education [ESI]), January 9, 2025; *La Nación*, "El Gobierno eliminó contenidos de la ESI por considerar que ejercían 'adoctrinamiento'" (The government removed esi content, claiming it amounted to "indoctrination"), January 9, 2025.

[113] LGBT+ Hate Crimes Observatory, *Informe semestral 2025* (2025 semiannual report), July 2025; *Presentes*, "Argentina: crímenes de odio contra personas LGBT aumentaron 70% en el primer semestre" (Argentina: hate crimes against LGBT persons increased by 70 percent in the first half of the year), August 4, 2025; *Swissinfo*, "Crímenes de odio contra personas LGTBI en Argentina aumentan 70% en primera mitad de 2025" (Hate crimes against LGBT persons in Argentina increased by 70 percent in the first half of 2025), July 25, 2025.

[114] *Página 12*, "Más de 100 mujeres trans sobreviven a prácticas de tortura en las cárceles de Buenos Aires" (More than 100 trans women have survived torture in Buenos Aires prisons), June 18, 2025; *Presentes*, "Maltratos a personas LGBT en el Penal de Sierra Chica 'es una práctica sistemática'" (Abuse of LGBT persons in Sierra Chica prison: "a systematic practice"), April 29, 2025.

[115] *Tiempo*, "Denuncian otro atentado contra la sede de Otrans Argentina" (New attack reported against Otrans Argentina offices), May 8, 2025; *Presentes*, "Atacaron la casa de la activista trans Claudia Vasquez Haro en La Plata" (The home of trans activist Claudia Vásquez Haro was attacked in La Plata), May 12, 2025.

[116] Hague Conference on Private International Law, "Argentina ratifies the 1996 Child Protection Convention," September 18, 2025.

[117] *Diario Judicial*, "A un paso de la nueva defensora" (Just one step away from a new ombudsperson), October 9, 2025.

resulted in the dismantling of initiatives aimed at the promotion of rights, access to cultural and recreational spaces, and related subsidies.[118]

65. In addition, according to records from the Provincial Commission for Memory of the Province of Buenos Aires, the State has failed to adequately oversee and ensure the rights of children in institutional care in that province, due to *inter alia* the lack of effective control by the competent provincial authority, thereby enabling practices such as torture, cruel and inhuman treatment, confinement, humiliation, cold showers and instances of sexual abuse in specific facilities. These facilities have also shown gaps in access to healthcare, including interruptions in treatment, increased hospitalizations due to inadequate mental health support and excessive use of medical treatment. In this context, the Commission requested information from the State pursuant to Article 41 of the American Convention, but did not receive a response.[119]

66. The legislative debate on lowering the age of criminal responsibility continued in 2025, consistent with the trend observed in 2024. New initiatives introduced that year proposed setting the age of criminal responsibility between 10 and 13 years, while others included keeping the threshold at 14, but imposing harsher penalties of up to 15 years of imprisonment.[120]

III. BAHAMAS

- **General considerations**

67. As it relates to **progress**, the IACHR highlights the establishment of a parliamentary Human Rights Committee and notes efforts to implement the recently enacted Ombudsman Act. In addition, the Commission highlights a decrease in homicides in the State and ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency of its judicial system. Moreover, the State launched a new Domestic Stand-Alone Unit within its Police Force dedicated to providing victims with specialized support when reporting acts of violence. Further, the Commission welcomes the openness of The Bahamas for the conduct of a technical cooperation and working visit to the State on December 3 and 4, 2025.

68. As it relates to **challenges**, the Commission continued to observe with concern the State's ongoing practice of deporting irregular migrants, notably Haitian nationals, without proper assessment of international protection needs. Furthermore, the IACHR takes note of the inconsistent implementation of disability legislation and lack of accessible infrastructure across all islands.

69. The State did not respond to the request for information to draft this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

70. With regards to **democratic institutionality**, in its 2024 Annual Report, the IACHR noted the introduction of the Independent Commission of Investigations Bill which aimed to establish of an independent Commission to conduct investigations into serious allegations of criminal activity by members of the security forces and specified public officials.[121] This legislation was enacted by the Parliament in April 2025, however

[118] *Official Gazette* of the Argentine Republic, Resolutions of the Secretariat for Childhood, Adolescence and Family of the Ministry of Human Capital, March 2025.

[119] IACHR, Request for Information, Conditions of Children and Adolescents in Institutional Care in the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 6, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[120] Government of Argentina, Government proposal on the age of criminal responsibility, September 2024. See also: *Chequeado*, "Qué pasa con la baja de edad de imputabilidad en Argentina" (What is going on with Argentina's plan to lower the age of criminal responsibility), May 2025; *El País*, "Milei propone imputabilidad desde los 10 años en casos graves" (Milei proposes lowering the age of criminal responsibility to 10 for serious offenses), March 2025.

[121] IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "The Bahamas", 2024, para. 76.

at the time of writing of this report, it remains unenforced.[122] In this regard, civil society has noted that until the Commission is fully implemented, public confidence in anti-corruption efforts will faulter. They have called for greater transparency in the establishment process of the Commission and have warned against the practices of vague timelines and limited funding to such bodies by the State.[123]

71. In relation to **human rights institutions**, the IACHR highlights the establishment of a parliamentary Human Rights Committee. In March, the State established the parliamentary Human Rights Committee to advise the government on human rights matters and ensure legislative compliance with international obligations. Additionally, the Committee will be tasked with monitoring and evaluating human rights conditions across The Bahamas and overseeing the implementation of human rights legislation and policies.[124]

72. Moreover, as previously reported by the Commission in its 2024 Annual Report, the State passed legislation to establish the Office of Ombudsman.[125] However, at the time of writing of this report, the Office remains unestablished. Despite this, the State has indicated ongoing efforts to operationalize the Act, including the drafting of procedural manuals, staffing plans, and training initiatives. The selection process for the Ombudsman has reportedly advanced, with plans to appoint the Ombudsman selection committee. The State emphasized that these actions represent a significant step towards establishing an independent mechanism tasked with investigating and addressing complaints against public administration, as part of its broader efforts to enhance governance, accountability, and oversight.[126]

73. Further, in December the IACHR conducted a technical cooperation and promotional visit to The Bahamas. This visit focused on promoting the Inter-American System of Human Rights in order to strengthen the Commission's relations with the country and promoting technical cooperation mechanisms in human rights matters. In this context, the visit sought to better understand the needs and challenges faced by the State, civil society, and other non-state actors regarding the promotion and protection of human rights. Additionally, the IACHR monitored the precautionary measure in force regarding persons in immigration detention at Carmichael Road Detention Center.[127]

74. Regarding **citizen security**, according to publicly available information, there were 64 homicides reported as of September 2025 which represented 28% decrease from the 89 homicides recorded over the same period in 2024.[128] This represents a homicide rate of 15.9 per 100,000 inhabitants as of September.[129]

75. Moreover, as previously reported by the Commission, the State enacted new Anti-Gang legislation in April 2024.[130] However, according to public reports, there have been no prosecutions under the new legislation since its passage. In this regard, the IACHR notes that the State intends to amend the legislation

[122] The Government of The Bahamas, Independent Commission of Investigations Act, March 19, 2025.
[123] The Tribune, FNM unsurprised by silence on Independent Commission, September 17, 2025.
[124] Office of the Attorney General & Ministry of Legal Affairs, Establishment of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, March 4, 2025.
[125] IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "The Bahamas", 2024, para. 77.
[126] Office of the Prime Minister of The Bahamas, Prime Minister Philip Davis's Contribution to the Debate on the Independent Commission of Investigations Bill, 2024 and Protected Disclosure Bill, 2025, February 19, 2025.
[127] IACHR, Press Release No. 251/25, IACHR announces visit to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, December 3, 2025; IACHR [@CIDH], (December 5, 2025), The #IACHR concluded its working visit to The #Bahamas with a meeting with civil society organizations, followed by technical multi-agency meetings with State authorities to address human rights issues, particularly the rights of persons with disabilities and older persons, the ratification of Inter-American human rights instruments, and the exchange of best practices and technical cooperation opportunities., [X post], X, https://x.com/CIDH/status/1997033623980011889.
[128] The Tribune, Murders down by 28 percent against last year's numbers, September 30, 2025.
[129] The IACHR calculated the homicide rate based on the State's population of 401,283 according to data from The World Bank, Population, total – The Bahamas, 2024.
[130] IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "The Bahamas", 2024, para. 78.

in order to extend witness anonymity protections to encompass gang related activity in order to protect witnesses who decide to offer information.[131]

76. With regards to **access to justice**, the Commission notes the State's ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency of its judicial system. In this regard, it was noted that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions successfully concluded 47% of its criminal matters between July 2024 and June 2025 through either convictions or plea agreements. Of the 163 matters disposed of during the period, 12 resulted in convictions, and 66 were resolved through plea deals.[132]

77. Regarding the **human rights of women**, the State launched a new Domestic Stand-Alone Unit within the Royal Bahamas Police Force. This dedicated Unit, staffed by specialized officers, provides victims with counseling, immediate care, information, and emotional support when reporting acts of violence.[133] On the other hand, the Protection Against Violence Commission has not yet been established, despite the enactment of the Protection Against Violence Bill in 2023, which mandated its creation. This Commission will be responsible for coordinating various ministries to deliver comprehensive support to victims, including access to adequate shelters, as well as technical assistance to strengthen the national response to violence.[134]

78. Lastly, according to publicly available information, the Government does not intend to advance the proposed amendment to the Sexual Offences Act that would criminalize marital rape.[135] This amendment, drafted by the Office of the Attorney General in 2022, remains unaddressed despite the seriousness of the situation and the repeated calls from civil society organizations to sanction all forms of sexual violence.[136]

79. With respect to the rights **persons in the context of human mobility**, the Commission continued to observe with concern the State's ongoing practice of deporting irregular migrants, notably Haitian nationals, without proper assessment of international protection needs.[137] Information disseminated on social media indicates that a total of 13,000 deportations may have taken place in less than four years under the current Bahamian administration.[138] However, the Commission does not have information regarding the manner in which these deportations have been carried out.

80. As per civil society organizations, Bahamian authorities appear to disproportionately target specific nationalities in the enforcement of migration control measures, particularly persons of Haitian nationality, who would face frequent detention and arrest. The organizations also indicated that discriminatory practices in documentation may exist, which expose persons of Haitian descent born in The Bahamas to detention and deportation. Although these individuals are not treated as foreigners, they are also not treated as citizens, as they face barriers in obtaining identity documents to confirm their legal status, leaving them under constant threat of arrest and deportation.[139]

81. In addition, organizations reported on the detention conditions of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. According to these organizations, overcrowding, lack of sanitation and nutrition, and restrictions on communication with family members persist at the Carmichael Road Detention Center. They

[131] The Tribune, Govt to amend anti-gang law to add to witness anonymity protections, September 5, 2025; No anti-gang prosecution yet - but police chief says officers are gathering evidence, June 23, 2025.
[132] The Tribune, Pinder: 47% of criminal cases tried successfully, June 26, 2025.
[133] The Nassau Guardian, New Domestic Violence Unit opens, April 15, 2025.
[134] Office of the Prime Minister, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Empowering Victims, Building a Safer Bahamas: The Significance of the Protection Against Violence Bill, 2023, July 27, 2023; The Tribune, Bahamas Crisis Centre head urges faster action on Protection Against Violence Bill, July 4, 2025.
[135] The Nassau Guardian, AG: Govt won't move forward with marital rape, January 31, 2025.
[136] IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter IV.a, March 26, 2025, p. 81; IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter IV.a, December 31, 2023, p. 80; IACHR, Annual Report 2022, Chapter IV.a, April 1, 2023, p. 70.
[137] IACHR, Annual Report 2024. Chapter IV.A. Situation of human rights in the region, March 26, 2025, para. 83.
[138] Eyewitness News Bahamas, Immigration crisis: The Bahamian government says it has repatriated 13,000 migrants in less than four years, calling it the highest number in modern history, July 13, 2025.
[139] Global Detention Project, The Bahamas: Submission to the UN Human Rights Committee, April 29, 2025.

also reported having documented cases of abuse, including one incident of sexual assault, and expressed concern over the lack of access for independent bodies to monitor detention centers and investigate such allegations. Similar conditions have reportedly been documented at Fox Hill Prison, where individuals convicted of migration-related offenses are held.[140]

82. With respect to **trafficking in persons**, the IACHR welcomes the participation of immigration officers in training initiatives hosted by the IOM focused on human trafficking trends, legal frameworks, and the tools to better protect borders and communities.[141]

83. On the **rights of persons with disabilities**, it is highlighted that the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) received a significant budget increase to expand programs such as life-skills training, independent living initiatives, and free accessible transportation.[142] The government also launched new grants to support entrepreneurs with disabilities, [143] and actively participated in international forums like the 18th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, reaffirming its commitment to equality and inclusion.[144] However, challenges remain in ensuring consistent implementation of disability legislation,[145] expanding accessible infrastructure across all islands,[146] and addressing persistent stigma, particularly around mental health.[147]

84. As for **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission takes note of the initiation of construction of a new high and medium security correctional facility alongside a judicial complex, with the stated objective of strengthening security and expanding opportunities for rehabilitation.[148] Reports indicate that the new facilities will include mental health cells, a medical unit, clinic, library, and chapel, representing an effort to integrate basic services into the context of deprivation of liberty.[149]

85. In relation to the **death penalty**, the IACHR observes that The Bahamas has a de facto moratorium in place. According to the World Coalition Against Capital Punishment, no executions have taken place since 2000, no one has been sentenced to death since this time, and nobody is currently on death row.[150]

IV. BARBADOS

- **General considerations**

86. As it relates to **progress**, the IACHR notes the State's advancement in achieving parliamentary reform, and the State's efforts to ameliorate the backlog of cases faced by its judiciary. Moreover, the Commission notes the landmark passage of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, which strengthens legal protections for persons with disabilities. The Commission also highlights a reduction in homicides and further efforts by the State to reduce crime and the introduction statutory paternity leave for the first time.

[140] Global Detention Project, The Bahamas: Submission to the UN Human Rights Committee, April 29, 2025.
[141] Government of The Bahamas, Immigration Officers Participated in the International Organization for Migration Training on Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking in Abaco, May 13, 2025.
[142] Bahamas Local, NCPD gets budget increase, new bus requisitioned to assist with expansion of services, June 10, 2025.
[143] The Tribune, SBDC grants $100,000 to aid disabled entrepreneurs, July 25, 2025.
[144] Bahamas Local, Bahamas among United Nations States Parties participating in COSP18, July 11, 2025.
[145] Bahamas Local, NCPD gets budget increase, new bus requisitioned to assist with expansion of services, June 10, 2025.
[146] RBDF, RBDF and Disability Awareness Team Discuss Transformative Collaboration for Disability Advocacy, January 8, 2025.
[147] PAHO, Ministry of Health and Wellness, PAHO/WHO urge all to remove stigma of mental illness, February 26, 2025.
[148] Government of The Bahamas, PM Davis: New Judicial Complex and High/Medium Security Correctional Facility Groundbreaking is 'both timely and symbolic', July 11, 2025.
[149] The Tribune, Govt breaks ground on new $50m correctional facility, July 12, 2025.
[150] World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Bahamas, May 23, 2023; last visited: September 2025.

87. With regards to **challenges**, the Commission notes with concern increased reports of abuse and neglect against children. Furthermore, the IACHR highlights that discriminatory provisions restricting women's ability to transfer nationality to their children remained in force.

88. The State did not respond to the request for information to draft this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

89. With regards to **democratic institutionality**, the IACHR notes the State's advancement in achieving parliamentary reform. As previously reported by the Commission in its 2024 Annual Report,[151] the Parliamentary Reform Commission (PRC) submitted its final Report in July. In this regard, in June 2025, the Parliament of Barbados formally took note of the Report of the PRC. The PRC report makes several recommendations on matters that range from the Office of the President to a code of conduct for Parliamentarians, the calling of elections, and the retention and role of the Senate. The government will now determine which Report recommendations would be referred to a Joint Select Committee for further discussion and consideration.[152]

90. In relation to **human rights institutions**, the State has an Office of the Ombudsman,[153] which is a member of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association, the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions,[154] and the International Ombudsman Institute.[155] According to publicly available information, the Office of the Ombudsman submitted its 2023 Annual Report in May 2025. In this regard, the Office noted that it had received complaints to investigate concerns against several government agencies, including the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Barbados Police Service and the Ministry of Education. These complaints ranged from protracted wait times to access healthcare services, police conduct, delays in application for pension, among other areas.[156] Additionally, the Commission notes the appointment of the first Human Rights Commissioner in December. According to official information, the Human Rights Commission will act as an independent body dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending human rights in Barbados. This Commission will be empowered to investigate human rights complaints, develop educational campaigns to raise awareness of human rights, and monitor Barbados' compliance with international human rights treaties and national legislation.[157]

91. Regarding **citizen security**, the IACHR notes the State's efforts to reduce crime with the passage of two Acts in Parliament namely the Interception of Communications Act and the Criminal Proceedings (Witness Anonymity) Act. The Interception of Communications Act empowers a Judge to authorize the controlled interception of certain communications as well as the acquisition and disclosure of data regarding such communications, by way of a warrant. These interceptions will be confined to the communications of individuals who are deemed to be involved in criminal activities.[158] Moreover, the State passed the Criminal Proceedings (Witness Anonymity) Act gives Courts new powers to shield the identity of witnesses in criminal trials. These include allowing evidence to be given remotely, using screens or voice distortion, and omitting personal details from witness statements.[159]

92. According to public information, there was a 7% decrease in homicides during the period January 1 and October 22, 2025. A total of 38 homicides were reported up to October 22, compared to 41

[151] IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "Barbados", 2024, para. 95.
[152] Nation News, 'Tenure of President must be dealt with', July 2, 2025; Barbados Today, Seven-year presidency, term limits rejected, June 25, 2025.
[153] IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "Barbados", 2021, para. 95.
[154] Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, Barbados, 2025.
[155] International Ombudsman Institute, Members, 2025.
[156] Nation News, Cries to the Ombudsman, May 21, 2025.
[157] Government Information Service, Barbados' First Human Rights Commissioner Appointed, December 9, 2025.
[158] Barbados Parliament, Interception of Communications Act, August 22, 2025.
[159] Barbados Parliament, Criminal Proceedings (Witness Anonymity) Act, August 22, 2025.

homicides reported for the same period in 2024.[160] This indicates that the State's homicide rate is 10.62 per 100,000 inhabitants up to that date.[161]

93. With regards to **access to justice**, the Commission notes the appointment of three new Supreme Court judges in January to assist in rectifying the backlog of cases faced by the State's judiciary.[162] According to public information, there was a record backlog of 1,606 criminal cases in the High Court in January. In this context, the Attorney General warned of increased constitutional claims and damages against the State due to inordinate court delays.[163]

94. Concerning the rights of **children**, the Commission observes concerns raised by the State's Child Care Board relating to reports of child abuse and neglect. According to official information, the Board reported increased reports of neglect, where young children are being seen at the Hospital for ingestion of hazardous substances, burns to the body; and other injuries. Regarding child abuse, the statistics provided showed that for the last four years, the Board recorded over 400 reported cases each year; with 677 cases reported for the period 2023-2024. In order to combat this scourge, the Board has undertaken several sensitizations with various stakeholders to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect, including the Police Service, the media and faith-based institutions. [164]

95. Regarding **women's human rights**, the IACHR highlights the passage the Family Leave Bill in August in the House of Assembly, which introduced statutory paternity leave for the first time. Aimed at promoting full and equal parental participation in child-rearing, the Bill grants three weeks of paid paternity leave, establishes workplace protections for fathers, replaces the "maternity grant" with a gender-neutral "child grant," and extends statutory maternity leave from 12 to 14 weeks.[165] However, publicly available information indicates that women continue to perform two to three times more unpaid care work than men, earn only 86 to 87 percent of men's wages, and that up to half of women with partners experience intimate partner violence.[166]

96. Regarding **persons in the context of human mobility**, the Commission observes that the proposal for a new Immigration Bill[167] is currently under second reading before Parliament.[168] Furthermore, it takes note of the government's decision to disseminate this draft law to facilitate its review and receive input from interested parties and the public.[169] As of the date of this report, IACHR had no further information regarding the progress of the consultations carried out by the government.

97. With regards to **statelessness**, the Commission takes note of the government's decision to disseminate the draft of the Citizenship Law in order to facilitate its review and receive input from interested parties and the public.[170] However, as of the date of this report, laws containing discriminatory provisions regarding the ability of women to transfer nationality to their children remained in force.[171]

98. In relation to **trafficking in persons**, the IACHR takes note that in June, the Department of Immigration with the support from the IOM participated in a Border and Migration Management Assessment

[160] Nation News, Boyce: 13% increase in major crimes, October 22, 2025.
[161] The IACHR calculated the homicide rate based on the State's population of 282, 467 according to data from The World Bank. The World Bank, Population total – Barbados, 2024.
[162] Barbados Today, New High Court justices vow to tackle case backlog, January 7, 2025.
[163] Barbados Today, Barbados is grappling with a criminal case backlog of 1,606 matters in the High Court, January 27, 2025.
[164] Government Information Service, Child Neglect A Worry For Child Care Board, April 30, 2025.
[165] The Barbados Parliament, Family Leave Bill, 2025, accessed on October 7, 2025; Barbados Today, Family Leave Bill ushers in paid paternity leave, August 13, 2025;
[166] Barbados Today, Gender inequality persists despite decades of progress, September 18, 2025.
[167] IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "Barbados", 2024, para. 103.
[168] The Barbados Parliament, Barbados, Immigration Bill, 2025, n.d.
[169] Barbados Government Information Service, Barbados Acts to Reverse Population Decline and Safeguard Economic Future, August 17, 2025.
[170] Barbados Government Information Service, Barbados Acts to Reverse Population Decline and Safeguard Economic Future, August 17, 2025.
[171] IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "Barbados", 2024, para. 104.

initiative (BMMA). Through this initiative, experts will work alongside IOM specialists to build capacity on the BMMA methodology, conduct data analysis, and enhance national capacities for detecting irregular movements and combating among others, trafficking in persons.[172]

99. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, the State and regional bodies reported the formal launch of the Season of Emancipation with an explicit reparation focus, preservation commitments for the Newton Enslaved Burial Ground,[173] and CARICOM's welcome of the UN Second International Decade for People of African Descent.[174] In March, Afreximbank and national authorities announced a major Africa–Caribbean trade hub in Bridgetown with an accompanying Urban Transformation Fund aimed at neighborhood upgrades.[175] The period also included high-level regional diplomacy on reparatory justice during the Bridgetown CARICOM summit[176] and commemorations of the Day of National Significance linking the 1937 uprising to contemporary inclusion.[177]

100. At the same time, there are challenges requiring ongoing safeguards and community engagement. Publicly available reports included concerns and calls for rigorous impact-mitigation and inclusive consultation around works at the Newton Enslaved Burial Ground, requiring additional protective measures and dialogue.[178] There were social demands that cultural expression should be coupled with broader social and climate-justice agendas to confront structural legacies.[179] Civil society also mobilized to protest the high cost of living, affecting particularly low-income Afro-descendent families.[180] Furthermore, there were multiple marches in Bridgetown calling for solutions to rising crime and organizations protested a proposed wiretap legislation citing risks to privacy and potential racial profiling.[181]

101. Regarding the rights of **LGBTI persons**, Equals Barbados with PAHO's support launched PRIDE Month 2025 in Barbados under the theme *"More Than an Existence, A Life!"*. The celebration showcased LGBTQ+ rights, culture, and resilience.[182] Additionally, a two-day PAHO consultation was held in July to discuss ways to improve LGBTQ+ health and well-being.[183]

102. Regarding the situation of **persons with disabilities**, several landmark measures have been introduced, including the passage of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, which addresses education, employment, healthcare, and transportation, while strengthening legal protections for persons with disabilities.[184] The government has also taken steps to make all short-term rental accommodations universally accessible through the Tourist Accommodation Bill.[185] Additionally, mental health reforms have been expanded, incorporating community consultations, increased funding, and a shift toward community-based, stigma-reducing models.[186]

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[172] CARICOM, CARICOM IMPACS partners with IOM to conduct BMMA in Barbados, June 18, 2025.
[173] Barbados Today, Barbados Museum reaffirms commitment to preserving Newton Enslaved Burial Ground, January 13, 2025.
[174] CARICOM Secretariat, CARICOM welcomes declaration of the Second Decade for People of African Descent, January 9, 2025.
[175] Afreximbank, Afreximbank breaks ground on historic state-of-the-art AATC in Barbados – first outside Africa, March 25, 2025; Government of Barbados (Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade), Afreximbank to invest BDS $360 million to build new headquarters, March 25, 2025.
[176] Reuters, Caribbean leader tells EU chief: apologise and pay reparations for slavery, February 20, 2025; The Guardian, Caribbean leaders vow to maintain pursuit of slavery reparations, February 21, 2025.
[177] Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), Barbados marks Day of National Significance, July 26, 2025.
[178] Nation News, Barbados Museum addresses concerns over Newton Enslaved Burial Ground, January 13, 2025; Barbados Today, Developer moves to preserve 'sacredness' of enslaved burial ground amid memorial construction, January 28, 2025.
[179] Barbados Today, From courtroom to Crop Over: linking climate justice to cultural expression, July 30, 2025.
[180] Stabroek News, Barbados protesters 'Mek Noise' for justice, September 7, 2025.
[181] Barbados Today, Residents take to the streets demanding real solutions to rising crime, June 14, 2025; Barbados Today, Citizens march against proposed wiretap legislation, August 16, 2025.
[182] Pan American Health Organization, Barbados Launches Pride Month 2025 with PAHO Support: "More Than an Existence, A Life!", June 1, 2025.
[183] Pan American Health Organization, Consultation for improved access to health and social protection for LGBT+ persons, July 10, 2025.
[184] Barbados Today, Landmark disability rights law passed, January 17, 2025.
[185] Barbados Today, Disabled community happy with accessible accommodation move, September 19, 2025.
[186] PAHO, "Mind Yuh Mind" community conversation: Barbados steps forward in strengthening mental health, July 22, 2025.

103. Despite those advancements, the new legislation does not establish mandatory employment quotas, despite high unemployment among persons with disabilities. The implementation of accessibility standards, particularly in educational institutions, tourist accommodations, and public infrastructure, requires stronger enforcement, and societal stigma, along with resource constraints, continues to hinder full inclusion.[187]

104. With respect to the rights of **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission welcomes the measures adopted by the State to expand access to higher education in the national prison system. Particularly, in May, authorities announced a program at Dodds Prison to provide university and master's level courses for inmates, with the stated aim of fostering rehabilitation and supporting reintegration into society.[188] According to official information, the initiative also extends to correctional officers and is complemented by training in agricultural production in cooperation with the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus.[189]

105. In relation to the **death penalty**, the Commission once again notes that there has been no progress in the removal of the death penalty from the statute book, although no executions have been carried out since 1984.[190] According to the most updated information, as of May 2023, there were six individuals under sentence of death.[191] The IACHR once again calls on the State to abolish capital punishment.

V. BELIZE

- **General considerations**

106. As it relates to **progress**, the Commission highlights a reduction in homicides in the State and the introduction of the first Sentencing Guidelines to promote consistency and transparency in sentencing practices in the criminal justice system. The IACHR also notes the extension of the amnesty program and the commencement of the implementation of the Border Presence Project of the Refugees Department. Moreover, the Commission also welcomes the coming into force of the Disabilities Act.

107. As it relates to **challenges**, the IACHR notes with concern reported high rates of child marriage and early unions despite the enactment of legislation to prevent such practices. In addition, the Commission takes note of several incidents of violence against persons with disabilities and older persons living in homes and care centers. Furthermore, the Commission notes the continued use of SOEs as a crime suppression mechanism.

108. The State did not respond to the request for information to draft this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

109. With regards to **democratic institutionality**, the IACHR notes the holding of general elections on March 12, 2025 to elect the 31 members of the House of Representatives. According to the official results of the Elections and Boundaries Commission, the incumbent government under the People's United Party won a second term in office winning 26 of the 31 seats, with the United Democratic Party securing 5 seats.[192] The Commission highlights the OAS Electoral Observation Mission Preliminary Report which noted that the election process was conducted peacefully. In addition, the Report recommended urgently advancing the redrawing of electoral boundaries in order to better reflect the distribution of voters across Belize, providing targeted

[187] Barbados Today, Advocates defend exclusion of quotas from disability rights legislation, April 11, 2025.
[188] CBC News Barbados, Higher education opportunities for prisoners, May 27, 2025.
[189] University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, Barbados, UWI and Barbados Prison Service in Rehab Agricultural Project, January 23, 2025; and Barbados Today, Prison service to offer university courses for inmates, officers, May 24, 2025.
[190] World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Barbados, May 23, 2023; last visited: September 2025.
[191] World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Barbados, May 23, 2023; last visited: September 2025.
[192] Elections and Boundaries Commission, General Election Official Results, March 12, 2025.

financial support to promote the political participation of women and strengthening the autonomy of electoral management bodies, which includes ensuring appropriate oversight.[193]

110. Regarding **human rights institutions**, the Commission notes that in March, the State relocated the office of the Ombudsman from Belize City to Belmopan, the capital city. According to the State, this new office location will enhance accessibility, efficiency, and service delivery for all Belizeans seeking the assistance of the Ombudsman.[194]

111. Moreover, in September, the Ombudsman submitted its 2024 Annual Report to the National Assembly. The Report details major issues such as delays in service delivery, abuse of authority and it also highlights significant matters, including concerns about oversight during States of Emergency (SOEs) and the importance of the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). Regarding SOEs, the Ombudsman noted prolonged pre-trial detentions and deficiencies in the implementation of the SOE regulations which led to derogation of constitutional protections including the rights to due process and to humane treatment. In this regard, the Ombudsman recommended increasing consultation with a wider range of stakeholders including civil society and legal experts and human rights organizations and strengthening oversight mechanisms to ensure detainees' rights are upheld.[195]

112. In relation to the establishment of an NHRI, the Ombudsman noted the intention of the State to integrate the NHRI into the office of the Ombudsman. As such, the Ombudsman recommended urgent action to finalize the legislative framework for the integration of the functions of an NHRI and the enhancement of institutional capacity of Ombudsman's Office to manage these new responsibilities.[196]

113. Regarding **citizen security**, according to the Belize Crime Observatory, there were 41 homicides reported for the period January to June 2025, which represented an approximately 29% decrease as compared to the 58 homicides reported for the same period in 2024.[197] This represents a homicide rate of 9.8 per 100,000 inhabitants as of June 2024.[198]

114. On the other hand, the IACHR notes the State's continued use of SOEs as a crime suppression mechanism. On May 7, the Government declared an SOE covering areas of Belize City, the Belize District, and the Cayo District, which lasted for one month and expired on June 9, 2025, with approximately 48 detainees released from prison at its conclusion. During such SOEs, information available indicates that authorities were granted enhanced powers, including the ability to conduct warrantless searches and arrest or detain individuals without prior judicial authorization.[199]

115. Moreover, the IACHR takes note of important legal developments regarding SOEs in the State. In May, the Supreme Court ruled that the SOE declared in July 2020 and its extensions were unconstitutional. The Court found that the prolonged detention of 16 individuals without charge or prompt judicial review violated basic rights to liberty and due process and determined that the State had not demonstrated that the public safety situation at the time warranted such extraordinary measures or that regular policing was insufficient.[200]

116. Additionally, the Commission notes the introduction of the Belize Constitution (Thirteenth Amendment) Bill introduced into the House of Representatives in May. According to official information, this Bill seeks i) to empower the Governor General, advised by the National Security Council, to declare any part of

[193] OAS, Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Belize for the 2025 General Elections, March 14, 2025.
[194] Government of Belize Press Office, Press Release , March 6, 2025.
[195] Office of the Ombudsman of Belize, 2024 Annual Report, p. 45.
[196] Office of the Ombudsman of Belize, 2024 Annual Report, p. 53.
[197] Belize Crime Observatory, Analysis on the State of Homicide: Murder, June 2025.
[198] The IACHR calculated the homicide rate based on the State's population of 417,072 according to data from The World Bank. The World Bank, Population, total - Belize, 2024.
[199] Greater Belize Media, State of Emergency Declared in Belize City, Belize District, and Cayo as Violence Escalates, May 7, 2025; State of Emergency Expires, 48 Detainees Released from Kolbe, May 9, 2025.
[200] Supreme Court of Belize, Jahreem Staine et al v Attorney General of Belize et al, CLAIM NO. 613 OF 2023, May 15, 2025.

Belize a "special area," where rights such as freedom of movement and protection from warrantless searches may be suspended; ii) to create a new Gun and Gang Court with powers of both the Magistrate and High Courts in order to expedite gang-related cases; and iii) retroactively to validate past SOEs and regulations, including those ruled unlawful by the Court.[201] The Bill, currently under public consultation,[202] has been criticized by civil society as containing vague language which directly impacts the rights of freedom of movement, expression and privacy. Civil society further alleges that the Bill seeks to criminalize citizens retroactively, silence dissent, and weaken the judicial system.[203]

117. With regards to **access to justice**, in January, the Senior Courts of Belize issued its first Sentencing Guidelines to promote consistency, transparency, and fairness in sentencing practices across the criminal justice system. According to official information, the Guidelines underscore the Senior Courts of Belize's dedication to providing clear and structured guidance to sentencing to judicial officers, magistrates, and attorneys-at-law aimed at reducing disparities and enhancing the administration of criminal justice.[204]

118. Concerning the rights of **children**, in May, the State introduced the Families Bill, 2025 which provides for key rights and procedures concerning guardianship, custody, and child maintenance. It is noted that for the first time, this legislation formally recognizes a child's right to receive counseling. At the time of the writing of this report, the Bill was under public consultation.[205]

119. Regarding the **human rights of women**, rates of child marriage and early unions remain high,[206] despite the legislation enacted last year to prevent such practices.[207] Likewise, according to the CEDAW Committee, the legislation on sexual harassment - praised by the IACHR last year[208]- still lacks comprehensive implementation.[209] In relation to gender-based violence, data from the Belize Police Department indicate that as of August, a total of 1,453 cases of domestic violence had been reported, 74.5% of which were filed by women.[210] Trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation also persists, affecting both national and foreign women, girls and adolescents.[211]

120. Likewise, persistent challenges to gender equality include gender disparities in secondary and tertiary education, labor force participation, and wages – with women earning only 68% of men's income on average –, as well as limited access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including contraceptives and safe abortion. In this regard, the delay in the approval of the Equal Opportunities Bill is noteworthy.[212] This Bill aims to provide protections from discrimination in public life, promote equal opportunities, and address inequality.[213]

121. Regarding **persons in the context of human mobility**, the IACHR takes note of the signing of an agreement between the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Ministry of Immigration of Belize for the implementation of the Border Presence Project of the Refugees Department. This project seeks to strengthen

[201] National Assembly of Belize, Belize Constitution (Thirteenth Amendment) Bill, 2025.
[202] National Assembly of Belize, Public Consultation on the Belize Constitution (Thirteenth Amendment) Bill, 2025, July 16, 2025.
[203] United Belize Advocacy Movement, UniBAM, 13th amendment, June 20, 2025. IACHR Archives.
[204] Government of Belize Press Office, The Senior Courts of Belize Announce the Issuance of the First Ever Sentencing Guidelines, January 6, 2025.
[205] National Assembly of Belize, Families Bill, 2025; Love FM Belize, Second Round of Public Consultations on Families Bill Held in Corozal, September 2, 2025.
[206] Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Concluding observations on the combined fifth to ninth periodic reports of Belize*, CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/5-9, February 27, 2025, p. 41.
[207] IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "Belize", 2024, para. 120.
[208] IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "Belize", 2024, para. 121.
[209] Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Concluding observations on the combined fifth to ninth periodic reports of Belize*, CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/5-9, February 27, 2025, p. 33 d)
[210] Belize Crime Observatory, Domestic Violence Report, August 2025, accessed on October 7, 2025.
[211] Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Concluding observations on the combined fifth to ninth periodic reports of Belize*, CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/5-9, February 27, 2025, p. 25 b)
[212] Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Concluding observations on the combined fifth to ninth periodic reports of Belize*, CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/5-9, February 27, 2025, p. 11 b)
[213] Policytracker.bz, DRAFT Equal Opportunities Bill, 2020, accessed on October 7, 2025.

the presence of the Refugees Department at key border points, which would allow for the early identification and assistance of those in need of international protection.[214]

122. In addition, the Commission continued to monitor the amnesty program implemented in Belize.[215] On May 20, the government approved an extension of the eligibility criteria to apply for this program, moving the residency deadline from 2016 to December 31, 2019, thereby expanding access to permanent residency for those who meet the program's criteria. According to information available to the Commission, from January to June 2025, Belize processed 6,104 amnesty applications, of which 5,843 resulted in positive decisions. Since its implementation to date, 9,537 individuals and their dependents have benefited from the program, a figure that represents 85% of the total number of applicants.[216] According to data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 700 asylum seekers have applied for amnesty.[217]

123. In relation to **trafficking in persons**, the Commission takes note that in February, the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People's Affairs signed a memorandum of understanding with the organization Agape International Mission Belize. This collaborative effort will provide essential support services for survivors of human trafficking and will strengthen actions to improve lives of affected individuals.[218]

124. Regarding the rights of **indigenous peoples**, Belize presented the Maya Land Tenure Bill in implementation of the 2015 Consent Order. However, indigenous organizations expressed their objections regarding the lack of consultation and meaningful participation, as well as the Bill's restrictive scope in recognizing territorial rights in accordance with ancestral occupation.[219]

125. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, the State reported commemorations highlighting Afro-Belizean history and culture.[220] Authorities and community media also publicized the launch of the free "Belize Kriol Dictionary" app for schools and the public,[221] and plans to issue land titles in Dangriga—a Garifuna-majority area—framed as social inclusion.[222]

126. The Commission also took note of organizational and educational initiatives with potential to advance equality. The National Garifuna Council (NGC) presented to the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs a revised memorandum of understanding to secure, through public policy and legislation, Indigenous rights for the Garifuna people—including language preservation and non-discrimination guarantees—and carried out a membership-building caravan and branch meetings.[223] In parallel, national outlets amplified early-season meteorological warnings and emergency-management authorities launched an online shelter-locator tool.[224]

127. Nevertheless, there were reports of racial discrimination in sport and the need to strengthen prevention and redress mechanisms.[225] Furthermore, organizations and press reported that four Garifuna

[214] OAS, Press Release C-008/25 - OAS General Secretariat and Belize Sign Agreement to Strengthen Protection of Refugees, February 21, 2025.
[215] IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "Belize", 2024, para. 123.
[216] Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS), MIRPS mid-year report 2025, p. 8.
[217] United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Belize Fact Sheet, April - June 2025, July 22, 2025.
[218] Government of Belize, Expanding Care Services for Survivors, March 3, 2025.
[219] Greater Belize Media, Mayas Say Government Bill Weakens Land Rights, September 18, 2025.
[220] Amandala, Belize celebrates Emancipation Day, August 6, 2025; Love FM, Belize to host tribute concert for late Garifuna musician Aurelio Martínez, March 24, 2025.
[221] Love FM, Belize Kriol Dictionary now available on Google Play Store, August 21, 2025.
[222] Love FM, Dangriga residents to receive land titles under government program, August 18, 2025.
[223] Channel 5 Belize, NGC advances talks with Government on Indigenous rights, August 28, 2025; Channel 5 Belize, National Garifuna Council hits the road to keep Garifuna culture alive, August 28, 2025; Love FM, National Garifuna Council Meets Cayo Branches on Familiarization Tour, August 18, 2025.
[224] Love FM, NEMO launches online tool to help locate hurricane shelters, May 23, 2025; Love FM, Above-normal hurricane season predicted for 2025, May 30, 2025.
[225] Breaking Belize News, Yo Creek United refutes racism accusation, challenges Orange Walk Football Association's sanctions, May 7, 2025.

women workers denounced discriminatory dismissals at a dairy company, while the company denied racism and alleged "business reasons", igniting questions on labor inspections with an anti-discrimination approach.[226] The Commission has also taken note of several episodes of political violence against Afro-descendant persons, and organizations warned that expanding police powers in "special areas" could foster racial profiling, arbitrary detentions, and rights violations.[227]

128. In regard to **persons with disabilities,** 2025 marked the entry into force of the new Disabilities Act, a landmark piece of legislation aimed at ensuring equality, accessibility, and protection against discrimination for this population.[228]

129. However, several incidents of violence against persons with disabilities were reported, including the murders of an elderly woman and her disabled son,[229] as well as the killing of another man with a disability.[230] Although these crimes may fall within the scope of citizen security, civil society organizations have denounced the absence of adequate protection mechanisms for persons with disabilities.[231]

130. In relation to the rights of **older persons**, towards the end of 2024, the IACHR welcomed Belize's accession to the Inter-American Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.[232] On the other hand, based on public information, the IACHR has received information on cases of mistreatment, neglect, and abandonment of older persons in homes and care centers, as well as difficulties in accessing health and care services. Concerns have been reported regarding the lack of adequate supervision and control of these spaces, which increases the risks of physical, psychological, and economic abuse.[233]

131. With respect to the rights of **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission highlights the successful completion of programs focused on drug rehabilitation, trauma recovery, and gang intervention by 75 inmates at the Belize Central Prison in July.[234] However, the IACHR notes with concern the findings of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), which reported that, as of December 31, 2024, Belize was among the 15 States parties not in compliance with Article 17 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). It also highlights the SPT's observation that Belize has shown limited or no progress in fulfilling its obligations, with non-compliance extending for more than a decade.[235]

132. Regarding the **death penalty**, the IACHR notes that there has been no progress with removing this punishment from the statute books, even though no execution has occurred since 1985, and nobody is currently under sentence of death.[236]

[226] Breaking Belize News, Western Dairies defends against racism allegations; fired 4 Garifuna women strictly for 'business reasons', September 16, 2025.
[227] Love FM, 13th Amendment Draws Fire Over Expanded Police Powers and Rights Concerns, July 16, 2025; The San Pedro Sun, Authorities respond to allegations of police brutality in San Pedro, January 9, 2025; Love FM, Police Brutality Claims Spark Investigations in Corozal, July 9, 2025; Love FM, Dangriga Police Officer Charged with Rape Following Alleged Assault of Woman, October 2, 2025.
[228] Greater Belize, Belize Bolsters Support for Historic Disability Act, August 22, 2025.
[229] 7 News Belize, Murder Most Foul: Disabled Man and elderly Mother Killed, July 7, 2025.
[230] Amandala, Disabled man gunned down, March 9, 2025.
[231] Greater Belize Media, BAPDA Condemns Killing of Disabled Man, July 7, 2025.
[232] IACHR, Press Release No. 327/24, IACHR welcomes Belize's accession to the Inter-American Convention on the Rights of Older Persons, December 20, 2024.
[233] Greater Belize Media, Behind Closed Doors: The Hidden Crisis of Elder Abuse in Belize, June 12 2025.
[234] Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, Government of Belize, 75 Inmates Graduate from Rehab Programs, 17 July 2025.
[235] Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, United Nations, Eighteenth Annual Report, CAT/C/72/2, December 31, 2024, IACHR Archive.
[236] World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Belize, May 23, 2023; last visited: September 2025.

VI. BOLIVIA

- **General considerations**

133. The Plurinational State of Bolivia (hereinafter, "Bolivia") recorded **progress** through interinstitutional and social efforts that enabled the successful conduct of general elections in a context of political polarization. The State also took the first steps towards an urgently needed judicial reform and the strengthening of access to justice, including the establishment of the First Interinstitutional Dialogue on Judicial Reform. Additionally, Bolivia enacted legislation to protect children and adolescents from forced unions, in line with recommendations issued by the Commission.

134. At the same time, **challenges** persisted in relation to the lack of judicial independence, the situation of persons deprived of liberty, the persistence of gender-based violence and the risks faced by human rights defenders. Notably, recurring episodes of social conflict and prison violence were reported, together with the excessive use of pretrial detention and overcrowding in detention centers across the country.

135. On October 10, 2025, the State submitted information for the preparation of this chapter.[237]

- **Specific issues**

136. With regard to **democratic institutionality**, Bolivia held general elections for the offices of President and Vice President, as well as for members of the Plurinational Legislative Assembly.[238] For the first time, a presidential runoff was conducted to elect the authorities of the executive branch.[239] The electoral process was carried out successfully, albeit in a context of political polarization that, according to the Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS), included attempts to disrupt the process.[240] During the phase of candidate registration and challenges, legal uncertainty prevailed as to which candidates would ultimately be accepted, due to the absence of clear rules and sufficient time frames for the organization of the process.[241]

137. In this context, the Plurinational Electoral Entity (OEP), through the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), reiterated its concern over the lack of sufficient guarantees to carry out its mandate independently as a state institution. It further warned of systematic attacks by political and social actors seeking to disrupt the normal operation of the OEP.[242] The Office of the Ombudsperson raised concerns over electoral disinformation.[243] Despite these challenges, the civil society and political forces supported the work

[237] Report submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, Note Verbale OI.US. Cs-277/2025, Route Sheet: 55116.25, October 10, 2025.

[238] Plurinational Electoral Entity (OEP), Official Election Results Portal, (last accessed: November 11, 2025).

[239] *Associated Press*, "Bolivia define si gira hacia el centro o la derecha en inédita segunda vuelta presidencial" (Bolivia weighs a move toward the center or the right in an unprecedented presidential runoff), October 18, 2025 (last accessed: November 12, 2025).

[240] By means of allegations of fraud between the parties and an unfounded criminal complaint of alleged manipulation of the results. See: *Opinión*, "'Fraude': Paz afloja tensión tras dichos de Lara y lo entiende; TSE lamenta teoría" ("Fraud": Paz eases tension after Lara's remarks and says he understands them; Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] rejects the claim), September 23, 2025; *Opinión*, "'Ya hemos ganado': Lara insiste con 'fraude' y cree hasta 'vendieron el litio' ("We've already won": Lara doubles down on "fraud" and claims they even "sold the lithium"), September 20, 2025; cited by: OAS, *2025 Presidential Runoff in Bolivia. Preliminary Report. OAS Electoral Observation Mission*, October 20, 2025 (last accessed: November 11, 2025).

[241] OAS, *2025 Presidential Runoff in Bolivia. Preliminary Report. OAS Electoral Observation Mission*, October 20, 2025 (last accessed: November 11, 2025).

[242] Bolivian Information Agency (ABI), "TSE denuncia 'ataques sistemáticos' que buscan deslegitimar el proceso electoral de 2025" (TSE denounces "systematic attacks" aimed at undermining the 2025 electoral process), July 7, 2025 (last accessed: November 11, 2025).

[243] Report submitted by the Office of the Ombudsperson of Bolivia in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*. On IACHR's files.

of the OEP and ensured that the general elections took place as scheduled.[244] Bolivia also moved forward with the process for selecting OEP authorities.[245]

138. With respect to **human rights institutions**, the government ordered the closure of the Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency, and transferred its responsibilities to newly created vice-ministries within other government departments.[246] The Ombudsman and the civil society raised concerns over the elimination of the ministry, which had played a central role in public policy formulation, interinstitutional coordination and the delivery of essential services to vulnerable groups. The Office of the Ombudsperson stressed the need for an orderly transition that safeguards the continuity of state functions and services related to human rights.[247]

139. With respect to **access to justice and judicial independence**, the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ), the Council of the Magistracy and the Agro-Environmental Court held the First Interinstitutional Dialogue towards a Judicial Reform, which was an initiative to launch the judicial reform process.[248] This initiative is reportedly in line with recommendations made by the Inter-American Commission in its report *Social Cohesion: The Challenge to Consolidate Democracy in Bolivia*.[249] The State indicated that it had made progress in implementing the Access to Justice Policy, which included the creation of new single-judge and trial courts to address violence against women and corruption, and it further reported on having drafted a bill to improve the performance of peace justices across the country.[250] The judiciary reported progress in the application of the policy to fill vacant positions within the justice system,[251] as well as initiatives to improve access to justice for vulnerable groups, such as the updating of the Protocol on Prosecution with a Gender Perspective.[252] Additionally, the Plurinational Constitutional Court (TCP) ended the extension of the terms of judicial authorities, which had been monitored by the Inter-American Commission in its *2024 Annual Report*. The TCP noted that "in recent years, several political actors have sought to subject the justice system and the Court to personal interests to gain power."[253] The end of term extensions was welcomed by the Office of the Ombudsperson, which pointed out that extensions undermined democratic institutionality and the respect for constitutional rule since they allowed officials to remain in office beyond the established six-year term in positions that are not eligible for reelection.[254]

140. On August 22, the TSJ ordered departmental courts to review compliance with pretrial detention periods in the cases of Jeanine Áñez, Luis Fernando Camacho and Marco Antonio Pumari, who were linked to the political and social crisis of 2019.[255] In addition, the judgment in the case known as "Coup d'État

[244] OAS, *2025 Presidential Runoff in Bolivia. Preliminary Report. OAS Electoral Observation Mission*, October 20, 2025 (last accessed: November 11, 2025); and Red Observa Bolivia, *Primer Reporte de Segunda Vuelta Electoral* (First runoff election report), October 19, 2025.

[245] Chamber of Deputies of Bolivia, Process for the Selection, Election and Appointment of Justices of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, 2025–2031.

[246] Plurinational State of Bolivia, Presidential Decree No. 5,493.

[247] Report submitted by the Office of the Ombudsperson of Bolivia in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*. On IACHR's files.

[248] ABI, Press Release, "Sucre: Diálogo Interinstitucional para la Reforma Judicial se reprograma para el 14 de noviembre" (Sucre: Interinstitutional Dialogue for a Judicial Reform rescheduled for November 14), November 5, 2025.

[249] IACHR, Social Cohesion: The Challenge to Consolidate Democracy in Bolivia (available in Spanish), March 14, 2024.

[250] Report submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, Note Verbale OI.US. Cs-277/2025, Route Sheet: 55116.25, October 10, 2025, p. 4.

[251] Specifically, a Manual for the Judicial Career Evaluation and Permanence Subsystem was developed to assess the performance of judges, a Study/Diagnosis on the National Integrated Hierarchy System (SINAES) was conducted and adjustments were made to the regulations that govern the selection and appointment of judicial officials.

[252] Report submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in response to the request for information of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, Note Verbale OI.US. Cs-277/2025, Route Sheet: 55116.25, October 10, 2025, p. 5.

[253] Plurinational Constitutional Court of Bolivia, Statement of November 25, 2025.

[254] Office of the Ombudsperson of Bolivia, Institutional statement, *Sobre el Auto Constitucional Plurinacional 087/2025* (Regarding Plurinational Constitutional Order No. 87/2025), November 25, 2025.

[255] TSJ, Instructions No. 15/2025 of August 22, 2025; *La Razón*, "El TSJ ordena revisar las detenciones de Áñez, Camacho y Pumari" (The TSJ orders a review of the arrests of Áñez, Camacho and Pumari), August 22, 2025 (last accessed: November 11, 2025); *Infobae*, "Bolivia revisará todas las detenciones preventivas del país tras protestas de presos que reclaman trato igualitario" (Bolivia to review all pretrial detentions in the country following protests by inmates demanding equal treatment), August 25, 2025.

II" against former President Áñez was overturned.[256] At the same time, El Alto Trial Court No. 4 and Sacaba Court No. 1 declared null the proceedings against police and military officers investigated for serious human rights violations in Senkata and Sacaba in 2019. The United Nations Human Rights Office and the Inter-American Commission issued a joint statement flagging the risk of impunity and warning of revictimization of victims.[257] The Commission convened a hearing on access to justice for the victims of Senkata and Sacaba, where it heard the testimonies of the victims of the massacres and warned that the annulment of the related judicial proceedings constitutes a form of impunity and revictimization, putting at risk victims' rights to memory, justice, truth, and reparation.[258] The IACHR stated that the annulment of the proceedings represents a setback in the pursuit of timely and adequate justice for victims of serious human rights violations. This situation undermines the State's obligation to investigate, prosecute, and provide reparation to victims and entails revictimization of those affected. These judicial decisions also constitute a serious obstacle to the State's duty to implement recommendations issued by national and international human rights bodies. This includes the recommendations of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts for Bolivia (GIEI-Bolivia), which have been followed up by the IACHR through the Follow-Up Mechanism (MESEG-Bolivia)[259]. IACHR also followed up on the arrest of former President Luis Arce on December 10, 2025 for investigations into alleged acts of corruption during his previous tenure as Minister of Economy. This case involves other former officials of the Indigenous Fund as well.[260]

141. Regarding **citizen security**, the executive branch launched a strategy to promote the effectiveness of the Bolivian Police called "Operation 200, for our families, Bolivia and our future," which seeks to bring together different government agencies to work towards crime prevention and response.[261] A plan was also submitted to ensure greater state presence in the Cochabamba Tropics, following threats and violence against state agents deployed in the region, which reached a peak on August 12 when agents of the Special Force for the Fight against Drug Trafficking were ambushed.[262] Moreover, the Office of the Ombudsperson recorded 654 conflicts, mainly related to economic and labor demands and political and governance issues. In this regard, the Inter-American Commission monitored the protests that began on June 2 and condemned the escalation of violence against state agents, citizens and journalists covering the demonstrations.

142. The Office of the Ombudsperson verified the deaths of seven people as a result of violent acts, two of whom were civilians involved in the protests, four were police officers and one was a student at the Siglo XX school in Llallagua, Potosí. During the blockade, the Office of the Ombudsperson observed situations of extreme violence, particularly in Cochabamba and Llallagua, where it was documented that 173 people were injured, including protesters, third parties who were not involved in the blockades, residents of the affected areas and police officers. Out of the total number of injured people, 54 were members of the Bolivian Police.[263]

143. With regard to the rights of **indigenous and peasant peoples**, the State reported on actions taken to address the human rights challenges faced by the San Agustín de Puñaca *ayllu* in Oruro as a result of pollution, which had been noted by the Inter-American Commission in its *2024 Annual Report*. These actions

[256] *CNN en Español*, "Tribunal Supremo de Bolivia anula sentencia contra expresidenta Jeanine Áñez y ordena su liberación" (The Supreme Court of Bolivia overturns judgment against former President Jeanine Áñez and orders her release), November 5, 2025.

[257] IACHR, Press Release No. 182/2025, IACHR and UN Human Rights flag risk of impunity concerning Senkata and Sacaba massacres in Bolivia, September 12, 2025.

[258] IACHR, Press Release No. 240/25, IACHR received information in 19 regional and country public hearings, November 21, 2025.

[259] IACHR, Press Release No. 182/2025, IACHR and UN Human Rights flag risk of impunity concerning Senkata and Sacaba massacres in Bolivia, September 12, 2025.

[260] *BBC News Mundo*, "Detienen al expresidente Luis Arce por una investigación de corrupción en Bolivia" (Former President Luis Arce arrested in connection with corruption investigation in Bolivia), December 10, 2025.

[261] ABI, "Policía activa nueva estrategia para combatir el crimen y reforzar la seguridad en Bolivia" (Police to launch new strategy to tackle crime and strengthen security in Bolivia), April 1, 2025.

[262] *Opinión Bolivia*, "A partir de este jueves y de forma 'gradual', la Policía retorna al Trópico de Cochabamba" (Starting this Thursday and "progressively," the police are returning to the Cochabamba Tropics), July 17, 2025.

[263] Report submitted by the Office of the Ombudsperson of Bolivia in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*. On IACHR's files.

included environmental inspections of mining activities in Oruro.[264] In addition, the Office of the Ombudsperson recorded 30 incidents of racism, discrimination and violence during the electoral process.[265] There were also reports of energy projects moving forward without prior, free and informed consultation and consent of the affected communities, including: i) the electricity project in the Passiflora sanctuary and the Tacana community territory;[266] and ii) the bill discussed at the Santa Cruz Legislative Assembly to incorporate the Roboré–Hito VII section into the departmental road network, which is set to cross the Ñembi Guasú protected area, home to the Ayoreo people, who live in voluntary isolation.[267] Moreover, there were reports of violence linked to the advance of illegal extractive activities, including the murder of Leco indigenous defender Francisco Marupa in the Madidi National Park on February 11.[268] No significant progress has been made in its investigation.[269]

144. The Marupa case reveals the vulnerability of **human rights defenders**, especially those who defend the environment.[270] In a public hearing before the Commission, civil society organizations reported on attacks against environmental defenders, including acts of violence, harassment, intimidation and stigmatizing statements aimed at discrediting them. The expansion of the extractive industry is allegedly linked to these facts. In particular, at least 20 defenders were charged with crimes against freedom of work, with obstructing or hindering workers' activities, with public incitement to commit a crime, and in the case of the community of Chiquiacá, in the department of Tariquía, they were accused of making threats. These charges were filed after the defenders resisted the launching of gas exploration activities and prevented workers from Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos (YPFB) and Petrobras from entering the area.[271]

145. In relation to the human rights of **women**, the State adopted key legislative measures to protect the rights of girls and adolescents against violence. Notably, it passed a law prohibiting, without exception, marriage and unions of people under the age of 18,[272] as well as a law to protect the sexual integrity of children and adolescents in digital environments.[273] Progress was also made in the legislative process to amend the Criminal Code, which is set to repeal the crime of statutory rape and strengthen the protection of

[264] Report submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, Note Verbale OI.US. Cs-277/2025, Route Sheet: 55116.25, October 10, 2025.

[265] Office of the Ombudsperson of Bolivia, Digital Bulletin No. 2, *Miradas que transforman, junio-julio 2025* (Transforming Perspectives, June–July 2025); and Digital Bulletin No. 3, *Miradas que transforman, agosto-septiembre 2025* (Transforming Perspectives, August–September 2025).

[266] *Mongabay*, "Una millonaria obra de energía amenaza al santuario Passiflora, refugio del jaguar en la Amazonía boliviana" (A multi-million dollar energy project threatens the Passiflora sanctuary, a shelter for jaguars in the Bolivian Amazon), October 9, 2025.

[267] Information submitted by civil society organizations, June 30, 2025. On IACHR's files; *La Región*, "Ayoreos denuncian tratamiento de ley departamental para abrir carretera por área protegida donde viven grupos en aislamiento voluntario" (Ayoreo people denounce departmental law to open highway through protected area where groups live in voluntary isolation), June 17, 2025.

[268] *Mongabay*, "Bolivia: un crimen en el Parque Nacional Madidi expone a un Estado sin control y a una comunidad atravesada por el extractivismo" (Bolivia: a crime in Madidi National Park exposes a rogue state and a community ravaged by extractivism), March 7, 2025; *El País*, "El asesinato de un líder indígena aviva el debate sobre la minería en zonas protegidas de Bolivia" (The murder of an indigenous leader reignites the debate on mining in protected areas of Bolivia), February 20, 2025.

[269] *Erbol*, "A seis meses de su muerte, investigación del caso Marupa presenta irregularidades y confusiones" (Six months after his death, investigation into Marupa case unveils irregularities and mistakes), August 5, 2025.

[270] Bolivian Documentation and Information Center (CEDIB), Bulletin No. 1/2025, *Reporte sobre los derechos humanos en Bolivia* (Report on Human Rights in Bolivia), June 2025, p. 12.

[271] IACHR, thematic hearing "Bolivia: Criminalization of environmental defenders," 192nd regular period of sessions, March 7, 2025; *Mongabay*, "Bolivia: crece la criminalización de defensores ambientales ante las demandas de empresas extractivas" (Bolivia: criminalization of environmental defenders grows following demands from extractive companies), August 4, 2025.

[272] Chamber of Deputies of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Cámara de Diputados sanciona proyecto de ley que prohíbe el matrimonio y la unión libre de menores de edad" (Chamber of Deputies passes bill prohibiting marriage and civil unions of minors), September 17, 2025; IACHR [@CIDH], (September 22, 2025), #Bolivia: #CIDH saluda la aprobación en la Cámara de Diputados del proyecto de ley que prohíbe, sin excepciones, el matrimonio y las uniones de personas menores de 18 años (#Bolivia: The #IACHR welcomes the Chamber of Deputies' approval of the bill that prohibits, without exception, marriage and unions of people under the age of 18) [X post], X, https://x.com/CIDH/status/1970198708391186697.

[273] Chamber of Deputies of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Cámara de Diputados da luz verde a una ley para enfrentar la violencia sexual digital y proteger a menores de edad" (Chamber of Deputies greenlights a law to tackle digital sexual violence and to protect minors), September 3, 2025.

girls and adolescents against sex crimes.[274] The Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency, by way of the Deputy Ministry of Equal Opportunities (VIO), adopted the Protocol on How to Respond to Cases of Harassment and/or Political Violence against Women, which seeks to ensure timely response and effective protection of women's political rights, along with a pilot plan for the implementation of a technological tool designed to address political violence against women.[275] The Commission notes that the 2025 general elections resulted in a high number of women elected to the Plurinational Legislative Assembly, where women now hold 52.4 percent of the seats.[276] The State also reported that it created the Cordillera Network in Santa Cruz, which is made up of six municipalities and two indigenous and peasant autonomous governments, with the aim of combating violence against women, children and adolescents.[277]

146. Nevertheless, gender-based violence in the country continues to be alarming. Between January and September, the Office of the Public Prosecutor recorded 62 femicides,[278] 127 attempted femicides and 34,412 cases of gender-based violence. Of the latter, 25,716 were classified as domestic violence, 2,423 as sexual assault, 2,240 as sexual abuse, 1,721 as rape of infants, children or adolescents and 1,366 as statutory rape.[279] Furthermore, according to public information, in the context of the general elections, some women candidates reportedly faced violence, threats and harassment, both in physical environments and on digital platforms.[280] There were also reports of physical assault against journalists, including cases of sexual violence.[281] Despite the progress achieved in reducing the number of teenage pregnancies in recent years, 80 percent out of the total 339 municipalities still report high rates thereof.[282] In this regard, there are still barriers to access a voluntary termination of pregnancy, such as the lack of internal guidelines for its implementation, conscientious objection, insufficient medication and the lack of trained personnel.[283]

147. With respect to **LGBTI persons**, in May the Office of the Ombudsperson drafted the 2025–2030 political agenda for sexually and gender-diverse populations (LGBTIQ+) in Bolivia, with contributions from over 400 representatives and activists from the country's nine departments. This document seeks to

[274] Plurinational State of Bolivia, additional information to the public hearing held by the IACHR on the situation of the sexual and reproductive rights of girls and adolescents, MSyD/VGSNS/DGRSS/URSSyC/ACON/CE/100/2025, September 2, 2025, p. 77. On IACHR's files.

[275] Report submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, Note Verbale OI.US. Cs-277/2025, Route Sheet: 55116.25, October 10, 2025, p. 10.

[276] Coordinadora de la Mujer Gender Observatory, Composición de la Asamblea Legislativa Plurinacional por cargo y sexo, 2025-2030 (Composition of the Plurinational Legislative Assembly by position and gender, 2025–2030), August 26, 2025.

[277] Report submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, Note Verbale OI.US. Cs-277/2025, Route Sheet: 55116.25, October 10, 2025, p. 10.

[278] Office of the Attorney General of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, *Feminicidios reporte 10-10-2025* (Report on femicides, 10/10/2025), October 10, 2025.

[279] Office of the Attorney General of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Fiscal general informa que Bolivia registra más de 34 mil casos de violencia" (Attorney General reports that Bolivia has recorded over 34,000 cases of violence), October 2, 2025.

[280] Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, request for a thematic hearing on political violence against women for the 194th regular period of sessions, August 22, 2025, p. 4. On IACHR's files; Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Defensoría del pueblo pide al TSE y la FGE proteger a las candidatas del acoso y la violencia política" (Office of the Ombudsperson asks the Superior Electoral Court and the Office of the Attorney General to protect women candidates from harassment and political violence), August 1, 2025; Coordinadora de la Mujer Gender Observatory, "Elecciones 2025: Observatorio alerta sobre 5 casos de acoso y violencia política contra candidatas" (2025 elections: the Observatory warns of five cases of harassment and political violence against women candidates), July 28, 2025.

[281] ABI, "Gremios condenan violenta agresión contra periodistas en Cotapachi" (Unions condemn violent attack against journalists in Cotapachi), May 7, 2025; Chamber of Deputies of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Comisión de Derechos Humanos exige justicia y sanciones por la agresión contra una periodista en Oruro" (Human Rights Commission demands justice and sanctions for the attack on a journalist in Oruro), August 22, 2025; *IFEX*, "Una periodista resultó herida en medio de conflicto y la ANP exige aplicación de ley contra la violencia a la mujer" (A woman journalist was injured amid conflict and the National Press Association demands enforcement of the law to address violence against women), May 9, 2025.

[282] Plurinational State of Bolivia, additional information to the public hearing held by the IACHR on the situation of the sexual and reproductive rights of girls and adolescents, MSyD/VGSNS/DGRSS/URSSyC/ACON/CE/100/2025, September 2, 2025, p. 84. On IACHR's files.

[283] Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, *Informe defensorial: Beatriz* (Ombudsperson's Report: Beatriz), March 2025; Ipas Bolivia, request for thematic hearing on the situation of the sexual and reproductive rights of girls and adolescents for the 193rd regular period of sessions, July 21, 2025. On IACHR's files.

advance the rights of the aforementioned populations and to devise effective public policies.[284] Nonetheless, the civil society is calling for the implementation of policies aimed at protecting the rights of LGBTI persons deprived of liberty and is denouncing the lack of official data disaggregated by sexual orientation or gender identity.[285]

148. Regarding the rights of **persons with disabilities**, the State reported it issued Supreme Decree No. 5,305 on January 2, 2025, which established a six-year validity period for the disability card issued for this population.[286] The National Committee for Persons with Disabilities (CONALPEDIS) and the Bolivian Police's National Directorate of Human Rights trained over 706 police officers,[287] while the Chamber of Deputies moved forward with a bill that seeks to acknowledge and include persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the General Law on Persons with Disabilities.[288]

149. However, civil society organizations noted that persons with disabilities lacked institutional visibility, which is reflected in the reported failure to register their births and collect sufficient data on said population.[289] The civil society also underscored that these people face obstacles to access justice, including the shortage of Braille signage, tactile paving and accessible formats. According to one report, 70 percent of respondents indicated that they might forego access to justice due to the difficulties they face.[290]

150. Concerning the situation of **persons in the context of human mobility**, in June 2025, the General Directorate of Migration ordered the mandatory departure from the country of a Brazilian lawyer, on the grounds that he had violated migration regulations by speaking out against decisions made by Bolivian authorities regarding former President Evo Morales.[291] Furthermore, on August 8, 2025, a group of 17 Cuban nationals was detained at Viru Viru airport in Santa Cruz de la Sierra after presenting allegedly fraudulent documents to enter the country. According to available information, the detainees were denied the right to request international protection. Finally, on August 14, a judge reportedly approved a release order in favor of 12 individuals, thus guaranteeing their stay and allowing them to request political asylum.[292] The Inter-American Commission has no information on what happened to the remaining five detainees.

151. In terms of **human trafficking**, the State created the First Expanded Council of Authorities against Human Trafficking and Smuggling, whose purpose is to coordinate work between the Plurinational Council against Human Trafficking and Smuggling, provincial governments and departmental councils to

[284] *ATB Digital*, "La población LGBTIQ+ elabora una agenda política para promover el progreso de sus derechos" (The LGBTIQ+ community develops a political agenda to promote the advancement of their rights), May 30, 2025; *La Época*, "Población LGBTIQ+ construye Agenda política como instrumento estratégico para el reconocimiento y avance de sus derechos" (LGBTIQ+ community develops political agenda as a strategic tool for the acknowledgment and promotion of their rights), June 9, 2025; Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Con el pedido de inclusión arranca el encuentro plurinacional por los derechos humanos de la población LGBTI+ de Bolivia" (The plurinational meeting for the human rights of the LGBTI+ population of Bolivia kicks off with a request for inclusion), May 12, 2025.

[285] *eju.tv*, "Sin datos, sin políticas, sin derechos: la exclusión de personas LGBT en las prisiones bolivianas" (No data, no policies, no rights: the exclusion of LGBT persons in Bolivian prisons), July 10, 2025.

[286] Plurinational State of Bolivia, *Supreme Decree No. 5,305*, January 2, 2025.

[287] Information submitted by CONALPEDIS via Internal Memo CONALPEDIS-DGEC-INF-Z-129-2025 of August 26, 2025, included in the State's reply to the request for information to draft the instant chapter.

[288] Chamber of Deputies of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Diputada Yañiquez impulsa proyecto para incluir a personas con autismo en la Ley de Discapacidad" (Congresswoman Yañiquez promotes bill to include people with autism in the Disability Act), April 3, 2025.

[289] United Nations, General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Summary of stakeholders' submissions on the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Report of the Office of the Cs-277/2025 High Commissioner for Human Rights, forty-eighth session, 20–31, January 2025, paras. 83–84.

[290] *El Deber*, "Personas con discapacidad visual y auditiva aún enfrentan barreras en el acceso a la justicia en Bolivia" (Persons with visual and hearing disabilities still face barriers to access justice in Bolivia), August 21, 2025.

[291] *Abya Yala Tv*, "Migración dispone salida obligatoria de jurista brasileño que se pronunció a favor de Evo Morales" (Migration authorities order mandatory departure of Brazilian lawyer who spoke out in favor of Evo Morales), June 3, 2025.

[292] *Diario de Cuba*, "Un juez aprueba un 'recurso de acción de libertad' para los cubanos retenidos en Bolivia, lo que impide su deportación" (A judge approves a *habeas corpus* remedy for Cubans detained in Bolivia, which prevents their deportation), August 14, 2025.

combat this crime.[293] The State reported on the first regular session of the Plurinational Council against Human Trafficking and Smuggling, at which the 2025 Annual Activity Plan was approved, which includes 88 strategic actions focused on prevention, criminal prosecution, institutional management and national and international coordination. In addition, the Bolivian Police held the National Meeting of Trafficking and Smuggling Divisions and several meetings were scheduled with the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Ministry of Health and the civil society to strengthen specialized divisions and train health personnel in victim detection, among other activities, so as to prevent human trafficking.[294]

152. Moreover, on April 25, 2025, Bolivia and Peru signed the 2025–2026 Binational Roadmap with the aim of reinforcing bilateral cooperation against human trafficking in both countries. This roadmap includes, among other actions, the creation of a binational rapid response team, the design of an early warning mechanism at the borders and the empowerment of working groups made up of police officers, prosecutors and migration authorities.[295]

153. With regard to the situation of **Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination**, the State reported that the National Committee on the Fight against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination held 21 training sessions on Law No. 45, which were attended by 2,295 participants. These training sessions were aimed at raising awareness on the aforementioned law and promoting a culture of respect, with a special focus on eradicating racial discrimination, especially towards the Afro-Bolivian people.[296]

154. The State reported to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the consolidation of its regulatory and institutional framework by means of the following: the National Committee against Racism and related subnational committees; the Multisectoral Plan for Comprehensive Development on Living Well and against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination (2021–2025); the General Directorate on the Fight against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination; and other communication and educational actions.[297] The Office of the Ombudsperson created the Ombudsperson's Observatory on Racism and Discrimination and coordinated —along with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and the National Committee on the Fight against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination— measures to prevent racism and hate speech in the 2025 electoral process.[298] Activities promoting the Afro-Bolivian culture and aimed at preventing racism were also carried out in cultural spaces.[299]

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[293] Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Primer Consejo Ampliado contra la Trata y Tráfico de Personas" (First Expanded Council of Authorities against Human Trafficking and Smuggling), May 13, 2025.

[294] Report submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in response to the request for information of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, Note Verbale OI.US. Cs-277/2025, Route Sheet: 55116.25, October 10, 2025, pp. 6–7.

[295] Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Bolivia y Perú renuevan compromiso con resultados destacados en la lucha contra la trata y tráfico de personas" (Bolivia and Peru renew their commitment with outstanding results in the fight against human trafficking and smuggling), April 25, 2025.

[296] Report submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the 2025 *Annual Report*, Note Verbale OI.US. Cs-277/2025, Route Sheet: 55116.25, October 10, 2025, p. 19.

[297] For example, promotion and training activities on Law No. 45; prevention, reporting and punishment of racial discrimination by means of complaint channels; improvements to administrative records by including ethnic and racial information and disaggregating data. The State also reported on actions targeted at the Afro-Bolivian people, including communication campaigns, training courses for public officials and spaces for social participation linked to the National Committee. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Information received from the Plurinational State of Bolivia on follow-up to the concluding observations on its combined twenty-first to twenty-fourth periodic reports, CERD/C/BOL/FCO/21-24, June 4, 2025.

[298] Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Defensoría del Pueblo cuenta con observatorio de racismo y discriminación para fortalecer la lucha contra este flagelo social" (The Office of the Ombudsperson has an observatory on racism and discrimination to step up the fight against this social scourge), May 19, 2025; and "Defensor del Pueblo, TSE y comité nacional previenen prácticas de racismo y discriminación en elecciones generales 2025" (Ombudsperson, TSE and National Committee prevent racism and discrimination in the 2025 general elections), April 26, 2025.

[299] Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Oruro: Defensoría del Pueblo, Viceministerio de Descolonización y la ACFO unen esfuerzos para luchar contra la discriminación en el carnaval" (Oruro: the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Deputy Ministry of Decolonization and the Folklore Ensembles Association join forces to combat discrimination during Carnival), February 18, 2025; ABI, "Afrofest Bicentenario revalora la historia y la lucha de los pueblos afrodescendientes de Bolivia y Colombia" (Afrofest Bicentenario enhances the history and struggle of the Afro-descendant peoples of Bolivia and Colombia), July 22, 2025.

155. Regarding the rights of **older persons**, the State reported that it had conducted a virtual course in four languages (Spanish, Aymara, Quechua and Guarani) to develop the knowledge and skills of professionals and public officials in caring for older persons. It further reported on having held a National Congress of Organizations of Older Persons in the city of Cochabamba and the passing of the Plurinational Public Policy on Aging and Old Age.[300]

156. The Commission was informed of protests in the city of La Paz of older persons demanding an increase in the pension known as Renta Dignidad (Dignity Pension), as they argued that such income is insufficient in view of the rising cost of living.[301] Additionally, the media reported that payment of this pension was suspended for retirees who continue to work, a measure that has caused unrest and concern among this population group.[302] Furthermore, information in the public domain indicates that a significant number of older persons are deprived of liberty in Bolivia, particularly in the departments of Santa Cruz and La Paz, where the figure accounts for over 56 percent of all older persons incarcerated in the country.[303] In this outlook, the Ministry of Health reported that 74 older persons held at the San Pedro prison were registered in the Unified Health System (SUS), which indicates progress in access to medical services in penitentiaries.[304]

157. With respect to **persons deprived of liberty**, Presidential Decree No. 5,460 came into force in 2025, which granted pardons to persons convicted of minor offenses.[305] The State reported on the implementation of productive occupational activities under the Centros Penitenciarios Productivos (Productive Penitentiary Centers) program addressed to women deprived of liberty, among other initiatives to guarantee the rights of persons deprived of liberty. In addition, the Office of the Ombudsperson promoted actions to combat torture —in particular, training sessions on human rights and the prevention of torture offered to approximately 3,900 police officers in July. Furthermore, in March, the Office of the Ombudsperson signed a cooperation agreement with the General Directorate of the Prison System to offer a free and mandatory course on said subject to prison personnel.[306] Moreover, in July, a store was opened to sell products manufactured by persons deprived of liberty and inmates released in the department of Cochabamba.[307]

158. However, according to the Office of the Ombudsperson, the situation of persons deprived of liberty continues to be marked by overcrowding —which has reached 105 percent—, extended use of pretrial detention —55.9 percent—, limited access to drinking water in 25 percent of facilities, insufficient healthcare and deficient education, work and post-prison programs. Among people aged 18 to 28, who account for 30 percent of the prison population, pretrial detention reaches 75 percent, which entails greater exposure to violence and limited access to penitentiary benefits.[308] The Commission notes reports indicating that the

[300] Report submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, Note Verbale OI.US. Cs-277/2025, Route Sheet: 55116.25, October 10, 2025, p. 14.

[301] *eju.tv*, "Adultos mayores protestan en el centro paceño, demandan incremento a la Renta Dignidad" (Older persons protest in downtown La Paz, demanding an increase in the Renta Dignidad), April 28, 2025.

[302] *El Deber*, "Suspenden el pago de la Renta Dignidad para jubilados que aún trabajen, no se sorprenda" (Attention —payment of the Renta Dignidad suspended for retirees who are still working), February 11, 2025.

[303] *Agencia de Noticias Fides*, "Santa Cruz y La Paz concentran más del 56% de adultos mayores encarcelados en Bolivia" (Santa Cruz and La Paz host 56 percent of incarcerated older persons in Bolivia), May 12, 2025.

[304] Ministry of Health and Sports of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "La Paz: 74 adultos mayores privados de libertad del penal de San Pedro se inscriben al SUS" (La Paz: 74 elderly inmates at San Pedro prison registered in the Unified Health System), May 16 2025.

[305] *El Potosí*, "Arce promulga decreto presidencial de indulto" (Arce enacts presidential pardon decree), October 24, 2025; *En segundos*, "Bolivia pone en marcha decreto de indulto para reducir el hacinamiento carcelario" (Bolivia enforces pardon decree to reduce prison overcrowding), October 23, 2025; *El Deber*, "¿A qué privados de libertad beneficiará el Decreto 5460 de Indulto?" (What persons deprived of liberty will benefit from Decree No. 5,460 on pardons?), October 23, 2025.

[306] Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Defensoría del Pueblo capacita a 3,900 policías en DD.HH. y fortalece oferta académica en prevención de la tortura en el primer semestre 2025" (Office of the Ombudsperson trains 3,900 police officers in human rights and expands academic programs on torture prevention in the first half of 2025), July 21, 2025.

[307] ABI, "Abren tienda para impulsar reinserción social de reclusos y exreclusos en Cochabamba" (Store opens to promote social reinsertion of inmates and ex-inmates in Cochabamba), July 24, 2025.

[308] Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, *Alerta temprana sobre la situación de cárceles en Bolivia* (Early Warning on the Situation in Bolivian Prisons), September 2025; Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, request for a hearing before the IACHR on the situation of people aged 18 to 28 in Bolivian prisons, August 21, 2025. On IACHR's files. In addition, on the general situation, see: Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Defensor del Pueblo insta a tres

Morros Blancos prison (Tarija) shows overcrowding rates of over 110 percent, insufficient numbers of prison personnel —around one officer per 35 inmates— and episodes of intra-prison violence.[309]

159. In 2025, there were several incidents of violence and riots across the penitentiaries of Bolivia. On January 30, the murder of an inmate in the Chonchocoro prison was reported.[310] According to official data, as of March 24, there had been nine violent deaths.[311] In August and September, riots broke out in connection with demands for equal treatment following the Supreme Court of Justice's decision to review the duration of pretrial detention in high-profile cases.[312] As of September, at least four conflicts had been documented, which had been triggered by the State's failure to pay the sums of money required by inmates to access food.[313]

160. Concerning the rights of **children and adolescents**, the State reported on the approval of the Strategy to Combat Violence in Educational Spaces; the creation of a draft protocol to respond to cases of sexual violence against children and adolescents; and a bill to introduce incestuous sexual abuse as a crime, remove statutory rape and establish the lack of consent as a constituent element of the crime of rape in the legal system so as to guarantee access to justice.[314] The Commission notes with concern that, in June, the Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency submitted a draft bill to amend Article 268 of the Code on Children and

instituciones asumir acciones ante situación carcelaria: hacinamiento, inseguridad y prácticas vulneradoras" (Ombudsperson urges three institutions to take action on prison conditions: overcrowding, insecurity and abusive practices), May 12, 2025; "Informe MNP 2024: de 32 mil privados de libertad, más del 58% está bajo detención preventiva" (2024 Report of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture: out of 32,000 persons deprived of liberty, over 58 percent are in preventive detention), May 13, 2025; "Defensoría del Pueblo realiza seguimiento nacional al cumplimiento del instructivo del TSJ sobre verificación de plazos procesales" (Office of the Ombudsperson conducts nationwide follow-up on compliance with the instructions of the TSJ on the verification of procedural timelines), September 1, 2025.

[309] *La Voz de Tarija*, "Asamblea de Derechos Humanos denuncia agravamiento de la violencia y hacinamiento en el penal de Morros Blancos de Tarija" (Human Rights Assembly denounces the escalation of violence and overcrowding in the Morros Blancos prison in Tarija), May 30, 2025; *La Voz de Tarija*, "Internas del penal de Morros Blancos de Tarija en huelga de hambre por cambio de dirección y crisis penitenciaria" (Women inmates at the Morros Blancos prison in Tarija on hunger strike over change of management and prison crisis), June 25, 2025; *Agencia de Noticias Fides*, "Pastoral Carcelaria y APDHT reclaman estado de alerta permanente en el penal Morros Blancos por violencia extrema" (Prison Ministry and Permanent Human Rights Assembly of Tarija call for permanent state of alert at the Morros Blancos prison due to extreme violence), August 22, 2025; *El País*, "Fugas, torturas y hacinamiento: la cárcel al borde del colapso" (Escapes, torture and overcrowding: the prison on the brink of collapse), August 25, 2025.

[310] IACHR [@CIDH], (January 30, 2025), #Bolivia: #CIDH condena el homicidio con arma de fuego de 1 #PersonaPrivadaDeLibertad, en la cárcel de Chonchocoro el #26ENE (#Bolivia: The #IACHR condemns the homicide by firearm of 1 #PersonDeprivedOfLiberty in the Chonchocoro prison on #JAN26) [X post], X, https://x.com/CIDH/status/1885101492585078834.

[311] Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "'No podemos dejar que continúe la impunidad', Defensor del Pueblo advierte pasividad de autoridades ante decesos en centros penitenciarios" ("We cannot allow impunity to continue," Ombudsperson warns of authorities' inaction in the face of deaths in penitentiaries), March 29, 2025.

[312] *La razón*, "Reos en emergencia por revisión de casos de Áñez, Camacho y Pumari" (Inmates in emergency situation due to review of cases involving Áñez, Camacho and Pumari), August 24, 2025; *eju.tv*, "Motines en cárceles reclaman 'igualdad jurídica': internos exigen ser tratados como Áñez, Pumari y Camacho" (Prison riots claim "legal equality:" inmates demand to be treated like Áñez, Pumari and Camacho), August 25, 2025; *Opinión Bolivia*, "Presos, en emergencia; denuncian 'favoritismo' del TSJ con Áñez, Camacho y Pumari" (Inmates in emergency situation denounce "favoritism" of the TSJ towards Áñez, Camacho and Pumari), August 25, 2025; *La razón*, "Privados de libertad de San Pedro se amotinan y exigen igualdad" (Persons deprived of liberty in San Pedro riot and demand equality), August 25, 2025; *El día*, "Reos de Cantumarca inician huelga de hambre indefinida por 'discriminación judicial'" (Cantumarca inmates begin indefinite hunger strike over "judicial discrimination"), September 15, 2025; *Instantáneas*, "Reos de Cantumarca inician huelga de hambre indefinida por discriminación judicial" (Cantumarca inmates begin indefinite hunger strike over judicial discrimination), September 15, 2025; *La octava*, "Huelga de hambre indefinida en Cantumarca: presos exigen cese a la 'discriminación judicial'" (Indefinite hunger strike in Cantumarca: inmates demand an end to "judicial discrimination"), September 15, 2025; *Agencia de Noticias Fides*, "Internos de Morros Blancos denuncian sentencias sin revisión y audiencias suspendidas indefinidamente" (Morros Blancos inmates denounce sentences without review and hearings suspended indefinitely), September 18, 2025. Also, see: Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Defensoría del Pueblo exhorta a garantizar igualdad y debido proceso en detención preventiva" (Office of the Ombudsperson urges that equality and due process be ensured during pretrial detention), August 22, 2025.

[313] Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Impago de prediarios: Defensoría del Pueblo exige al estado cumplir con su obligación y garantizar el derecho a la alimentación de privados de libertad" (Non-payment of inmates' daily fees: Office of the Ombudsperson demands that the State fulfill its obligation and guarantee the right to food of persons deprived of liberty), September 3, 2025.

[314] Report submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, Note Verbale OI.US. Cs-277/2025, Route Sheet: 55116.25, October 10, 2025, p. 12.

Adolescents to stiffen penalties against adolescents, extending the terms of imprisonment to up to 12 years for people between the ages of 14 and 16, and up to 18 years for those between 16 and 18 if convicted of a felony.[315]

VII. BRAZIL

- **General considerations**

161. In 2025, the Federative Republic of Brazil (hereinafter, "Brazil") made **progress** in adopting non-repetition measures in view of the attacks on its democratic institutionality that took place on January 8, 2023, and it moved forward in strengthening the transparency and accountability of its justice system and in guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents in digital environments. Moreover, it reinforced policies and programs to promote gender equality and protect the rights of women, Afro-descendants, indigenous peoples and LGBTI persons by way of coordinated actions between branches of government and oversight bodies, which were aimed at addressing persistent structural discrimination.

162. Nevertheless, serious **challenges** remained in terms of public security, police violence and access to justice for victims and their families. High rates of police lethality persisted, as did racial profiling practices against Afro-descendants and people living in the *favelas* and peripheral areas, as well as hurdles to independent investigations and effective sanctions.

163. On September 4, 2025, the State submitted its response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.[316]

- **Specific issues**

164. As it relates to progress on issues pertaining to **democratic institutionality**, the National Council of Justice (CNJ) implemented measures seeking to improve transparency, social participation and accountability in the justice system. The CNJ also set up the Judicial Policies Panel, which systematizes and issues the Council's actions; it further implemented the Justicia Plural (Plural Justice) program to promote diversity and inclusion in the judicial system and it offered the seminar "Democratic Constitutions and Democratization of the Judiciary" to enhance public knowledge on rights.[317] In connection to the attacks of January 8, 2023 in Brasilia, the Federal Supreme Court (STF) sentenced former President Jair Bolsonaro to 27 years in prison for attempting to violently abolish the democratic Rule of Law and attempting a *coup d'état*.[318] Former high-ranking officials Walter Braga Netto, Anderson Torres, Almir Garnier, Augusto Heleno, Paulo Sérgio Nogueira and Alexandre Ramagem were also convicted of crimes related to this event.[319]

165. Notwithstanding the foregoing, challenges remain, given that Bill No. 2858/2022 was introduced with the purpose of granting amnesty to individuals who were materially and intellectually responsible for said attacks on democratic institutions.[320]

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[315] Office of the Ombudsperson of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, "Defensoría del Pueblo expresa preocupación por el anteproyecto que endurece penas contra adolescentes" (Office of the Ombudsperson expresses concern over draft bill that stiffens penalties against adolescents), June 26, 2025.

[316] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the OAS, *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil,* Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[317] *Ibid.*, p. 58.

[318] *Ibid.*, p. 116.

[319] STF, "STF fixa penas de 16 a 27 anos para condenados por tentativa de golpe de Estado", (STF passes sentences of 16 to 27 years in prison for those convicted of attempted *coup d'état*), September 11, 2025.

[320] Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, PL 2858/2022, Concede anistia a todos os que tenham participado de manifestações em qualquer lugar do território nacional do dia 30 de outubro de 2022 ao dia de entrada em vigor desta Lei, nas condições que especifica (Bill No. 2858/2022, Grants amnesty to all those who participated in demonstrations anywhere in the national territory from October 30, 2022 to the date of entry into force of this Law, under the conditions specified herein), accessed on November 11, 2025.

166. Regarding **human rights institutions**, the State reported on various initiatives by the CNJ aimed at bolstering them. These include the National Pact of the Judiciary on Racial Equity, protocols on prosecution with a racial- and gender-based perspective and an affirmative action program to promote diversity in the magistracy. Judicial policies were also implemented to assist homeless people and a specific protocol was adopted for homeless women.[321] In addition, the State updated the Rogéria form for transgender persons and strengthened the Ação para Meninas e Mulheres do Marajó (Action for Girls and Women of Marajó) program, which strives to prevent sexual violence and protect children and adolescents by means of actions with an ethnic-racial and gender focus.[322] Furthermore, Brazil adopted measures to promote social equity, such as the recent tax reform that was unanimously approved by Congress and which redistributes the tax burden according to income levels.[323]

167. With respect to progress in **access to justice**, the State reported on the launch of the Jus.br website, which centralizes judicial services on a single digital platform, thus simplifying access and increasing transparency. It also highlighted the Justiça Itinerante Cooperativa na Amazônia Legal (Cooperative Itinerant Justice in the Legal Amazon) program, which made judicial services available for people living in remote regions and ancestral territories.[324]

168. Moreover, the Supreme Court of Justice (STJ) rejected the concept of "reverse racism," indicating that insults targeted at non-Afro-descendants "on the basis of color" do not constitute the crime of racial slurs, which therefore reinforces the specific legal protection of this classification.[325] The CNJ also made progress in implementing the Judicial Policy for Racial Equity, holding various meetings with traditional communities to discuss territorial justice, disseminating the Protocol on Prosecution with a Racial Perspective and publishing Ordinance No. 100/2025, which establishes the Indicator of Performance in the Promotion of Racial Equity (IPER) and the Racial Equity Award.[326] The National Council of the Office of the Public Prosecutor (CNMP) issued a guideline on "proceedings by the Office of the Public Prosecutor to prevent and combat racism in police activity."[327] The State also reported on technical cooperation agreements with mobility platforms to carry out anti-racism campaigns and develop reporting protocols.[328]

169. In terms of **citizen security**, the State reported on the implementation of body cameras on police uniforms and underscored their role in creating transparency, reducing lethality and building social trust. The Commission on Citizenship and Public Security drafted a proposal on the institutionalization of municipal civil guards (GCMs), emphasizing the need for external monitoring by the Office of the Public Prosecutor, in line with recent decisions by the STF that recognize GCMs as part of the Unified Public Security System and as bodies subject to oversight.[329]

170. Furthermore, in the context of the Action regarding the Violation of Fundamental Precept (ADPF) No. 635 on high police lethality in the communities and *favelas* in the state of Rio de Janeiro, the STF acknowledged a serious structural violation of human rights and decided on the partial homologation of a plan to reduce police lethality. This decision sets forth the obligation to respect the principle of proportional use of

[321] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the OAS, *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, pp. 58–62. On IACHR's files.

[322] *Ibid.*, pp. 64–65.

[323] Agência Gov, "Senado aprova e isenção do IR para ganhos até R$ 5 mil vai a sanção de Lula" (Senate approves income tax exemption for earnings up to 5,000 reais, awaiting Lula's enactment), November 5, 2025.

[324] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the OAS, *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, pp. 70–72. On IACHR' files.

[325] *Agência Brasil*, "STJ rejeita tese do 'racismo reverso' de pessoas negras contra brancas" (STJ rejects concept of "reverse racism" by black people against white people), February 4, 2025.

[326] Federative Republic of Brazil, Note Verbale No. 227 in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights, August 5, 2025, pp. 58–66. On IACHR's files.

[327] CNMP, *Atuação do Ministério Público na prevenção e no enfrentamento ao racismo na atividade policial* (The Role of the Office of the Public Prosecutor in Preventing and Combating Racism in Policing), 2025.

[328] *Agência Brasil*, "Governo e plataformas de mobilidade fazem acordo para combater racismo" (Government and mobility platforms sign agreement to combat racism), January 17, 2025.

[329] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the OAS, *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, pp. 53–55. On IACHR's files.

force, to adopt complementary measures related to accountability and to have the Office of the Public Prosecutor monitor operations. In addition, the STF ordered the creation of a working group led by the CNMP to oversee the plan's implementation, which reaffirmed the State's responsibility to ensure public security while protecting fundamental rights.[330]

171. Moreover, to strengthen prevention and community security, the National Course on Applied Community Policing was held and progress was made on the National Protocol for Public Security Care for Vulnerable Individuals and Groups, which establishes guidelines for assisting women, children, adolescents, Afro-descendants, indigenous people, LGBTQIAP+ persons, migrants and other vulnerable groups. The State also promoted the construction of 30 community centers for life (CONVIVE) to prevent violence and to foster social inclusion, as well as actions to address violence against children and adolescents, including meetings with state authorities to improve prevention in schools.[331]

172. In addition, the Office of the Federal Prosecutor for Citizen Rights (PFDC) outlined basic parameters for police involvement in agrarian conflicts, emphasizing that the resolution of land disputes is the exclusive responsibility of the judiciary and that police operations must comply with due process of law.[332] It also set forth clear limits on the use of force, prioritizing the regularization of land ownership to reduce violence and protect the rights of rural workers and social movements. Meanwhile, the CNJ made progress on citizen security policies by means of the Fazendo Justiça (Doing Justice) program, the Pena Justa (Fair Sentencing) plan, the upgrading of the National Prison Monitoring Bank (BNMP 3.0) and the updating of regulations for real estate registries, thus promoting transparency and human rights.[333]

173. Nevertheless, Brazil faces a structural challenge in terms of police violence. According to official information published in 2025, in the previous year, the police were responsible for 6,134 homicides,[334] which account for 14.1 percent of all violent deaths recorded in the country,[335] out of which 59.8 percent occurred in Bahia, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Pará.[336] The profile of the victims showed a consistent pattern: 97 percent were men, 82 percent were of African descent and most were aged 12 to 29.[337] Between 2011 and 2023, the police forces of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro committed 7,920 and 12,789 homicides, respectively.[338]

174. On October 28, Operation Containment was carried out in the Penha Complex and surrounding areas, which resulted in 122 deaths (117 civilians and 5 police officers),[339] making it the deadliest police operation ever recorded in Brazil. The action was part of a judicial investigation against an organization linked to the Comando Vermelho.[340] Its objective was to execute 100 arrest warrants and 145 search warrants, all of which had been authorized by Criminal Court No. 42 of the capital city.[341] The operation was coordinated by the Civil Police, the Military Police and the Office of the Public Prosecutor.[342] Approximately 650 agents participated. In consequence, 99 people were arrested or detained, including 10 adolescents, and authorities seized 122 firearms, over 5,600 rounds of ammunition, 12 explosive devices, 15 vehicles and large quantities

[330] *Ibid.*, pp. 151–158.
[331] *Ibid.*, pp. 93–95.
[332] PFDC, Input for the IACHR's *Annual Report*, November 18, 2025, p. 24. On IACHR's files.
[333] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the OAS, *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, pp. 68–70. On IACHR's files.
[334] Ministry of Justice and Public Security, *Public Security Map 2025*, 2025, p. 78.
[335] Brazilian Forum on Public Security, *Anuário Brasileiro de Segurança Pública 2025* (2025 Brazilian Yearbook of Public Security), 2025.
[336] Ministry of Justice and Public Security, *Public Security Map 2025*, 2025, p. 78.
[337] *Ibid.*, p. 82.
[338] Fórum Justiça, *Quem Controla as Polícias? A Atuação dos Ministérios Públicos diante da Letalidade Policial* (Who Controls the Police? The Role of Public Prosecutors in Cases of Police Lethality), 2025, pp. 18 and 24.
[339] IACHR, Press Release No. 244/25, IACHR announces visit to Brazil, to observe the situation of citizen security in the context of "Operation Containment," December 1, 2025.
[340] Secretariat of Planning and Operational Integration (SSPIO) of the State Secretariat of Civil Police of the Government of Rio de Janeiro, *Manifestação Técnica SSPIO - Operação Contenção (28/10/2025), Inquérito Policial n.º 902-00111/2025* (SSPIO Technical Report, Operation Containment [October 28, 2025], Police Inquiry No. 902-00111/2025), 2025.
[341] *Ibid.*
[342] *Ibid.*

of drugs. Authorities reported intense armed confrontations and difficulties in preserving the crime scenes for security and medical reasons.[343] Between December 2 and 6, the Inter-American Commission conducted a working visit to observe the situation of human rights in the context of the aforementioned operation.[344]

175. During the visit, the Commission also received information about the recent discussion at the Legislative Assembly of Rio de Janeiro on a bill that sought to grant economic rewards to police officers involved in the "neutralization of criminals" by means of the lethal use of force.[345] Following the recommendation against the bill issued by the Office of the Federal Prosecutor for Citizen Rights and several human rights organizations, the Governor vetoed the bill on budgetary grounds.[346]

176. With regard to the rights of **indigenous peoples**, the Commission notes that significant operational, sanitary and territorial protection measures were taken in the indigenous territories of the Yanomami and Munduruku peoples, which included the construction of ethno-environmental protection bases, systematic monitoring of malaria, and operations to remove intruders (*garimpeiros*). The State also adopted crisis-specific coordination mechanisms for the Guaraní-Kaiowá and Pataxó and Pataxó Hã-Hã-Hãe peoples, protection measures for defenders and institutional training sessions for the Avá-Guaraní people.[347] Likewise, the State established a 30 percent quota in the exams required to fill federal administration jobs and other kinds of jobs with the aim of benefiting indigenous and the Afro-descendant population.[348]

177. In addition, the Commission voices its concern over the legal uncertainty and territorial conflicts derived from the settlement committee, which was convened by the STF regarding the timeframe thesis upon the enactment of Law No. 14.701/2023.[349] This committee was introduced as a mechanism to foster institutional dialogue. However, the involvement of private stakeholders and landowners triggered the withdrawal of organizations representing indigenous peoples from the committee,[350] which was terminated in August without concrete results. This led to legal uncertainty with regard to territories which were already titled and ongoing demarcation processes,[351] reopened the debate on vested rights and favored those stakeholders with an interest in retaking or invading indigenous lands.[352]

178. This process coincided with an increase in violence in regions where the expansion of the agricultural and extractive frontier overlaps with indigenous territories. In Mato Grosso do Sul, Guaraní-Kaiowá communities faced new episodes of violence during the retaking of ancestral lands,[353] a violent

[343] *Ibid*.

[344] IACHR, Press Release No. 244/25, IACHR announces visit to Brazil, to observe the situation of citizen security in the context of "Operation Containment," December 1, 2025.

[345] Legislative Assembly of the State of Rio de Janeiro (ALERJ), "ALERJ aprova reestruturação do quadro da polícia civil" (ALERJ approves restructuring of the civil police force), September 23, 2025.

[346] PFDC, *Annual Report* of the IACHR, November 18, 2025, p. 23. On IACHR's files; *Agência Brasil*, "DPU denuncia ilegalidade da 'gratificação faroeste' no Rio" (Office of the Ombudsperson denounces illegality of "wild west bonus" in Rio), September 30, 2025; Amnesty International Brazil, "Anistia Internacional Brasil repudia aprovação de Projeto de Lei que premia policiais por 'neutralizarem' supostos criminosos" (Amnesty International Brazil condemns passing of bill that rewards police officers for "neutralizing" alleged criminals), September 25, 2025; Human Rights Watch, "Brazil: Rio de Janeiro Bill Will Encourage Police Shootings," October 2, 2025; *Agência Brasil*, "Governador do Rio veta emenda que recria 'gratificação faroeste'" (Governor of Rio vetoes amendment that reinstates "wild west bonus"), October 23, 2025.

[347] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the OAS, *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, pp. 2 to 14. On IACHR's files.

[348] Federative Republic of Brazil, Law No. 15.142, June 3, 2025.

[349] STF, "STF alcança proposta consensual sobre alterações na Lei do Marco Temporal" (STF reaches consensual proposal on changes to the Timeframe Law), June 24, 2025.

[350] Association of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), "Povos Indígenas afirmam que não irão negociar seus direitos e deixam Câmara de Conciliação do STF," (Indigenous peoples state they will not negotiate their rights and leave STF Conciliation Chamber), August 28, 2024.

[351] Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, "Brazil must abandon 'Marco Temporal' doctrine once and for all, says UN expert," June 11, 2025.

[352] Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI), "Câmara de Conciliação encerra trabalhos sem solução e Lei 14.701 continua acirrando conflitos" (Conciliation Chamber ends work without solution and Law 14.701 continues to intensify conflicts), July 11, 2025.

[353] Information received by the IACHR provided by the civil society, September 24, 2025. On IACHR's files; CIMI, "Indígenas Guarani e Kaiowá denunciam novo ataque à retomada Yvy Ajere, na TI Panambi – Lagoa Rica" (Guarani and Kaiowá indigenous peoples report a new attack on the Yvy Ajere land reoccupation, in the Panambi–Lagoa Rica indigenous territory), September 3, 2025.

situation which repeated itself in Bahia with impacts on the Pataxó people,[354] in a context of extreme poverty, isolation and lack of access to basic services.[355] In addition, new harassment structures against indigenous communities emerged, such as the Invasão Zero group, made up of landowners and farmers who operate in coordination with local authorities.[356] These networks conducted linked actions of eviction, judicial persecution and physical violence, with the support of the regional security forces.[357] Cultural and religious conflicts were also recorded, especially in vulnerable communities, where evangelical groups connected to social and spiritual assistance networks have expanded their influence; these groups have been accused of burning indigenous prayer houses and attacking indigenous traditional practices.[358]

179. In the Amazon, the Yanomami and Munduruku peoples continued to be exposed to the expansion of *garimpeiros* (illegal gold miners) in the logging and mining frontier, despite operations led by the federal government. These peoples also suffer serious health impacts from mercury contamination, malaria outbreaks and malnutrition, in a context in which public services have been dismantled and illegal activities controlled by criminal networks persist.[359]

180. The State promoted actions to strengthen the rights of **Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination.** Courses were implemented to promote the participation of Afro-descendant and Quilombola students in decision-making spaces.[360] The 2025 Action Plan of the Anti-Racism Strategy in Healthcare was adopted, which establishes measures to reduce ethnic-racial inequalities,[361] incorporates the mandatory reporting of sickle cell anemia[362] and creates technical support bodies.[363] In terms of employment, more than 800 companies were inspected to verify compliance with Law No. 14.611/2023 on equal pay.[364] Additionally, progress was made on the Communication Plan for Racial Equality, aimed at strengthening Afro-descendant and independent media.[365]

181. With the participation of Quilombola organizations, the State established the Managing Committee of the 2025–2027 National Policy on Territorial and Environmental Management for Quilombola Communities (PNGTAQ),[366] and created the Intersectoral Program for Quilombola Women, aimed at protecting

[354] *Carta Capital*, "Pataxó é morto a tiros em Terra Indígena Barra Velha, no Sul da Bahia" (Pataxó shot dead in Barra Velha Indigenous Land, South Bahia), March 11, 2025.

[355] National Council on Human Rights (CNDH), "Relatório da missão conjunta do Conselho Nacional de Direitos Humanos (CNDH) e do Comitê Brasileiro de Defensoras e Defensores dos Direitos Humanos (CBDDH) com o Povo Awá-Guaraní, no Paraná" (Report of the joint mission of the National Council for Human Rights (CNDH) and the Brazilian Committee of Women and Men Human Rights Defenders (CBDDH) with the Awá-Guaraní People, in Paraná), 2025.

[356] United Nations (UN), General Assembly, Human Rights Council, A/HRC/58/53/Add.4, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor, on her visit to Brazil*, February 24, 2025, pp. 7 and 8.

[357] *Repórter Brasil*, "Invasão Zero ensina táticas de violência contra indígenas e sem-terra em fórum na Bahia" (Invasão Zero teaches violent tactics against indigenous and landless people at Bahia forum), June 10, 2025.

[358] *Agencia Pública*, "Após casas de reza incendiadas, Guarani-Kaiowá resistem a avanço evangélico e pedem ajuda" (After prayer houses were burned, Guarani-Kaiowá resist evangelical advance and ask for help), February 25, 2025.

[359] *O Globo*, "Indígenas pressionam governo por retirada completa de garimpeiros da terra Munduruku" (Indigenous peoples pressure the government demanding the complete removal of illegal miners from the Munduruku land), September 18, 2025; *Repórter Brasil*, "Garimpo feriu corpo e espírito das mulheres Yanomami, que temem novo ataque" (Illegal mining harmed the bodies and spirits of Yanomami women, who fear a new attack), July 4, 2025.

[360] Ministry of Racial Equality, "MIR e Casa Civil lançam formação inédita para estudantes negros e quilombolas no Palácio do Planalto" (MIR and Casa Civil launch an unprecedented training program for Black and Quilombola students at the Planalto Palace), February 3, 2025.

[361] Ministry of Health, "Plano de ação da Estratégia Antirracista para a Saúde para os próximos 12 meses é aprovado" (Action plan of the Anti-Racism Strategy in Healthcare for the next 12 months is approved), February 25, 2025.

[362] Ministry of Health, "Doença Falciforme passa a ser de notificação compulsória em todo o país" (Sickle cell disease becomes subject to mandatory reporting nationwide), August 11, 2025.

[363] Ministry of Health, "Política Nacional de Saúde da População Negra é apresentada a gestores municipais" (National Policy on the Health of the Black Population is presented to municipal officers), February 26, 2025.

[364] State of Brazil, Note Verbale No. 227 in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR), August 05, 2025, pp. 112–113. On IACHR's files.

[365] *Ibid*.

[366] Ministry of Racial Equality, "Conheça a lista de organizações quilombolas aptas a compor o comitê gestor da PNGTAQ 2025-2027" (Get to know the list of Quilombola organizations eligible to make up the Managing Committee of the PNGTAQ 2025–2027), January 28, 2025.

their rights, strengthening their economic autonomy and guaranteeing their territorial rights.[367] Additionally, the State advanced on the development of sectoral climate adaptation plans aimed at traditional communities and granted benefits to promote environmental conservation in riverine, extractivist, indigenous and Quilombola communities.[368]

182. The Afro-descendant population continues to face significant inequalities in the fight against racial discrimination and access to economic, social, cultural and environmental rights. Although 22 years have gone by since the passing of Law No. 10.639/2003, less than 40 percent of municipalities have institutionalized the teaching of Afro-Brazilian history and culture.[369] Healthcare gaps persist, such as restrictions on access to oncological treatments[370] and a maternal mortality rate 2.3 times higher than that of other women.[371] In 2025, unemployment was 7 percent among the Afro-descendant population, against the 4.8 percent rate among non-Afro-descendants,[372] and their income accounted for 58.3 percent of that earned by the latter[373]. Afro-descendant women account for 70 percent of the domestic and care labor force,[374] characterized by informality and low wages.[375] In addition, recent studies show higher levels of housing precariousness and lower access to water and sanitation among this population.[376]

183. Episodes of police violence, which disproportionately affect Afro-descendant and peripheral communities, were also recorded. According to public information, on May 10, 2025, in Bahia, Victor Cerqueira was killed during a police operation, with allegations of possible acts of torture and evidence tampering;[377] on April 30, 2025, in Engenho da Rainha, Rio de Janeiro, teenager Gabriel dos Santos Vieira died after receiving shots in his back during a shootout between military police and alleged criminals while on his way to work;[378] on July 4, 2025, in São Paulo, Guilherme Dias Santos Ferreira was murdered with a shot to the head while he was returning from work by an off-duty military police officer.[379] Young Afro-descendants were overrepresented when it came to deaths from external causes in 2025.[380] In addition, deaths of children and

[367] Ministry of Women, "Governo institui Programa Intersetorial para Mulheres Quilombolas" (Government establishes an Intersectoral Program for Quilombola Women), February 28, 2025; Ministry of Women, Portaria GM/MMulheres nº 34 (Ministry of Women Decree No. 34), January 26, 2025.

[368] State of Brazil, Note Verbale No. 227 in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the ACHR, August 05, 2025, pp. 27–30. On IACHR's files.

[369] Ministry of Education, Política Nacional de Equidade, Educação para as Relações Étnico-Raciais e Educação Escolar Quilombola (Pneerq): painel diagnóstico de equidade (National Policy on Equity, Education for Ethnic-Racial Relations and Quilombola School Education (Pneerq): equity diagnostic panel), April 10, 2025; *Brasil de Fato*, "Por que o Brasil ainda falha em implementar a lei que obriga o ensino da história e da cultura afro-brasileira nas escolas?" (Why does Brazil still fail to implement the law requiring the teaching of Afro-Brazilian history and culture in schools?), February 15, 2025.

[370] *Brasil de Fato*, "Dia Mundial de Combate ao Câncer: Racismo é um dos grandes obstáculos no combate à doença no Brasil" (World Cancer Day: Racism is one of the major obstacles in fighting the disease in Brazil), February 4, 2025.

[371] Institute of Studies on Health Policies, "Mortalidade materna de mulheres pretas é duas vezes maior do que de brancas" (Maternal mortality of Black women is twice that of white women), July 10, 2025.

[372] *IBGE*, "PNAD Contínua Trimestral: desocupação cai em 18 das 27 UFs no segundo trimestre de 2025" (Quarterly PNAD Contínua: unemployment falls in 18 out of 27 UFs in Q2 2025), August 15, 2025.

[373] *Agência Brasil*, "Renda de pessoas negras equivale a 58% da de brancas, mostra estudo" (Income of Black people is 58 percent of that of whites, study shows), March 21, 2025.

[374] Ministry of Labor and Employment, "3º Relatório de Transparência Salarial: mulheres recebem 20,9% a menos do que os homens" (3rd Salary Transparency Report: women receive 20.9 percent less than men), April 7, 2025; Institute for Applied Economic Research (Ipea), "Mulheres negras são 69,9% no serviço doméstico ou de cuidados no Brasil" (Black women account for 69.9 percent of the domestic or care labor force in Brazil), March 19, 2025.

[375] State of Brazil, Note Verbale No. 227 in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the ACHR, August 05, 2025, p. 78. On IACHR's files.

[376] Fundação João Pinheiro, Déficit habitacional no Brasil (Housing deficit in Brazil), 2025, p. 38; Instituto Trata Brasil, *Ranking do Saneamento 2025: Resumo executivo* (Sanitation Ranking 2025: Executive summary), July 15, 2025.

[377] *Brasil de Fato*, "'Justiça por Vitinho': moradores de Caraíva (BA) se mobilizam por investigação após morte de guia turístico em operação policial" (Justice for Vitinho: Caraíva residents (BA) mobilize to demand investigation after tourist guide's death in police operation), May 17, 2025; *Metrópoles*, "Corpo de guia turístico morto em operação policial é exumado" (Body of tourist guide killed in police operation is exhumed), June 9, 2025.

[378] *CNN Brazil*, "Dançarino morre durante tiroteio entre PMs e suspeitos na Zona Norte do Rio" (Dancer dies during shootout between the police and suspects in the Northern area of Rio), May 1, 2025.

[379] Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship (MDHC), "Nota sobre o assassinato de Guilherme Dias Santos Ferreira" (Note on the murder of Guilherme Dias Santos Ferreira), July 9, 2025.

[380] *Agência Brasil*, "Jovens, mulheres e negros sofrem mais com violência, aponta Fiocruz" (Youth, women and Black people suffer more from violence, Fiocruz points out), August 28, 2025.

adolescents due to police interventions in the state of São Paulo increased 120 percent between 2022 and 2024.[381]

184. The State also recorded cases of racism in the context of cultural manifestations,[382] soccer matches,[383] against Afro-descendant women journalists[384] and practitioners of religions of African origin, including aggressions and attacks on places of worship.[385] Civil society organizations reported that the persecution of Candomblé and Umbanda responds to structural racism, with a previous history of criminalization and current patterns of discrimination and invasions of sacred spaces, highlighting the case of Mãe Hilda.[386] Racism manifests early among the Afro-descendant population, with 19 percent of Afro-descendant children up to 6 years of age already having suffered some episode of racial discrimination, with impacts on their development.[387]

185. The State reported on the National Policy for Terreiro Peoples and Communities and African-Based Religions, with an estimated investment of 115 million Brazilian reais and a national mapping, as well as actions by the CNJ and the executive branch in response to complaints and hate speech. Despite some progress in the investigations of abusive police interventions in Afro-Brazilian places of worship, the State itself acknowledges the challenges in the representation of these religions in the context of assistance within the prison system.[388]

186. As for the human rights of **women**, the legal and institutional framework for the protection of their rights against violence and gender discrimination was strengthened. In this regard, the crime of sexual harassment was incorporated into the Military Criminal Code;[389] the Criminal Code was amended to exclude the perpetrator's age as a mitigating factor in cases of sexual violence;[390] the national protocol for investigation and expert examination in femicide cases was updated; the María da Penha patrol program and Specialized Women's Police Stations were standardized nationwide;[391] the Programa Nacional das Salas Lilás (National Lilac Rooms Program was launched), which provides for the creation of spaces to assist victims in the Unified

[381] Brazilian Forum on Public Security, *As câmeras corporais na Polícia Militar do Estado de São Paulo (2ª edição)*: mudanças na política e impacto nas mortes de adolescentes (Body cameras in the São Paulo State Military Police (2nd ed.): policy changes and impact on adolescent deaths), April 2, 2025; UNICEF Brazil, "Mortes de crianças e adolescentes por intervenção policial crescem 120% no estado de São Paulo entre 2022 e 2024" (Deaths of children and adolescents by police intervention rise 120 percent in São Paulo state from 2022 to 2024), April 3, 2025.

[382] *Notícia Preta*, "'Racismo não é liberdade de expressão': Portela rebate comentários sobre passista mirim da escola de samba" ('Racism is not freedom of expression': Portela rebukes comments on child samba dancer), January 15, 2025; *Brasil de Fato*, "Carnaval em risco: veto a temas afro e LGBTQIA+ gera protestos em Canoas (RS)" (Carnival at risk: ban on Afro and LGBTQIA+ themes sparks protests in Canoas (RS)), February 28, 2025. *Alma Preta*, "Blocos negros denunciam exclusão do Carnaval de Belém; MPF dá 24 horas para prefeitura se manifestar" (Black blocs report exclusion from Belém Carnival; Office the Public Prosecutor gives the Mayor 24 hours to respond), February 27, 2025.

[383] *Agência Brasil*, "Jogador do Palmeiras é vítima de racismo em competição da Conmebol" (Palmeiras player victim of racism in Conmebol competition), March 7, 2025. *Agência Brasil*, "Racismo no futebol cresce apesar de campanhas, alerta Observatório" (Racism in soccer grows despite campaigns, Observatory warns), April 5, 2025.

[384] *Agência Brasil*, "Luciana Barreto da TV Brasil sofre ataque racista; veja nota da EBC," (Luciana Barreto from TV Brasil suffers racist attack; see EBC note), March 19, 2025.

[385] *CNN Brazil*, "RJ: terreiro de Umbanda é alvo de ataque e roubo; bíblia é deixada no local" (RJ: Umbanda terreiro targeted in attack and robbery; Bible left at scene), January 29, 2025; *G1 PB*, "Padre denunciado por intolerância religiosa após fala sobre Preta Gil é ouvido pela polícia e nega acusações" (Priest denounced for religious intolerance after Preta Gil comment questioned by police and denies accusations), August 25, 2025; *Brasil de Fato*, "Dia de Zé Pelintra vira alvo de intolerância religiosa de pastor evangélico em Barra do Piraí (RJ)" (Zé Pelintra Day targeted by evangelical pastor's religious intolerance in Barra do Piraí (RJ)), June 24, 2025; *G1 SC*, "MP investiga 18 casos de racismo religioso em Santa Catarina" (Office of the Public Prosecutor investigates 18 cases of religious racism in Santa Catarina), May 21, 2025.

[386] IACHR, thematic hearing, "Brazil: Freedom of religion and belief of persons practicing Afro-Brazilian religions," March 6, 2025.

[387] *Agência Brasil*, "Uma em cada seis crianças de até 6 anos foi vítima de racismo no país" (One in six children up to 6 years old was a victim of racism in the country), October 6, 2025.

[388] State of Brazil, Note Verbale No. 227 in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the ACHR, August 05, 2025, pp. 51–53. On IACHR's files.

[389] Chamber of Deputies, "Câmara aprova projeto que inclui crime de assédio sexual no Código Penal Militar" (The Chamber passes bill to incorporate sexual harassment as a crime in the Military Criminal Code), August 13, 2025.

[390] Federal Senate, Projeto de Lei nº 419 de 2023 (Bill No. 419 of 2023), July 3, 2025.

[391] *Agência gov*, "MJSP e Ministério das Mulheres lançam políticas de prevenção e enfrentamento à violência contra as mulheres" (MJSP and Ministry of Women launch policies for the prevention and combating of violence against women), March 25, 2025.

Public Security System (SUSP) and in judicial agencies;[392] and the Protocol on Assistance to Homeless Women and Protection of Motherhood was developed to ensure homeless pregnant women or those in postpartum have access to legal assistance.[393] A decree instituting the National Care Plan was also adopted.[394]

187. For its part, the CNJ issued decisions aimed at strengthening the protocol for judges with a gender perspective. In one of them, it established the obligation of justice operators to intervene in the face of discriminatory and offensive manifestations against women during judicial proceedings.[395] In another, it sanctioned a judge with compulsory retirement in a disciplinary administrative proceeding linked to a case of family violence.[396] In this regard, the Commission is concerned about the legislative proposal seeking to suspend the CNJ resolution that established guidelines for applying the gender perspective in the judiciary.[397]

188. However, the situation of sexual violence against girls and adolescents remains critical,[398] particularly against indigenous girls.[399] In this regard, cases of sexual exploitation of girls in tourist areas and on highways persist, with some girls being taken abroad to sexually exploit them.[400] The dissemination of sexually explicit images of girls generated by artificial intelligence was also reported.[401] In this context, the Superior Court of Justice ruled, contrary to international standards, that those who perpetrate certain types of sexual violence against girls and adolescents could be exempted from criminal responsibility under exceptions related to consent, subsequent marital cohabitation or the birth of a child as a result of sexual violence.[402]

189. With respect to the foregoing, the high incidence of pregnancies among girls and adolescents persists, as do barriers to accessing legal abortion,[403] such as the lack of service availability and poor practices performed by health personnel. In this regard, the civil society reported that only 4 percent of municipalities

[392] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the OAS, *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, p. 96; Presidency of the Republic, "Governo lança o Programa Nacional das Salas Lilás para atendimento às mulheres em situação de violência" (Government launches the Programa Nacional das Salas Lilás [National Lilac Rooms Program] for women experiencing violence), March 27, 2025.

[393] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the Organization of American States (OAS), *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, p. 62. On IACHR's files; CNJ, "Protocolo traz orientações para proteção da maternidade em situação de rua" (Protocol sets out guidelines for protecting homeless mothers), August 15, 2025.

[394] *Ibid.*, p. 80; Presidency of the Republic, "Governo Federal regulamenta Política Nacional de Cuidados" (Federal Government regulates National Care Policy), July 25, 2025**;** Official Diary of the Union, Decreto nº 12.562 (Decree No. 12.562), July 23, 2025.

[395] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the Organization of American States (OAS), *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, p. 64; CNJ, *Informativo de Jurisprudência do CNJ* (CNJ case-law newsletter), February 21, 2025, p. 5.

[396] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the Organization of American States (OAS), *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, p. 63; CNJ, Informativo de Jurisprudência do CNJ (CNJ case-law newsletter), August 21, 2025, p. 4.

[397] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the Organization of American States (OAS), *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, p. 63. On IACHR's files; CNJ, "Nota técnica destaca legitimidade de protocolo de julgamento com perspectiva de gênero" (Technical note highlights legitimacy of judgment protocol with a gender perspective), July 18, 2025; Brazilian Women's Union (UBM), Projeto de Lei- Resolução CNJ (CNJ Bill-Resolution), July 2, 2025, p. 5. On IACHR's files.

[398] IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IVa, March 26, 2025, para. 178.

[399] UNICEF, *Violência contra crianças e adolescentes na Amazônia* (Violence against children and adolescents in the Amazon), August 2025; IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IVa, March 26, 2025, para. 178; Instituto Patrícia Galvão, *Percepções sobre direitos de meninas e mulheres grávidas pós-estupro* (Perceptions on rights of girls and women pregnant after rape), 2025; *Globo*, "Professor indígena é preso suspeito de ameaçar e estuprar alunas no AM" (Indigenous teacher arrested suspected of threatening and raping students in AM), April 1, 2025.

[400] Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the report submitted by Brazil under article 12 (1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*, June 5, 2025, para. 20; IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IVa, March 26, 2025, para. 178.

[401] Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the report submitted by Brazil under article 12 (1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*, June 5, 2025, para. 22; *Globo*, "Estudantes denunciam que tiveram imagens íntimas criadas por IA e compartilhadas em colégio de BH" (Students report intimate images created by AI and shared at BH school), June 4, 2025.

[402] IACHR, Press Release No. 101/25, Brazil must demand criminal accountability for acts of sexual violence against girls, May 13, 2025; STJ, No. 2045280/SC (2022/0402319-3), October 21, 2025.

[403] Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined fifth to seventh periodic reports of Brazil*, June 5, 2025, para. 39; IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IVa, March 26, 2025, para. 179; IACHR, *2023 Annual Report*, Chapter IVa, December 31, 2023, para. 165; *Agência Brasil*, "Meninas mães passam de 14 mil e só 1,1% tiveram acesso a aborto legal" (Over 14,000 girls become mothers and only 1.1 percent accessed legal abortion), May 18, 2025.

had registered referral services with the structure and personnel required by law.[404] Inadequate practices that delay abortion procedures also persisted, along with a lack of access to information, the misuse of conscientious objection, dissuasive measures[405] and the imposition of requirements not set forth by law.[406] In that context, a decision by the STF dismissed a precautionary measure which allowed nurses to perform abortions in cases of pregnancies resulting from sexual violence.[407]

190. Likewise, defenders of the right to humanized birth are being persecuted and criminalized.[408] Among several cases, the case of physician Ricardo Herbert Jones and nurse Neusa Berlese Oliveira Jones stands out. They were convicted of reckless homicide following a medical complication during a home birth performed under humanized birth guidelines. According to organizations defending this right, this incident was due to an unforeseeable accident (congenital pneumonia), generating a chilling effect on other defenders. In addition, cases of obstetric violence were observed in states across the country, with particular concerns regarding the Marabá Maternity Hospital, in the federated state of Pará, which recorded 14 deaths in 40 days, with worse outcomes for indigenous and Afro-descendant women.[409]

191. Likewise, from January to July, the Liga 180 (Call 180) hotline recorded 594,118 calls and 86,025 reports of violence against women nationwide, accounting for a 2.9 percent increase compared to the previous year.[410] In the same period, 22,475 women in situations of intrafamily violence received care for cases of physical, psychological, sexual and patrimonial violence at the Specialized Social Assistance Reference Centers (CREAS).[411] Cases of gender-based political violence were also reported, particularly against Afro-descendant women,[412] with five criminal actions for this type of violence brought before the courts between January and August 2025.[413]

192. In matters relating to **persons deprived of liberty**, in February the Emprega 347 program was launched, whose purpose is to make Brazilian prisons productive.[414] In April, the Federal Supreme Court prohibited degrading intimate searches of visitors in prisons.[415] In June, the State Committee on Criminal

[404] O'Neill Institute, *Amicus Curiae Arguição de Descumprimento de Preceito Fundamental 989* (Amicus Curiae Writ of Noncompliance with Fundamental Precept 989), March 31, 2025, pp. 11 to 35.

[405] *Intercept Brasil*, "A ONG evaporou" (The NGO evaporated), May 14, 2025; *The Guardian*, "New Rio de Janeiro law requires public hospitals to display anti-abortion signs," June 19, 2025.

[406] *AP*, "'I was terrified I was going to die.' Rape victims in Brazil struggle to access legal abortions," June 20, 2025.

[407] STF, "STF derruba liminar que autorizou profissionais de enfermagem a realizar aborto legal" (STF overturns injunction authorizing professional nurses to perform legal abortion), October 27, 2025.

[408] Information provided to the IACHR by the Network for the Humanization of Childbirth and Birth (ReHuNa) as a follow-up to an online meeting on the persecution of defenders of the right to humanized childbirth in Brazil, Washington, September 30, 2025.

[409] Information provided to the IACHR by the Clínica de Direitos Humanos CESUPA and the Office of the Public Defender of the State of Pará, Washington, April 1, 2025; *O Liberal*, "Maternidade de Marabá registra 13 mortes só em 2025" (Marabá Maternity Hospital records 13 deaths in 2025 alone), February 5, 2025; *Colabora*, "Violência obstétrica e mortes maternas: denúncias se acumulam no hospital público de Marabá" (Obstetric violence and maternal deaths: complaints pile up at Marabá public hospital), July 31, 2025; Instituto Elas Resistem, Violência obstétrica, mortalidade materna e neonatal no Hospital Materno Infantil de Marabá, Estado do Pará, Brazil (Obstetric violence, maternal and neonatal mortality at Marabá Maternal-Infant Hospital, State of Pará, Brazil), July 2025, pp. 2 and 3. On IACHR's files.

[410] Presidency of the Republic, "Ministério das Mulheres lança Painel de Dados do Ligue 180 e reforça transparência no enfrentamento à violência contra mulheres" (Ministry of Women launches Ligue 180 Data Panel and strengthens transparency in combating violence against women), August 7, 2025.

[411] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the Organization of American States (OAS), *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, p. 92. On IACHR's files.

[412] Instituto Marielle Franco, *Regime de ameaça: a violência política de gênero e raça no âmbito digital* (Threat regime: gender and race-based political violence in the digital sphere), 2025; *Infobae*, "La ministra de Medio Ambiente de Brasil se retiró del Congreso tras un fuerte enfrentamiento con senadores" (Brazil's Minister of Environment withdraws from Congress after strong confrontation with senators), May 27, 2025.

[413] Instituto Alziras, *Monitor da Violência Política de Gênero e Raça 2025* (2025 Monitor of Gender and Race Political Violence), August 2025, p. 9.

[414] CNJ, Government of Brazil, "Emprega 347 vai oferecer ocupação remunerada para pessoas presas e egressas" (Emprega 347 to offer paid work for incarcerated persons and ex-offenders), February 12, 2025.

[415] STF, Government of Brazil, "STF proíbe revista humilhante em presídio e admite inspeção íntima em casos excepcionais" (STF prohibits humiliating searches in prisons and allows intimate inspections in exceptional cases), April 2, 2025.

Policies of Bahia was created to implement a state plan focused on humanizing the prison system.[416] In August, the Superior Court of Justice recognized that care provided by mothers to their babies born in prison might be considered work for sentence remission.[417] Additionally, in March, 9,471 people were released as a result of the review of proceedings under the CNJ Mutirão Processual Penal initiative (coordinated judicial review initiatives), aimed at ensuring that proceedings comply with legislation and binding case law.[418]

193. Despite this progress, Brazil is the third country with the largest prison population in the world,[419] with a total population deprived of liberty of 674,016 people as of December 2024 and ranks 14th among countries with the highest incarceration rates.[420] In addition, considering that the official accommodation capacity of the prison system is 494,379 people, the overcrowding rate is 35.6 percent.[421] At the level of the federated states, in December 2024, Pernambuco had an overcrowding rate of 106 percent; Piauí, 93 percent; Mato Grosso do Sul, 85 percent; Paraíba, 64 percent; and Sergipe, 62 percent.[422] In 2025, overcrowding in Rio de Janeiro was at 61 percent,[423] in Minas Gerais at 55 percent and in São Paulo at 54 percent.[424]

194. Additionally, in the state of Pará, there is a lack of healthcare services at penitentiary facilities, which included the lack of mental health services, which is sometimes associated with deaths in custody; ill-treatment; degrading and humiliating procedures; improper application of sanctions; negligence in combating prison violence; and deficient nutrition, especially in the units of the Metropolitan Region of Belém.[425] In the prison system of Minas Gerais, between January and July 2025, 60 deaths were recorded, out of which 18 occurred in the Inspector José Martinho Drumond facility and 15 were homicides.[426] In Rio de Janeiro, less than 10 percent of persons deprived of liberty have access to education and only around 15 percent can work.[427]

[416] *Primeiro*, "Governo da Bahia e TJ-BA publicam portaria conjunta para humanizar sistema prisional com novo Comitê de Políticas Penais" (The Government of Bahia and the Justice Tribunal publish joint ordinance to humanize prison system with the new Criminal Policies Committee), June 18, 2025; and *Bahia Noticias*, "Governo da Bahia e TJ-BA publicam portaria conjunta para humanizar sistema prisional com novo Comitê de Políticas Penais" (The Government of Bahia and the Justice Tribunal publish joint ordinance to humanize prison system with the new Criminal Policies Committee), June 18, 2025.

[417] STF, Government of Brazil, "Cuidados com recém-nascido no presídio podem ser considerados para remição de pena da mãe" (Care for newborns in prison may count toward mothers' sentence remission), August 21, 2025.

[418] *Consultor Jurídico*, "Mutirões carcerários e plano Pena Justa: para os que se preocupam com nosso falido sistema prisional" (Prison work brigades and Pena Justa [Fair Sentencing] plan: for those concerned about our failed prison system), March 26, 2025.

[419] World Prison Brief, Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research, World Prison Brief data - Highest to Lowest - Prison Population Total, 2025, reviewed on September 17, 2025.

[420] *Ibid.*

[421] National Secretariat of Criminal Policy, Ministry of Justice and Public Security of Brazil, *Relatório de Informações Penais. 17° ciclo SISDEPEN. 2° semestre de 2024 (RELIPEN)*, (Criminal Information Report. 17th National Criminal Information System (SISDEPEN) cycle. 2nd semester 2024, Preliminary Criminal Information Report (RELIPEN)), 2025, pp. 12 and 32.

[422] National Secretariat of Criminal Policy and CNJ, Ministry of Justice and Public Security of Brazil, Pena Justa - Informe de seguimiento al Tribunal Supremo Federal (Pena Justa [Fair Sentencing] plan – Follow-up report to the Federal Supreme Court), first semester of 2025, pp. 40–41. On IACHR's files.

[423] *O Globo*, "MPRJ aciona a Justiça para obrigar estado a construir novos presídios e acabar com superlotação" (MPRJ goes to court to force state to build new prisons and end overcrowding), July 11, 2025.

[424] The estimate was made by the Inter-American Commission on the basis of official information; See: Legislative Assembly of Minas Gerais, "Mortes em presídio de Neves escancaram superlotação e falta de estrutura" (Deaths in Neves prison lay bare overcrowding and lack of infrastructure), July 14, 2025.

[425] Coletivo Felipa Maria Aranha, Information provided to the IACHR via email, June 25, July 26 and September 15, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[426] Legislative Assembly of Minas Gerais, "Mortes em presídio de Neves escancaram superlotação e falta de estrutura" (Deaths in Neves prison lay bare overcrowding and lack of infrastructure), July 14, 2025; and *Pressreader*, "Mortes em persídios acendem alerta en MG" (Deaths in prisons raise alarm in MG), July 29, 2025; See also: *Globo*, "MP apura cerca de 20 mortes de detentos em presídio da Grande BH" (Office of the Public Prosecutor investigates around 20 detainee deaths in Greater BH prison), August 7, 2025; and *Estado de Minas*, "Presídio na Região Metropolitana de BH registra a 21ª morte em 2025" (Prison in Greater BH registers 21st death in 2025), August 19, 2025.

[427] *Globo*, "MPRJ vai à Justiça para obrigar estado a ampliar sistema penitenciário; déficit é de 17 mil vagas" (MPRJ goes to court to force state to expand prison system; deficit is 17,400 places), July 10, 2025; and *UOL*, "RJ tem 17,4 mil presos além da capacidade; menos de 10% conseguem estudar" (RJ has 17,400 prisoners beyond capacity; fewer than 10 percent can study), July 15, 2025.

The Commission notes several violations of the rights of women deprived of liberty, such as sexual violence and forced hair shaving, as well as the imprisonment of indigenous people without any cultural safeguards.[428]

195. With regard to the rights of **human rights defenders**, the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples held dialogues in the context of the Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Communicators and Environmentalists (PPDDH) of the MDHC. The purpose of these dialogues was to strengthen protection measures for indigenous leaders under threat, which included requests for the installation of security cameras and the provision of escorts by the National Public Security Force (FNSP).[429]

196. In relation to the PPDDH, it provides protection to 1,414 people. In addition, there are 553 active cases being supported by the Federal Technical Team (FTT) in areas without state-level protection programs. Indigenous and Quilombola community leaders represent the main groups assisted under the program. In total, 380 indigenous leaders and 190 Quilombola community leaders are being protected. Agreements remain in place with nine states to ensure the decentralized implementation of the PPDDH.[430] Nevertheless, Awá-Guaraní people defenders in Paraná constantly face threats and reprisals for their advocacy activities. Even in areas protected by national security forces, episodes of intimidation and violence persist.[431]

197. With regard to the rights of **LGBTI persons**, advances were noted, such as partnerships between the São Paulo Mayor's Office and the Zumbi dos Palmares school to fight discrimination in schools,[432] inclusive citizen consultations in Recife,[433] and a remedy issued by the Office of the Federal Public Prosecutor against the bullying of LGBTI persons.[434] Additionally, a guide aimed at public servants was launched to strengthen partnerships to promote LGBTI rights.[435]

198. The State also reported that the composition of the national forum for the promotion of the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons had been modified in April, thus consolidating the institutional structure responsible for implementing protection policies aimed at this group. Additionally, the latest version of the Rogéria form was launched. This form is integrated into the digital platform of the judiciary and facilitates the registration of matters related to the trans population; it also documents its use by agents and victims.[436]

[428] Office of the Public Defender of the Union, Manifestação No. 8524156/2025 DPGU (Statement No. 8524156/2025 DPGU), November 10, 2025, pp. 7–8. On IACHR's files.

[429] State of Brazil, Note Verbale No. 227, September 4, 2025, p. 12. On IACHR's files.

[430] *Agência Gov*, "Programa de gobierno incluye a 34 nuevas defensoras y defensores de derechos humanos en situación de riesgo" (Government protection program includes 34 new human rights defenders at risk), May 27, 2025.

[431] CNDH and the Brazilian Committee of Human Rights Defenders (CBDDH), *Relatório da Missão Conjunta do Conselho Nacional de Direitos Humanos (CNDH) e do Comitê Brasileiro de Defensoras e defensores de Direitos Humanos (CBDDH) com o Povo Awá-Guarani, no Paraná, held on May 23 and 27, 2025* (Report of the Joint Mission of CNDH and CBDDH with the Awá-Guarani People in Paraná, held on May 23 and 27, 2025), August 2025, p. 23.

[432] *Metrópoles*, "Prefeitura de SP faz parceria para combater a discriminação em escolas" (São Paulo Mayor's Office establishes partnership to combat discrimination in schools), February 19, 2025; *B News*, "Prefeitura de SP promove diversidade nas escolas com nova parceria; confira" (São Paulo Mayor's Office promotes diversity in schools with new partnership; check it out), February 21, 2025.

[433] Recife Mayor's Office, "Recife realiza IV Conferência Municipal LGBTI+ nesta sexta e sábado" (Recife to hold IV Municipal LGBTI+ Conference this Friday and Saturday), June 16, 2025; *FOLHA de Pernambuco*, "Recife realiza IV Conferência Municipal LGBTI+ nesta sexta e sábado" (Recife to hold IV Municipal LGBTI+ Conference this Friday and Saturday), June 11, 2025; *Brasil de Fato*, "Recife realiza escuta da população LGBT para elaboração e adequação de políticas públicas; saiba como participar" (Recife holds consultation with LGBT population for development and adjustment of public policies; learn how to participate), April 3, 2025.

[434] *Globo*, "MPF no Acre pede condenação da União de R$ 5 milhões por danos morais coletivos contra alunos LGBT+..." (Federal Office of the Public Prosecutor in Acre seeks conviction of the Union for 5 million Brazilian reais in collective moral damages against LGBT+ students...), May 8, 2025.

[435] MDHC, "Governo Federal lança caderno com orientações para parcerias em defesa dos direitos LGBTQIA+" (Federal government launches handbook with guidelines on partnerships in defense of LGBTQIA+ rights), August 6, 2025; *Brasil 247*, "Governo federal lança guia com orientações para parcerias em defesa dos direitos LGBTQIA+" (Federal government launches handbook with guidelines on partnerships in defense of LGBTQIA+ rights), August 7, 2025.

[436] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the Organization of American States (OAS), *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025. On IACHR's files.

199. Regarding access to justice, authorities dismantled a criminal group targeting LGBTI persons online, which had affected up to 30 people.[437] Judicial progress includes the decision of the STF to extend the scope of the Maria da Penha Law to same-sex couples, trans women and *travestis*,[438] as well as a ruling of the Superior Court of Justice authorizing the use of neutral gender markers on identity documents.[439] In relation to health, the Office of the Federal Public Prosecutor in Amazonas filed a remedy to guarantee comprehensive care for trans persons, after reporting a lack of specialized services to assist this population.[440]

200. In contrast, the civil society reported that 122 trans persons and *travestis* were murdered in 2024.[441] To date this year, eight bills which were deemed regressive by the civil society were introduced. Their focus is on establishing biological sex as the sole criterion for access to rights and prohibiting inclusive language in educational settings.[442] Additionally, a federal court in Rio Grande do Sul cancelled university quotas specifically aimed at trans persons, thereby nullifying admissions granted under this policy.[443] In April, the Federal Council of Medicine (CFM) issued a resolution prohibiting the use of hormone blockers for trans persons under 18 years of age. It also raised the minimum age for starting hormone therapy to 18 and for gender-affirming surgeries to 21, maintaining exceptions only for medical cases such as precocious puberty.[444] National medical associations widely criticized the measure. They warned that delaying these treatments without scientific basis can cause emotional and psychiatric harm, while also encouraging unsupervised self-medication and exacerbating health access barriers for young trans persons.[445]

201. With regard to **memory, truth and justice**, the State rectified the death certificates of victims of the military dictatorship to officially recognize that the victims were violently killed. The rectified certificates were delivered to the victims' families, and ceremonies were held as a way of offering symbolic reparation and ensuring historical memory.[446] Other positive measures were implemented too. These included searches for

[437] *Correio Braziliense*, "Terror em série: homossexuais são sequestrados e torturados após encontros por app" (Serial terror: homosexuals kidnapped and tortured after app encounters), June 17, 2025; "A Tarde, Grupo criminoso sequestra e tortura gays após encontros no Grindr" (Criminal group kidnaps and tortures gays after Grindr encounters), June 17, 2025; *CGN*, "Operação 'Bonde dos Galãs': Polícia Civil desarticula grupo criminoso que extorquia vítimas LGBTQIAPN+" (Operation 'Bonde dos Galãs': Civil Police Dismantles Criminal Group that Extorted LGBTQIAPN+ Victims), June 17, 2025.

[438] STF, "STF amplia proteção da Lei Maria da Penha a casais homoafetivos do sexo masculino, travestis e transexuais" (STF extends the protection scope of the Maria da Penha Law to male same-sex couples, *travestis* and trans persons), February 24, 2025; *Agência Brasil*, "Lei Maria da Penha se estende a casais homoafetivos e mulheres trans" (Maria da Penha Law extended to same-sex couples and trans women), February 22, 2025; *Globo*, "Entenda a decisão do STF que estendeu aplicação da Lei Maria da Penha a casais gays, mulheres trans e travestis" (Understand the STF decision extending application of the Maria da Penha Law to gay couples, trans women and *travestis*), March 9, 2025.

[439] *JusBrasil*, "Gênero Neutro no Registro Civil: Uma Análise da Decisão Histórica do STJ e Seus Reflexos no Direito de Família" (Gender neutrality in civil registry: an analysis of the historic STJ decision and its reflections on family law), May 14, 2025; *Globo*, "Entenda a decisão inédita do STJ que reconheceu o gênero neutro em registro civil" (Understand the unprecedented STJ decision recognizing neutral gender in civil registry), May 8, 2025.

[440] Office of the Federal Public Prosecutor (MPF), "Ação do MPF busca garantir atendimento integral à população transexual e travesti no Amazonas" (MPF action seeks to ensure comprehensive care for transsexual and *travesti* population in Amazonas), July 15, 2025; *Globo*, "MPF aciona Justiça para garantir saúde integral a pessoas trans e travestis no AM" (MPF resorted to justice to ensure comprehensive healthcare for trans persons and *travestis* in AM), July 16, 2025.

[441] Benevides, Bruna, *Dossiê: assassinatos e violências contra travestis e transexuais brasileiras em 2024*, (Dossier: Murders and Violence against Brazilian *Travestis* and Transsexuals in 2024), Brazilian Association of *Travestis* and Transsexuals (ANTRA), 2025; *Agência Brasil*, "Número de pessoas trans e travestis assassinadas no Brasil cai em 2024" (Number of trans persons and *travestis* murdered in Brazil falls in 2024), January 27, 2025.

[442] *Diadorim*, "Com bancada conservadora maior, Senado dobra projetos anti-LGBTQIA+ em 7 meses" (With a higher number of conservative bench, senate doubles the number of anti-LGBTQIA+ bills in 7 months), August 11, 2025.

[443] *Terra*, "Justiça Federal determina fim de cotas para pessoas trans na Furg e manda cancelar matrículas" (Federal Court orders the end of quotas for trans persons at FURG and the cancellation of enrollments), August 4, 2025

[444] *Agência Brasil*, "CFM veta terapia hormonal para menor de 18 anos e restringe cirurgias" (CFM vets hormonal therapy for adolescents under 18 and restricts surgeries), April 16, 2025; MPF, "MPF pede à Justiça suspensão de norma do CFM que restringe atendimento médico a pessoas trans" (MPF requests court suspension of CFM ruling restricting medical care for trans persons), June 16, 2025; *Globo*, "STF restabelece norma do CFM que restringe tratamento hormonal e bloqueio puberal para adolescentes e crianças trans" (STF reinstates CFM rule restricting hormonal treatment and puberty blockers for trans adolescents and children), October 3, 2025.

[445] *Agência Brasil*, "Brazilian medical entities criticize veto on trans youth therapies," April 27, 2025.

[446] *G1*, "Estado pede desculpas a parentes de pessoas mortas pela ditadura militar, encontradas em cemitério em São Paulo" (State apologizes to relatives of people killed by military dictatorship found in São Paulo cemetery), March 24, 2025; Secretary of Social Communication, "Governo Federal entrega 21 certidões de óbito retificadas de vítimas da ditadura militar" (Federal government delivers

disappeared victims, together with the identification of two victims found in the Perus mass grave and the reactivation of exhumations in a cemetery in Rio de Janeiro;[447] the mapping of 49 historical sites linked to the military dictatorship; and the transfer of ownership of the Casa da Morte in Petrópolis so as to turn it into a memorial.[448] In addition, an unprecedented documentary collection related to the military dictatorship was discovered at the former Legal Medicine Institute of Rio de Janeiro, which led to the establishment of judicial measures for its conservation.[449] In 2025, a conviction was issued against two individuals for crimes committed at said clandestine detention center.[450] In addition, civil society organizations criticized the absence of memorial ceremonies on the anniversary of the 1964 coup and the annulment of a decision seeking to rename the streets linked to the dictatorship in São Paulo.[451]

202. The Office of the Federal Prosecutor for Citizen Rights (PFDC) of the MPF provided information on institutional efforts in transitional justice, which include the creation of memory sites by transforming former repression centers; a thematic initiative prioritizing impacts on indigenous peoples during the dictatorship; and the holding of a seminar on businesses that promoted human rights violations during the dictatorship.[452] During a public hearing held by the Inter-American Commission in June, organizations emphasized the need to establish a National Indigenous Truth Commission to make historically invisibilized violations visible and provide reparation.[453] In addition, the Inter-American Commission has received petitions regarding initiatives focused on the recognition and reparation of specific violations that affected peasants and LGBTI persons.[454]

203. With regard to the rights of **children and adolescents**, the Commission notes the reported advances in combating child labor, even as structural challenges persist in its eradication. According to data released by the Ministry of Labor and Employment in June, 6,372 children and adolescents were removed from child labor situations between 2023 and April 2025. Out of these, 86 percent corresponded to the worst forms of child labor. Among the total identified victims, 791 were children up to 13 years of age, while more than 5,500 were adolescents aged 14 to 17, primarily in sectors such as commerce, food services, mechanical workshops, agriculture and livestock raising.[455] In this regard, the State reported that between January and

21 rectified death certificates of victims of the military dictatorship), August 29, 2025; MDHC, "Governo federal entrega 63 certidões de óbito retificadas de pessoas mortas e desaparecidas políticas durante a ditadura militar" (Federal government delivers 63 rectified death certificates of politically killed and disappeared persons during the military dictatorship), October 9, 2025.

[447] Federal Justice, Judicial Section of São Paulo, "Estado brasileiro identifica dois desaparecidos políticos no 'Cemitério de Perus'" (The Brazilian State identifies two disappeared politicians in 'Cemitério de Perus'), April 23, 2025; *UOL*, "Busca de desaparecidos na ditadura são retomadas no Rio" (Search for disappeared persons during the dictatorship resumed in Rio), May 29, 2025.

[448] MDHC, "Governo lança mapeamento de 49 locais históricos da ditadura militar no Brasil" (Government launches mapping of 49 historical sites of the military dictatorship in Brazil), April 3, 2025; *Agência Brasil,* "Justiça transfere posse da Casa da Morte para Prefeitura de Petrópolis" (Court transfers possession of Casa da Morte to Petrópolis Mayor's Office), May 23, 2025.

[449] *CNN Brazil*, "MPF visita antigo IML do Rio e descobre acervo histórico da ditadura" (Office of the Federal Prosecutor visits old Rio IML and discovers dictatorship historical archive), April 1, 2025; *Agência Brasil*, "MPF pede que União assuma prédio e preserve acervo do antigo IML do RJ" (Office of the Federal Prosecutor requests the Union to take over building and preserve old RJ IML archive), September 29, 2025.

[450] *Rádio Agência*, "Justiça condena ex-agentes do Exército por tortura na 'Casa da Morte'" (Court condemns former Army agents for torture at 'Casa da Morte'), September 10, 2025.

[451] *Folha de São Paulo*, "Lula e militares mantêm pacto de silêncio sobre aniversário do golpe de 1964" (Lula and the military maintain silence pact on 1964 coup anniversary), March 28, 2025; *G1*, "Justiça anula decisão que obrigava Prefeitura de SP a apresentar plano para renomear ruas ligadas à ditadura militar" (Court annuls decision requiring SP Mayor's Office to present a plan to rename streets linked to the military dictatorship), September 24, 2025.

[452] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the OAS, *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, pp. 42–44, 50, 51. On IACHR's files. MPF, Office of the Federal Prosecutor for Citizen Rights, IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, November 18, 2025, p. 26. On IACHR's files.

[453] IACHR, thematic hearing "Brazil: Situation of memory, truth and justice policies," 193rd regular period of sessions, online, July 21, 2025; Associação Nacional de Ação Indigenista, "Para apurar crimes da ditadura, povos indígenas propõem Comissão Nacional Indígena da Verdade" (To investigate dictatorship crimes, indigenous peoples propose National Indigenous Truth Commission), October 10, 2025.

[454] *Agencia Pública*, "Ditadura: Em carta, famílias pedem que Brasil reconheça e repare mortes e sumiços no campo" (Dictatorship: In a letter, families request Brazil to recognize and repair deaths and disappearances in the countryside), July 2, 2025; *Poder 360*, "Associações pedem reparação a LGBTIs perse guidos na ditadura" (Associations request reparations for LGBTI persons persecuted during the dictatorship), July 13, 2025.

[455] Ministry of Labor and Employment "Governo Federal afasta mais de 6 mil crianças e adolescentes do trabalho infantil entre 2023 e 2025" (Federal government removes more than 6,000 children and adolescents from child labor between 2023 and 2025), June 9, 2025.

June 2025, 4,528 inspections were carried out, protecting 1,821 children and adolescents — 83 percent of whom were in the worst forms of child labor.[456]

204. The Commission notes the launch of the publication titled *Crianças, Adolescentes e Telas: Guia sobre Uso de Dispositivos Digitais* (Children, adolescents and screens: Guidelines on the use of digital devices), issued by the State in March to promote the conscious use of digital devices by children and adolescents.[457] This initiative was followed by the holding of three seminars on the protection and education of children and adolescents in digital spaces with the aim of disseminating the guide's content.[458] In addition, the Commission acknowledges the guide's alignment with Law No. 15.211, which establishes the Digital Statute of Childhood and Adolescence. The law sets rules on the use of digital platforms and data collection, including age verification mechanisms, parental controls, a ban on targeted advertising, and measures to prevent exposure to inappropriate content, all in line with the principle of comprehensive protection.[459]

205. Following the publication of a video denouncing child sexual exploitation on digital platforms, a reporting channel registered 1,651 unique reports of images of child sexual abuses in only six days — an increase of 114 percent compared to the same period last year. In the first half of 2025, 28,344 reports featuring this type of content were filed nationwide.[460] In addition, the Commission observes with concern the risks to children and adolescents in the digital environment, particularly due to the circulation of challenges on social media. In April, a civil society report indicated that at least 56 children and adolescents died in the past year after participating in these challenges, many linked to asphyxiation and self-harm.[461]

206. Finally, the Commission observes with concern the persistent upward trend in relation to various forms of violence against children and adolescents across the country. Data released in May indicate that the number of children and adolescents who were victims of violence rose from 35,000 to more than 115,000 between 2013 and 2025. This surge includes reports of physical, sexual, and psychological violence, as well as hospitalizations and homicides of this population — with a significant overrepresentation of Black children and adolescents among the victims.[462] In addition, physical punishment remains a practice in family settings. A national study presented in August 2025 revealed that 29 percent of caregivers of children up to 6 years of age admit to using slaps, pinches or squeezes as a form of discipline, despite the prohibition under the Menino Bernardo Law (Law No. 13.010), which was enacted in 2014.[463]

207. The Commission notes with concern the processing of Bill No. 1.473/202574, which extends the maximum internment period from three to ten years and proposes harsher socioeducational internment

[456] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Informações do Estado brasileiro a respeito da situação dos direitos humanos no Brasil em 2025 (Information from the Brazilian State regarding the human rights situation in Brazil in 2025), September 4, 2025, p. 23. On IACHR's files.

[457] Secretariat of Social Communication of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil, "Governo lança guia para uso saudável de telas por crianças e adolescentes" (Government launches guide on healthy screen use by children and adolescents), March 11, 2025. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Informações do Estado brasileiro a respeito da situação dos direitos humanos no Brasil em 2025 (Information from the Brazilian State regarding the human rights situation in Brazil in 2025), September 4, 2025, pp. 98–99. On IACHR's files.

[458] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Informações do Estado brasileiro a respeito da situação dos direitos humanos no Brasil em 2025 2025 (Information from the Brazilian State regarding the human rights situation in Brazil in 2025), September 4, 2025, p. 100. ON IACHR's files.

[459] IACHR [@CIDH], (September 19, 2025), #Brasil | A #CIDH saúda a promulgação da Lei 15.211, que institui o Estatuto Digital da Criança e do Adolescente para garantir sua proteção integral (The #IACHR welcomes the enactment of Law 15.211, which establishes the Digital Statute of Childhood and Adolescence to ensure their comprehensive protection) [X post], X, https://x.com/CIDH/status/1969111623932543435 . Presidency of the Republic of Brazil, *Lei No. 15.211, Estatuto Digital da Criança e do Adolescente* (Law No. 15.211, Digital Statute of Childhood and Adolescence), September 17, 2025.

[460] *Agência Brasil*, "Denúncias de abuso contra crianças crescem 114% após vídeo" (Reports of child abuse increase 114 percent after video), August 15, 2025.

[461] *O Globo*, "Ao menos 56 crianças morreram vítimas de desafios online nos últimos 12 anos, aponta levantamento" (At least 56 children died victims of online challenges in the last 12 years, survey shows), April 14, 2025. *VEJA*, "Pelo menos 50 crianças e adolescentes morreram ao fazer desafios de redes sociais" (At least 50 children and adolescents died in social media challenges), April 15, 2025.

[462] *Jornal Nacional*, "Em 10 anos, crescem os ataques contra crianças e adolescentes no Brasil" (In 10 years, attacks against children and adolescents grow in Brazil), May 12, 2025.

[463] *Agência Brasil*, "Apesar de proibição, 29% admitem palmadas e beliscões em crianças" (Despite prohibition, 29 percent admit spanking and pinching children), August 4, 2025.

measures.[464] In addition, the Commission takes note of the alert issued by the Office of the Federal Prosecutor for Citizen Rights, which warns that the application of the Hague Convention on the international abduction of minors —except for situations of risk and domestic violence against women— has led to violations of the victims' rights and the rights of children, and thereby legislative reforms are required.[465]

208. Regarding the rights of **persons in the context of human mobility**, the Commission notes the National Policy on Migration, Refugees, and Statelessness, which highlights the positive contribution of migrants to society and promotes their social inclusion. In addition, it incorporates various international and inter-American standards on the matter and promotes the application of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.[466] Moreover, the Aquí é Brasil (This is Brazil) program provides a comprehensive response to Brazilian persons who were forcibly repatriated and are in vulnerable situations. The program aims at promoting socio-economic integration, access to employment, and family reunification.[467] Additionally, a bill on economic aid for forcibly repatriated persons was registered.[468]

209. However, the State updated regulations governing the issuance of humanitarian visas for Afghan, Haitian and Ukrainian nationals.[469] According to the new regulations, Afghan and Haitian nationals are required to obtain sponsorship from a civil society organization or other entity, whereas Ukrainian nationals do not face this requirement and are allowed to apply for a visa directly with the Federal Police. As of July, approximately 200 Afghan people arrived in the country,[470] and 235 humanitarian reception visas were issued, without specifying the nationality of the visa recipients.[471] Moreover, in August, the arrival of 320 Afghan people was approved,[472] and it is estimated that a total of 2,000 people will arrive in the country during the first half of 2026.[473]

210. In the area of **human trafficking**, the State highlighted the work of the Special Mobile Inspection Group, which is a benchmark in the rescue of workers who are victims of exploitation,[474] the publication of the Operational Guide for the Assistance of Trafficking Victims; the mapping of services for trafficking survivors returning to Brazil; and the Guide on the Rapid Identification of Human Trafficking at Mercosur and Associated States Borders.[475] Brazil was also recognized as a pioneer in Alliance 8.7 due to its fight against child labor, forced labor, modern slavery, and human trafficking.[476]

211. Regarding the rights of **persons with disabilities**, the State advanced with the implementation of the Quota Law, under which 618,959 workers with disabilities are now formally employed by businesses in compliance with the aforementioned law. Furthermore, continuous benefit payments (BPC)

[464] MPF, Office of the Federal Prosecutor for Citizen Rights, Technical Note No. 14/2025, Análise do Projeto de Lei nº 1473/2025 (Analysis of Bill No. 1473/2025), October 13, 2025.

[465] MPF, Office of the Federal Prosecutor for Citizen Rights, IACHR's *Annual Report*, November 18, 2025, p. 33. On IACHR's files.

[466] Presidency of the Republic, Decree No. 12.657, October 7, 2025.

[467] Government of Brazil, MDHC, "Aqui é Brasil": Governo Federal lança programa de acolhimento humanitário aos repatriados e deportados (Aqui é Brasil [This is Brazil]: Federal government launches program of humanitarian aid to repatriated and deported persons), July 8, 2025.

[468] Chamber of Deputies, Projeto de Lei PL 194/2025 (Bill PL 194/2025), February 4, 2025.

[469] *Diário Oficial da União*, Portaria Interministerial MJSP/MRE No. 49 (Interministerial Decree MJSP/MRE No. 49), December 30, 2024; *Diário Oficial da União*, Portaria Interministerial MJSP/MRE No. 51 (Interministerial Decree MJSP/MRE No. 51), December 30, 2024; *Diário Oficial da União*, Portaria Interministerial MJSP/MRE No. 50 (Interministerial Decree MJSP/MRE No. 50), December 30, 2024.

[470] UNHCR, "UNHCR welcomes arrival of first Afghan refugee families under Brazil's pioneering Community Sponsorship Programme", April 30, 2025.

[471] Ministry of Justice and Public Security, "Brasil recebe aporte internacional para ampliar acolhimento de afegãos" (Brazil receives international support to amplify its reception of Afghans), July 18, 2025.

[472] Ministry of Justice and Public Security, "Brasil avança no acolhimento humanitário com nova parceria para receber nacionais afegãos" (Brazil moves forward with humanitarian aid by means of a new decree to receive Afghan citizens), August 1, 2025.

[473] UNHCR, "ACNUR e IRUSA anunciam parceria de US$ 1 milhão para promover apoio a refugiados afegãos no Brasil" (UNHCR and IRUSA announce one million dollar decree to support Afghan refugees in Brazil), September 3, 2025.

[474] Federative Republic of Brazil, IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025.

[475] Federal Government, "Lewandowski lança publicações para o combate ao tráfico de pessoas" (Lewandowski launches publications to combat human trafficking), March 24, 2025.

[476] Government of Brazil, "Brazil pioneering fight against child labor, forced labor, modern slavery, and human trafficking," May 30, 2025.

were granted to 3.7 million persons with disabilities.[477] In the judicial sphere, progress was marked by the creation of a database on persons with disabilities working in the judiciary;[478] the installation of communicational accessibility services for persons with hearing impairments at hearings and during various judicial proceedings;[479] and the presentation of a bill seeking to guarantee comprehensive and free legal assistance to persons with disabilities.[480]

212. Nevertheless, official data reveals challenges in the accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the judiciary, particularly highlighting the need to strengthen participation channels for this population; awareness and training actions on inclusive design in the area of technology; reasonable communication adjustments; and permanent monitoring.[481]

VIII. CANADA

- **General Considerations**

213. With respect to **progress**, the Commission highlights the signing of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará). It also welcomes the State's First Federal Indigenous Justice Strategy aim at addressing systemic discrimination against indigenous communities. In addition, it values that Bill C-40 became law and will establish a commission to review criminal cases characterized by a potential miscarriage of justice.

214. In relation to **challenges,** the Commission expresses concern that the "Strong Borders Act" (Bill C-2) and the "Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act" (Bill C-12), currently under discussion in Parliament, have the potential to put refugee rights at risk, impose arbitrary retroactive one-year bars, and grant ministers mass immigration status-cancellation powers. It also observes with concern that in provincial detention centers in Quebec, persons will be incarcerated according to their anatomical sex.

215. On October 30, 2025, the State submitted its response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.[482]

- **Specific issues**

216. In relation to **democratic institutionality**, the IACHR observed a number of events that led to the appointment of Canada's 24th Prime Minister. It takes note that in January, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation.[483] Later, on March 9, Mark Carney was elected Leader of the Liberal Party,[484] who, on March 14, was sworn-in Canada's 24th Prime Minister. [485] On March 24, the Prime Minister called for federal

[477] Permanent Mission of Brazil to the Organization of American States (OAS), *Situation of Human Rights in Brazil*, Input for Chapter IV of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, pp. 8 and 85. On IACHR's files.

[478] *Ibid.*, p. 62.

[479] São Paulo Mayor's Office, "Prefeitura de São Paulo instala serviço de acessibilidade comunicacional para pessoas com deficiência auditiva e surdas no Fórum Regional da Lapa" (SP Mayor's Office launches communicational accessibility services for persons with hearing impairments and deaf persons at the Lapa Regional Forum), August 19, 2025.

[480] *100 Fronteiras*, "Assembleia e Defensoria lançam projeto para pessoas com deficiência" (Assembly and Office of the Ombudsperson to launch a bill for persons with disabilities), August 19, 2025.

[481] UNDP and CNJ, "Diagnóstico sobre acessibilidade e inclusão da pessoa com deficiência nos órgãos do Poder Judiciário," (Diagnosis on accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in agencies of the judiciary), March 14, 2025

[482] Government of Canada, Response to the IACHR Annual Human Rights Report Request January 1- July 31, 2025, October 30, 2025.

[483] The Guardian, Justin Trudeau announces plan to quit as Canada's Prime Minister, January 6, 2025; CNN, Canada's PM Justin Trudeau announces resignation, January 7, 2025; BBC, Canada's Justin Trudeau cites internal battles as he ends nine-year run, January 6, 2025.

[484] CNN, Canada;s Liberal Party chooses Mark Carney to succeed Justice Trudeau, March 10, 2025.

[485] Government of Canada, Swearing-in of the 30th Canadian Ministry, March 14, 2025.

elections,[486] which took place on April 28, and resulted in Carney's victory to continue with his term as Prime Minister.[487] In addition, the Commission takes note that during the 2025 electoral process, Canadian security and intelligence offices, such as, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), were at the frontline of Canada's effort to combat interference campaigns against democratic institutions, such as the monitoring of domestic and violent extremism threats directed at elections and electoral security.[488]

217. With respect to **human rights institutionality**, the Commission acknowledges that in June, the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) presented its 2025-2026 Plan. In it, the CHRC prioritizes advocacy and engagement efforts to address and combat systemic racism and discrimination, promotes human rights, and represents the public interests by adhering to the "Paris Principles", aim at guiding National Human Rights Institutions in the promotion of independence, transparency, pluralism, and by following strategic participation and meaningful engagement with stakeholders.[489]

218. Regarding **citizen security**, the Commission takes note that in June, the State introduced the "Strong Borders Act" (Bill C-2) aim at ensuring law enforcement has the right tools to keep the borders secure, combat transnational organized crime, stop the flow of illegal fentanyl, and crack down on money laundering.[490] In September, at the time of writing this report, the status of Bill C-2 was in Parliament undergoing its second reading.[491] Furthermore, and based on information available, the IACHR expresses its concern that if such Bill passes, refugee rights and fairness in immigration processing may be at risk; likewise, people who face persecution, torture or worse in their countries of origin, could be unfairly denied refugee protection by Canada.[492]

219. Concerning **access to justice**, the State indicated that from January to July 2025, the government continued to provide funding to support access to legal aid in the criminal justice system for immigration and refugee legal aid services.[493]

220. In addition, the Commission welcomes actions to reduce the overrepresentation of black[494] and indigenous[495] peoples in the criminal justice system. These actions set out a vision and priority areas to guide collaborative work with provinces and territories throughout Canada's Black Justice Strategy Implementation Plan, and the Federal Indigenous Justice Strategy, respectively. Likewise, he IACHR acknowledges that on December 17, 2024, Bill C-40, the "David and Joyce Milgaard's Law" known as the Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission Act received royal assent and became law. The Bill establishes an

[486] 9news, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announces election as he seeks mandate to tackle Trump, March 24, 2025; USA Today, Canada Prime Minister Mark Carney calls snap election, seeks mandate on Trump tariffs, March 23, 2025; The Guardian, Canada to head to polls as Mark Carney calls snap election for 28 April, March 23, 2025.

[487] Le Monde, Canadian PM Mark Carney wins snap election upended by Trump's threats, April 29, 2025; CBS News, Canada's Liberal Party wins election in turnaround seen as reaction to Trump's annexation threats and tariffs, April 29, 2025; APNews, Carney wins Canadian election, while Conservative leader loses his seat in Parliament, April 29, 2025.

[488] Government of Canada, Measures to protect the 2025 General Election, March 24, 2025.

[489] Canadian Human Rights Commission, Canadian Human Rights Commission's 2025-2026 Departmental Plan: At a glance, June 17, 2025.

[490] Government of Canada, Government of Canada strengthens border security, June 3, 2025.

[491] Government of Canada, C-2 An Act respecting certain measures relating to the security of the border between Canada and the United States and respecting other related security measures, September 17, 2025.

[492] Amnesty International, Bill C-2, Canada's new border bill, an attack on the human right to seek asylum, June 4, 2025; Canadian Council for Refugees, Over 300 Organizations Unite to Demand Complete Withdrawal of Bill C-2, June 18, 2025; Immigration News Canada, Canada's New immigration Bill C2 To Cancel or Suspend Applications & Documents, September 17, 2025.

[493] Government of Canada, Response to the IACHR Annual Human Rights Report Request January 1- July 31, 2025, October 30, 2025.

[494] Government of Canada, Release of Canada's Black Justice Strategy's Implementation Plan: an important step toward transformational change in the criminal justice system in Canada, February 25, 2025.

[495] Government of Canada, Canada's first federal Indigenous Justice Strategy to address systemic discrimination and overrepresentation in the Canadian justice system, March 10, 2025.

independent commission to review, investigate, and decide on criminal cases that should be returned to the justice system due to potential miscarriage of justice.[496]

221. Regarding the rights of **women**, the Commission celebrates that on March 7, 2025, the State signed the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), reaffirming its commitment to advancing women's rights.[497] It also welcomes the reinstatement of the Minister of Women and Gender Equality, previously removed from the Cabinet earlier this year.[498] However, the Commission observes a budget reduction for this Ministry, as announced in the Government's Departmental Plan.[499]

222. In addition, gender-based violence and impunity, particularly affecting indigenous women, remain a concern. According to the Ottawa Police Service (OPS), cases of intimate partner violence increased by 9% in the first half of the year compared to the same period in 2024, with women representing 80.6% of victims.[500] Indigenous women with disabilities continue to face multiple forms of violence in both family and institutional settings, forced sterilizations,[501] and limited access to shelters and survivor services.[502] Civil society organizations also report limited progress in implementing the "Calls for Justice" from the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.[503] Furthermore, indigenous, black and racialized women with disabilities remain overrepresented in the criminal justice system and prisons, with higher rates of placement in maximum security facilities.[504]

223. As for the rights of **children**, the IACHR values the measures adopted in the framework of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet. Particularly, the State reported that it will provide $18.2 million until 2029 to the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P) to operate two projects: i) *Cybertip.ca*, Canada's national tipline to report child sexual exploitation and abuse; and, ii) Project Arachnid, an innovative set of victim-centric tools used to scan the internet for known child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) and to send removal notices to electronic service providers. [505] In addition, the Commission welcomes the initiative *Universal $10-a-day Child Care Program* that will ensure that families get the support they need to join the workforce or continue their career while raising their kids.[506]

224. In relation to the situation of **human mobility**, the IACHR welcomes the end of immigration detention across the 10 provinces in Canada. Publicly available information suggests that as of September 15,

[496] Government of Canada, The Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission Act (David and Joyce Milgaard's Law), December 17, 2024.

[497] Government of Canada, Canada signs Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women, March 7, 2025.

[498] Prime Minister of Canada, Today, the Prime Minister, Mark Carney, announced the members of Canada's new Ministry, May 13th, 2025; Human Rights Watch, Canada Cuts Gender Equality Minister, March 18, 2025.

[499] Feminist Alliance for International Action, Hearing Request for the 194th Period of Sessions "Actions taken by Canada to respond to the Commission's 2014 report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)August 21, 2025, in IACHR records, p. 8; Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Women, Joint Statement on WAGE's Budget, July 28, 2025; Government of Canada, Women and Gender Equality Canada's 2025-26 Departmental Plan, June 17, 2025.

[500] Ottawa Police, Intimate Partner Violence reports increase in Ottawa, July 7, 2025.

[501] United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Canada, April 15, 2025, para. 33; CIDH, Informe Anual 2023, Capítulo IVa, 31 de diciembre de 2023, párr. 198.

[502] Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Canada, April 15, 2025, para. 31.

[503] Feminist Alliance for International Action, Hearing Request for the 194th Period of Sessions "Actions taken by Canada to respond to the Commission's 2014 report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)August 21, 2025, in IACHR records, p. 8; Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Women, Joint Statement on WAGE's Budget, July 28, 2025; Government of Canada, Women and Gender Equality Canada's 2025-26 Departmental Plan, June 17, 2025.

[504] United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Canada, April 15, 2025, paras. 27, 29 and 33; CIDH, Informe Anual 2024, Capítulo IVa, 26 de marzo de 2025, párr. 479.

[505] Government of Canada, Response to the IACHR Annual Human Rights Report Request January 1- July 31, 2025, October 30, 2025.

[506] Government of Canada, Affordable child care, a stronger economy, March 6, 2025.

there were no people detained in provincial correctional facilities.[507] Civil society organizations also saluted this measure, although they expressed concern over the decision of the Canada Border Services Agency to incarcerate detainees at a "temporary designated immigrant station" at a federal prison in Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, Quebec.[508] Similarly, in its report to its visit to Canada, the United Nations Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) welcomed the ending of the memoranda of understanding for migration detention in provincial prisons; nonetheless, it was concerned to hear indications that the federal Government was considering placing migration detainees in federal penitentiaries instead.[509]

225. The UNWGAD also highlighted that whereas existing policies require that migration detention be a last resort, this does not always occur in practice in Canada, and alternatives to detention are often only considered after arrest at the review hearing, when the damage from being removed from family, community and employment may have already been done.[510] In addition, it expressed concern over the fact that children can be detained, including for family reunification, and detainees often lack legal representation and have limited access to legal aid, with detention decisions sometimes taken on the basis of inaccessible classified material.[511]

226. On the other hand, the Commission notes with concern the presentation of Bill C-12 "Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act". This Bill draws on the elements of Bill C-2, presented back in June,[512] to among others, improve the immigration system. According to official information, the proposal is looking to protect the asylum system against sudden increases in claims by introducing new ineligibility rules; improve how asylum claims are received, processed, and decided; strengthen authorities to cancel, suspend or change immigration documents, and to cancel, suspend or stop accepting new applications; and improve how client information is shared within Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and with federal, provincial and territorial partners.[513]

227. The State considers that many of the laws related to managing borders and immigration systems in Canada need to be updated to continue to address increasing and more complex security challenges.[514] The IACHR does not have information on the current complex security challenges presumably affecting Canada's migration system. As per civil society organizations, Bill C-12 leaves intact the measures to block refugee hearings, impose arbitrary retroactive one-year bars, and grants ministers mass immigration status-cancellation powers, and calls for the withdrawal of both Bill C-2 and Bill C-12.[515]

228. As for **trafficking in persons**, the State indicated that in relation to the *Fighting Against Forced Labor and Child Labor in Supply Chains Act,* which calls for entities and government institutions to release annual information on efforts to prevent and reduce risks of forced labor in supply chains, by May 31, 2025, a total of 4,313 reports had been received. In addition, it indicated that based on lessons learned from

[507] Toronto Star, Canada Border Services Agency says no more immigration detainees are in provincial jails, September 18, 2025.
[508] Amnesty International, Human rights win: Immigration detention ends in provincial jails across Canada, September 19, 2025; Human Rights Watch, Immigration Detention Ends in Provincial Jails Across Canada, September 19, 2025.
[509] United Nations Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD), Visit to Canada Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, A/HRC/60/26/Add.1, August 4, 2025, para. 70.
[510] UNWGAD, Visit to Canada Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, A/HRC/60/26/Add.1, August 4, 2025, para. 67.
[511] UNWGAD, Visit to Canada Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, A/HRC/60/26/Add.1, August 4, 2025, paras. 69 and 71.
[512] Government of Canada, Bill C-2: An Act respecting certain measures relating to the security of the border between Canada and the United States and respecting other related security measures, June 19, 2025.
[513] Government of Canada, Government of Canada introduces new streamlined legislation to strengthen border security and keep Canadians safe, October 8, 2025.
[514] Government of Canada, Understanding Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act, Bill C-12, October 9, 2025.
[515] Amnesty International, Joint statement: Bill C-12's introduction solves none of Bill C-2's problems, October 14, 2025.

the first 2024 annual information cycle, the State developed an optional international reporting template in collaboration with the United Kingdom and Australia to support streamlined reporting across jurisdictions.[516]

229. The IACHR also takes note that as of February of 2025, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is improving measures for foreign national victims of human trafficking and family violence. These measures will consider that victims and their dependents in Canada may now receive an initial temporary resident permit (TRP) for at least 12 months and additional fees for subsequent TRP's; and work and study permits and biometrics will now be waived.[517] In addition, the Commission welcomes two initiatives that will bring $39.7 million in federal funding to protect children and youth from online sexual exploitation,[518] and $12.5 million to support the continued operation of the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline, through 2028, respectively. [519]

230. Regarding the rights of **Indigenous Peoples**, the State reported that in 2025, under the UN Declaration Act Action Plan, the government moved forward on distinction-base mechanisms to formalize Indigenous Peoples' participation in, among others: implementing Canada's international human rights obligations, monitoring and reporting on treaty commitments, following up on recommendations from international bodies.[520] In addition, it established an Indigenous Advisory Council to collaborate with the Office of Major Federal Projects and allocated $40 million to strengthen the capacity of Indigenous communities to effectively participate in national infrastructure initiatives.[521]

231. Furthermore, Canada developed the First Federal Indigenous Justice Strategy, representing a significant step toward addressing systemic discrimination. The strategy includes measures to expand culturally relevant justice services, strengthens the application of Gladue principles in sentencing, and supports the creation of community-based, Indigenous-run correctional programs and healing lodges to promote restorative justice and reduces recidivism.[522] This initiative responds to the ongoing concern over the overrepresentation of Indigenous persons in the federal penitentiary system, who account for roughly one-third of the total prison population despite representing only about five percent of the country's population.[523]

232. Nevertheless, the Ontario approved Bill 5, which introduces provisions for the creation of special economic zones, accelerates mining and infrastructure projects, and relaxes environmental safeguards.[524] The Commission notes with particular concern that this legislation was adopted without consultation or free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) from affected Indigenous communities,[525] under the justification of "national interest," allowing authorities to fast-track or bypass existing environmental and consultation procedures.[526]

233. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, the State reported initiatives at the federal and municipal levels; they include: i) progress on

[516] Government of Canada, Response to the IACHR Annual Human Rights Report Request January 1- July 31, 2025, October 30, 2025.
[517] Government of Canada, Better Support for Foreign Nationals Facing Human Trafficking and Family Violence in Canada, February 4, 2025.
[518] Government of Canada. Government of Canada invests in protecting children and youth from online sexual exploitation, March 20, 2025.
[519] Government of Canada, Government of Canada announces funding for the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline, March 21, 2025.
[520] Government of Canada, Response to the IACHR Annual Human Rights Report Request January 1- July 31, 2025, October 30, 2025.
[521] Prime Minister of Canada, Prime Minister Carney engages First Nations Rights Holders on the Building Canada Act, July 17, 2025.
[522] Department of Justice, Canada, Indigenous System Strategy, March 2025, pg. 16.
[523] Reuters, Despite Trudeau promises, more Indigenous people being jailed in Canada, March 8, 2025.
[524] Parliament of Canada, Bill C-5, An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act, June 6, 2025.
[525] CBC News, Federal, provincial environmental bills have 'no respect' for Ontario First Nations, says chief, July 16, 2025.
[526] Amnesty International, Amnesty International Canada concerned that passage of Bill C-5 sidelines indigenous rights, July 4, 2025.

the 2024–2028 Canada Anti-Racism Strategy; ii) a review study of the Mental Health Fund for Afro-descendant persons, with recommendations to expand culturally safe access;[527] and, iii) economic measures such as funding for the Black Entrepreneurship Program.[528] At the local level, community and health-service actions were undertaken, such as a hotline for Afro-descendant youth in Montreal,[529] a safe space at the Deer Lodge Centre in Winnipeg,[530] and a plan to combat racism in Ontario's education system.[531]

234. There were advances and challenges in Canada regarding racial profiling. Statistics Canada published a framework for police records systems to avoid the stigmatization of marginalized communities.[532] The Supreme Court agreed to review the constitutionality of random police stops in Québec, while the Court of Appeal kept them suspended and a class action was authorized over stops without cause.[533] The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) intervened before the high court in support of rulings linking such stops to profiling.[534] Indeed, the Commission observed the persistence of various episodes of racial profiling in Canada.[535] In addition, the Commission notes with concern delays in the publication of a key report on environmental racism in Nova Scotia.[536]

235. According to statistical and police agencies, hate crimes in Canada reached 4,882 incidents in 2024 (+1% year over year; +169% since 2018), with 2,377 motivated by race/ethnicity (+8%) and an increase in incidents against Afro-descendant persons.[537] At the local level, Toronto reported that discrimination against Afro-descendants was among the three most frequent categories and that charges increased,[538] while Ottawa recorded 467 incidents (−4% year over year).[539] The federal government's September 2025 proposal to strengthen the criminal response is also noted.[540]

236. Regarding **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission expresses its concern for the decision made on June 2025 by Quebec's Public Security Minister, which establishes that incarcerated persons in provincial detention centres will be incarcerated according to their anatomical sex. This means that transgender inmates can no longer choose whether to serve their time in women's or men's prisons.[541]

237. Regarding the rights of **LGBTI persons**, the government made available $1.5 million in federal funding to local and national Pride organizations to pay for increased security at festivals and parades celebrating the 2SLGBTQ+ community.[542] In June 2025, an Alberta judge granted a temporary injunction

[527] Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention in Canada, An analysis of the Mental Health of Black Canadians Fund: facilitators of successes, challenges and recommendations, April 1, 2025.
[528] Gobierno de Canadá, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), Ecosystem Fund - Black Entrepreneurship Program, August 19, 2025.
[529] Global News, New Montreal hotline to help Black youth facing discrimination, April 15, 2025.
[530]Global News, Deer Lodge Centre safe space opens, April 10, 2025.
[531] Ontario Human Rights Commission, Ontario Human Rights Commission announces its action plan to address anti-Black racism in education, March 27, 2025.
[532] Statistics Canada, Framework for the Use, Analysis, Interpretation and Dissemination of Police-reported Indigenous and Racialized Identity Data Through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, July 16, 2025.
[533] Global News, Supreme Court to hear appeal of Quebec ruling that invalidated random police stops, May 1, 2025; CityNews Montreal, Court of Appeal rejects Quebec's request to allow random police checks, April 4, 2025; Lethbridge News Now, Quebec Superior Court authorizes class-action over traffic stops without reason, May 10, 2025.
[534] Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), CCLA Defends Landmark Court Decisions on Racial Profiling at the SCC, September 23, 2025.
[535] Halifax Examiner, 'This is still happening to us': Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission hears racial profiling complaint, February 7, 2025; CityNews Montreal, Black woman alleges Montreal police wrongfully detained her after crash caused by stroke, August 7, 2025.
[536] CityNews Halifax, N.S. opposition call government out over withholding environmental racism report, July 11, 2025.
[537] Statistics Canada, Police-reported crime statistics in Canada 2024, July 22, 2025.
[538] Toronto Police Service, 2024 Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report, August 1, 2025.
[539] Ottawa Police Service, Annual Hate Crimes data show a 4% decrease in reporting to police in 2024, January 29, 2025.
[540] State of Canada, Department of Justice, Canada introduces legislation to combat hate crimes, intimidation, and obstruction, September 19, 2025.
[541] Montreal Gazette, Quebec transgender inmates will now be detained based on anatomical sex, June 18, 2025; City News, Quebec to jail inmates according to anatomical sex, not gender identity, June 18, 2025; and Pivot, Les personnes trans ne pourront plus être incarcérées en fonction de leur genre, June 18, 2025.
[542] CBC News, Ontario Pride groups say extra federal security dollars now necessary to run safe events, June 14, 2025.

blocking a transgender health-care bill that bans doctors from providing gender-affirming care to youth.[543] Subsequently, in July 2025, a judge halted the deportation of a non-binary person to the U.S. stating that the risk assessment, which was conducted in the previous year, was flawed and outdated given the deterioration of the state of the rights of trans persons during 2025.[544]

238. With respect to **persons with disabilities**, Canada took important steps to strengthen their rights, notably through regulations for the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB). This initiative aims to support over 600,000 working-age persons with disabilities through a federal investment over six years.[545]

239. Nevertheless, Canada's immigration detention practices came under scrutiny by UN mechanisms and human rights organizations due to violations of legal capacity rights, solitary confinement for people with psychosocial disabilities, and a lack of community-based alternatives.[546]

IX. CHILE

- **General considerations**

240. During 2025, the Republic of Chile (hereinafter, "Chile") made **progress** in the guarantee of women's rights and in the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence, as well as in actions targeted at the Afro-descendant population and persons with disabilities. Progress was also noted in the strengthening of memory, truth and justice programs; the advancement of investigations related to trafficking in persons; and the adoption of laws and programs to improve social security, significantly benefiting older persons.

241. Regarding **challenges**, situations of risk affecting indigenous leaders and communities in the context of the defense of their territories were observed. At the same time, concerns persist regarding public security operations during peaceful social protests and the deployment of the armed forces in border areas, which could have an impact on persons in situations of human mobility.

242. On September 4, 2025, the State submitted its response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

243. In the area of **democratic institutionality**, reforms were promoted with a view to the 2026–2030 parliamentary and presidential elections. Among them, progress was made on a bill aimed at strengthening governability and representativeness through the establishment of new rules for political parties and parliamentary committees, including transparency and internal discipline criteria.[547] In parallel, amendments to Law No. 8.700 on popular voting and vote counting were debated, with the aim of adjusting electoral procedures, improving oversight standards and modernizing vote-counting mechanisms.[548]

[543] CBC News, Alberta judge grants temporary injunction blocking a transgender health-care bill, June 28, 2025; Global News, Judge grants injunction request blocking Alberta's gender-affirming care legislation June 27, 2025; Times Colonist, Alberta judge grants temporary injunction blocking a transgender health-care bill, June 27, 2025.

[544] CBC News, Judge halts non-binary person's deportation to the U.S. as Trump dismantles trans rights, July 18, 2025; Global News, Non-binary person's U.S. deportation paused due to risks faced by LGBTQ+ people, July 17, 2025; Canadian Immigration Lawyers Association, Jenkel Decision: Federal Court of Canada halts deportation to the U.S. due to LGBTQ+ risk, July 28, 2025.

[545] Government of Canada, Statement from the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities on the Canada Disability Benefit, March 3, 2025.

[546] Human Rights Watch, UN Committee Criticizes Canada's Immigration Detention Practices, March 27, 2025.

[547] Government of Chile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, Communication No. 344- 25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA of September 4, 2025. Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS, Note No. 203/25, September 4, 2025, p. 5 On IACHR's files.

[548] *Ibid*.

244. In this regard, note was taken of the presidential and parliamentary elections held on November 16, which were considered to have the highest level of participation (85 percent) since the return to democracy in 1990, considering that mandatory voting was incorporated for the first time. As no candidate obtained an absolute majority of votes, a second electoral round was called[549], which took place on December 14, where candidate José Antonio Kast emerged victorious[550].

245. In the judicial sphere, the Supreme Court established limits on the exercise of freedom of expression on social media when it entails serious harm to the right to honor and it outlined criteria to distinguish legitimate criticism from injurious speech.[551] At the same time, Congress approved Law No. 21.719 on the protection and processing of personal data, which creates an autonomous agency with supervisory, sanctioning and guideline-issuing powers for public and private entities.[552] The law, which will enter into force in December 2026, seeks to strengthen guarantees in digital environments, considering the widespread use of online platforms and the intensive processing of personal information.[553]

246. Despite these regulatory advances, a study titled *Caracterización del sistema de integridad pública municipal: Instrumentos y procesos 2025* (Characterization of the Municipal Public Integrity System: Instruments and Processes 2025), prepared by the Association of Municipalities of Chile, revealed significant gaps at the local government level. According to its findings, 81.2 percent of municipalities do not have a formal anti-corruption policy, 69.7 percent lack a public integrity policy, and 68.8 percent do not have an active ethics committee.[554]

247. Regarding the **human rights institutions**, progress was reported in the implementation of the third version of the National Human Rights Plan (PNDH3) and the third National Action Plan on Businesses and Human Rights (PAN3). Both instruments include measures to mainstream gender, intercultural and social participation approaches. The Feminist Foreign Policy continued to be consolidated; as of September 2025, 27 percent of ambassadors were women. The adoption, within the United Nations Human Rights Council, of the resolution "Women, diplomacy and human rights," promoted by Chile, was also highlighted.[555]

248. In addition, the Presidential Advisory Commission for the Strengthening of the National Human Rights Institute (INDH), convened by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, was established.[556] This commission concluded its work with 44 recommendations, which included granting constitutional status to the INDH, ensuring its financial autonomy, clearly separating its governance and management functions, and improving its accountability and citizen participation mechanisms.[557]

249. Moreover, the Presidential Expert Advisory Commission for the Update of Poverty Measurement presented its final recommendations in May 2025. Among them, it proposed establishing two differentiated poverty lines for renter and non-renter households, to better reflect the weight of housing costs.

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[549] *El País*, "¿Qué ha pasado en las elecciones de Chile? Ocho gráficos para entender los resultados" (What happened in the Chilean elections? Eight charts to understand the results), November 17, 2025.

[550] The New York Times, José Antonio Kast gana las elecciones en Chile (José Antonio Kast wins elections in Chile), December 14, 2025.

[551] *Actualidad Jurídica*, "Corte Suprema ordena eliminar publicaciones en redes sociales que afectaban la honra de una profesional" (Supreme Court orders the removal of social media posts that harmed the reputation of a professional), November 4, 2025.

[552] Library of the National Congress of Chile, Ley No. 21719 (Law No. 21719), December 13, 2024.

[553] *Diario Constitucional*, "La agencia de protección de datos personales" (The agency for the protection of personal information), June 17, 2025.

[554] *La Tercera*, "El 81,2% de los municipios no tiene una política anticorrupción" (81.2 percent of municipalities do not have an anti-corruption policy), October 13, 2025; *Diario Concepción*, "El 81,2% de las municipalidades en Chile no cuenta con una política anticorrupción" (81.2 percent of municipalities in Chile do not have an anti-corruption policy), October 14, 2025.

[555] Government of Chile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, Communication No. 344- 25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA of September 4, 2025. Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS, Note No. 203/25, September 4, 2025, pp. 12 and 13. On IACHR's files.

[556] Library of the National Congress of Chile, Decreto No. 17, (Decree No. 17), February 24, 2025.

[557] Ministry of Interior, "Comisión Asesora entrega informe con propuestas para el fortalecimiento del Instituto Nacional de Derechos Humanos" (Advisory Commission delivers report with proposals for strengthening the National Institute of Human Rights), June 25, 2025.

It also recommended updating the measurement of multidimensional poverty, maintaining five dimensions while revising the internal indicators.[558]

250. In the area of **citizen security**, the Ministry of Public Security was created and became operational, assuming political leadership over the Carabineros and the Investigative Police, as well as responsibility for coordinating the national security system. In addition, the new Anti-Terrorism Law, Law No. 21.732, was enacted. This law redefines terrorist conduct, updates criminal offenses and repeals Law No. 18.314, with the aim of bringing the legal framework into line with international standards. In parallel, the bill on rules governing the use of force remained under consideration by a Joint Committee, seeking to establish clear parameters for the actions of police and military forces.[559]

251. With regard to the continuation of the constitutional state of exception in the southern macro-zone, in force since May 2022, the State reported a significant reduction in crime in the region. As of March 2025, incidents of rural violence reportedly decreased by 60 percent compared to 2024 and by 78 percent compared to 2021.[560]

252. Notwithstanding the above, public sources reported episodes of excessive use of force in the context of protest policing. A journalist reported having been arbitrarily detained by the Carabineros while covering a student march in March 2025.[561] Likewise, during the commemorations of the 52nd anniversary of the coup d'état, it was reported that the Carabineros detained 57 people, including adolescents, and resorted to the use of tear gas and water cannons.[562]

253. In terms of **access to justice**, the State promoted legislative initiatives aimed at strengthening institutional access to justice. Noteworthy among these is the bill creating the Access to Justice Service and the Victims' Public Defender's Office, intended to expand the coverage of free legal services, particularly for vulnerable groups, and to establish a specialized entity for the comprehensive assistance of victims of crime. In addition, a constitutional reform bill is under consideration to modify judicial governance and create a Judicial Appointments Council, with the aim of enhancing transparency in judicial appointment processes and strengthening the independence of the judiciary.[563]

254. In this context, the Senate approved a constitutional impeachment against a judge of the Santiago Court of Appeals, ordering his removal from office for notable neglect of duties and irregularities linked to the so-called "caso Audios" (Audios case). This magistrate became the third member of the judiciary to be removed in connection with the case.[564]

255. Regarding the human rights of **women**, various measures were adopted to advance the effective enjoyment of women's human rights on an equal basis. With respect to the right to health, Decree No. 22 of 2024 of the Ministry of Health entered into force, recognizing voluntary termination of pregnancy under

[558] Government of Chile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, Communication No. 344- 25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA of September 4, 2025. Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS, Note No. 203/25, September 4, 2025, p. 34. On IACHR's files. Presidential Expert Advisory Commission for the Update of Poverty Measurement, *Informe Final de Recomendaciones, Comisión Experta Asesora Presidencial para la Actualización de la Medición de la Pobreza*, (Final Report of Recommendations, Presidential Expert Advisory Commission for Updating the Measurement of Poverty), June 2025.

[559] Government of Chile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, Communication No. 344- 25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA of September 4, 2025. Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS, Note No. 203/25, September 4, 2025, pp. 29-31. On IACHR's files.

[560] *Ibid*., p. 32.

[561] *Telesur TV*, "Liberan a productora de teleSUR en Chile tras detención arbitraria durante represión a marcha estudiantil" (Telesur producer released in Chile after arbitrary arrest during crackdown on student march), March 29, 2025.

[562] *Izo Web*, "Reprimen marcha en recuerdo a las víctimas de la dictadura en Chile" (Chile represses march commemorating victims of the dictatorship), September 8, 2025.

[563] Government of Chile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, Communication No. 344- 25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA of September 4, 2025. Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS, Note No. 203/25, September 4, 2025, p. 33. On IACHR's files.

[564] *El País*, "El Senado de Chile aprueba una acusación constitucional en contra del juez Antonio Ulloa y lo destituye de su cargo" (The Chilean Senate approves a constitutional accusation against Judge Antonio Ulloa and removes him from office), November 10, 2025.

three legally permitted grounds and establishing that access thereto may not be obstructed by the undue exercise of conscientious objection.[565] At the same time, the government submitted to the National Congress the Bill on Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy with Time Limits, which proposes decriminalization up to 14 weeks of gestation and the establishment of mechanisms within the health system to guarantee access.[566] Similarly, progress was made in the construction of the National Support and Care Service through the adoption of the National Policy on Support and Care and the National Support and Care Plan 2025–2026,[567] the processing of a bill recognizing the right to care and creating the National Care System,[568] and the strengthening of existing local and community-based care programs.[569]

256. Furthermore, to address gender gaps in pensions, as of January 2026, within the framework of the new Social Security Insurance, a Compensation for Differences in Life Expectancy will begin to be paid. This mechanism guarantees that women and men who retire at the age of 65, with the same accumulated savings and identical family circumstances, will receive the same monthly pension.[570] In addition, the regulation governing the operation of the Interinstitutional Coordination Commission to Address Gender-Based Violence at the national level was approved.[571] The Ministry of Women and Gender Equity (MMEG) also continued the pilot implementation of the Integrated Information System on Gender-Based Violence, which covered 15 municipalities in 2025,[572] and implemented the "Mujeres en Movilidad" (Women in Mobility) project, aimed at bringing comprehensive care services closer to women in situations of human mobility who experience gender-based violence while staying in temporary shelters.[573]

257. However, public sources reported an increase in cases of disappearance of women in recent years.[574] In this regard, the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) expressed concern about a pattern of femicides which had been preceded by disappearance in the Atacama region, affecting girls and adolescent women, as well as about the lack of progress in investigations and the ongoing risks faced by women and the relatives of the victims.[575]

258. Regarding **persons deprived of liberty,** progress was made in the area of social reintegration and the use of alternative measures. In particular, noteworthy initiatives include the Training Pathway for Facilitators of Labor Training Processes for Persons Who Have Infringed the Law;[576] the "Becas Laborales"

[565] *BCN.CL*, Ministry of Health, "Decreto 22/2024 que modifica Decreto Supremo No. 67 de 2018, del Ministerio de Salud, que aprueba reglamento para ejercer objeción de conciencia según lo dispuesto en el artículo 119 ter del Código Sanitario," (Decree No. 22/2024 amends Supreme Decree No. 67 of 2018 of the Ministry of Health, which approves regulations to exercise conscientious objection according to the provisions of Article 119 ter of the Health Code), May 27, 2025; IACHR's *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IVa, March 26, 2025, para. 242.

[566] Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS, Note No. 203/25, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights,* September 4, 2025, p. 18. On IACHR's files; Chamber of Deputies, "Proyecto de Ley que regula la interrupción voluntaria del embarazo en el plazo que indica," (Bill regulating the voluntary termination of pregnancy within the time frame indicated), October 20, 2025.

[567] Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS, Note No. 203/25, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, September 4, 2025, p. 19. On IACHR's files.

[568] Chamber of Deputies, "Proyecto de Ley que reconoce el derecho al cuidado y crea el Sistema Nacional de Apoyos y Cuidados" (Bill recognizing the right to care and creating the National System of Support and Care), October 20, 2025.

[569] These include the Local Support and Care Network Program, the Community Care Centers Program, and the *Chile Te Cuida* (Chile Takes Care of You) Program. Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS, Note No. 203/25, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, September 4, 2025, pp. 19-20. On IACHR's files.

[570] Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS, Note No. 203/25, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, September 4, 2025, pp. 20, 35. On IACHR's files.

[571] *Ibid.*, p. 16.

[572] *Ibid.*, p. 16; IACHR's *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IVa, March 26, 2025, para. 242.

[573] Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS, Note No. 203/25, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, September 4, 2025, p. 28. On IACHR's files.

[574] *Efeminista*, "Chile registra más de 64.500 denuncias por desaparición de mujeres en cuatro años" (Chile registers more than 64,500 reports of missing women in four years), July 16, 2025; *vlnradio.cl*, "Preocupante aumento de mujeres desaparecidas en Chile," (Worrying increase in women gone missing in Chile), July 8, 2025.

[575] OAS MESECVI, "Committee of Experts of MESECVI raises its concern over cases of disappearance and femicide of women in the Atacama region of Chile," May 2, 2025.

[576] National Training and Employment Service (SENCE), Government of Chile, "Inédita alianza refuerza reinserción laboral desde la cárcel," (Unprecedented alliance strengthens job reintegration from prison), July 10, 2025.

(Labor Scholarships) program benefiting women serving sentences at the Los Ríos Penitentiary Complex;[577] and the agreement adopted between the municipality of Puerto Montt and the Gendarmerie allowing people convicted of minor offenses to commute their sentences through monthly community work.[578] In addition, judicial decisions by the Supreme Court guaranteed the substitution of a custodial sentence for a woman with multiple chronic diseases with house arrest;[579] and the Santiago Court of Appeals ordered improvements to healthcare and hygienic conditions at the Santiago Sur Pretrial Detention Center.[580] The Commission also values the approval, by the Gendarmerie, of a series of guidelines aimed at guaranteeing the rights of pregnant incarcerated women and of breastfeeding infants.[581]

259. Notwithstanding this progress, detention conditions continue to present significant challenges. According to official data, as of August 2025, there were 61,706 persons deprived of liberty, with an overcrowding rate of 45.5 percent. The level of overpopulation is particularly alarming in certain detention facilities, such as the "Tal Tal" Pretrial Detention Center, operating at 381.3 percent capacity; the "Copiapó" Penitentiary Compliance Center, at 321.9 percent; and the "Parral" Penitentiary Compliance Center, at 302.1 percent.[582] In response to this situation, throughout 2025, the State continued to make progress in the expansion of existing facilities or the construction of new penitentiary facilities.[583] In addition, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) reported deficient infrastructure, lack of hygiene, insufficient access to medical care, ill-treatment, including the use of prolonged isolation, particularly in maximum-security units, and inadequate attention to vulnerable groups such as women, adolescents and people with mental health conditions.[584]

260. In relation to **human rights defenders**, the Protocol for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders came into force. This interinstitutional instrument is designed to coordinate the state response to threats or violations against human rights defenders. In this regard, it was indicated that, as of August 2025, the protocol had been activated 32 times.[585]

261. Notwithstanding the above, since November 8, 2024, the president of the Putreguel Mapuche Community, Julia Chuñil Catricura —an ancestral leader from the Los Ríos region, Wallmapu, and a beneficiary of precautionary measures granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights— has been reported missing. It is alleged that her disappearance may be linked to her leadership role in the defense of the territory,

[577] SENCE, Government of Chile, "Por primera vez, internas del Complejo Penitenciario de Valdivia reciben capacitación SENCE," (For the first time, women inmates at the Valdivia Penitentiary Complex receive training from the National Training and Employment Service), May 29, 2025.

[578] *Soy Chile*, "Penas por delitos menores podrán serán conmutadas por trabajo comunitario en Puerto Montt" (Sentences for minor offenses may be replaced by community service in Puerto Montt), June 17, 2025.

[579] Supreme Court, Government of Chile, Rol Interno de Tribunal No. 2388-2025, (Internal Cases of the Court, No. 2388-2025), January 31, 2025.

[580] Judiciary, Government of Chile, "Corte de Santiago ordena mejorar atención de salud y condiciones higiénicas en ex Penitenciaría" (Santiago Court orders improved healthcare and hygiene conditions at former penitentiary), September 30, 2025.

[581] Government of Chile, Diplomatic Note No. 203/25, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, September 4, 2025, p. 29.

[582] The calculations regarding the number of detainees and general overcrowding were made by the IACHR based on data published by the Chilean Gendarmerie; see: Chilean Gendarmerie, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Government of Chile, "Uso de Capacidad según Diseño," (Use of capacity according to design), August 31, 2025.

[583] Ministry of Public Works, Government of Chile, "Constructora San José presenta oferta para desarrollar el proyecto de la Cárcel El Arenal de Copiapó" (San José Construction Company submits bid to develop the "El Arenal" Prison project in Copiapó), July 30, 2025; *Diario Uchile*, "Gobierno presenta Plan Maestro de Infraestructura Carcelaria: 'Tendremos cárceles de alta y máxima seguridad en todas las regiones'" (Government presents Master Plan for Prison Infrastructure: "We will have high and maximum security prisons in all regions"), January 6, 2025; *DW*, "Chile construirá una segunda cárcel de alta de seguridad" (Chile to build a second high-security prison), July 18, 2025; and *Ciper,* "Plazos para que Punta Peuco se transforme en penal común bajo este gobierno están al límite" (Deadlines for Punta Peuco to be transformed into a regular prison under this government are approaching), September 10, 2025.

[584] CPT, Government of Chile, *Cuarto Informe Anual 2024 – Prevención de la tortura y situación de las personas privadas de libertad en Chile* (Fourth Annual Report 2024 – Prevention of torture and the situation of persons deprived of liberty in Chile), July 2025; Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, "Tortura y malos tratos: un problema invisibilizado contra personas en custodia o cuidado estatal" (Torture and ill-treatment: an invisible problem against people in state custody or care), July 28, 2025.

[585] Government of Chile, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, September 4, 2025, Communication 344- 25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, p. 11. On IACHR's files.

and despite the search and tracing efforts carried out by State authorities, her whereabouts remain unknown to date.[586]

262. Regarding **memory, truth and justice**, the State advanced efforts aimed at the protection and sustainability of memory sites.[587] In this regard, the most noteworthy measures include the creation of the Unit for Sites of Memory and the Social Program on Sites of Memory, the designation of 15 new sites as historical monuments, the installation of 22 identifying plaques nationwide, and the strengthening of the system for monitoring attacks against sites of memory. In addition, the expropriation of land from the former Colonia Dignidad was approved to consolidate a site of memory. Likewise, the property known as the former "Venda Sexy" was transferred to a victims' association to be converted into a site of memory, and the National Archive of Memory was created.[588]

263. With respect to disappeared persons, progress was recorded within the framework of the National Search Plan, including an increase in investigative measures, which totaled 100 as of June 2025, encompassing excavations and interviews,[589] the development of a georeferenced map of victims' trajectories, the use of specialized technologies, and the delivery of qualification files to relatives, as well as the publication of the first official list of 1,469 victims of enforced disappearance. In addition, the Commission notes the adoption of a bill aimed at creating the Registry of Missing Persons due to Enforced Disappearance since it enables the issuance of death certificates and facilitates civil procedures for relatives.[590]

264. In the area of justice, the Supreme Court held an unprecedented hearing to discuss the application of the statute of limitations in human rights cases involving disappeared detainees and executed political prisoners, in the context of compliance with the Inter-American Court's judgment in the case *Vega González v. Chile*.[591] In this regard, the Supreme Court also rejected writs of amparo filed by persons convicted of serious human rights violations, finding no qualified circumstances that would warrant an alteration of the sentence enforcement regime.[592] Additionally, the decree that led to the establishment of the "Punta Peuco" prison was amended so as to eliminate the prison status as a special detention facility for persons convicted of crimes against humanity.[593]

265. In relation to the rights of **indigenous peoples**, the Presidential Commission for Peace and Understanding presented its final report, which presented a diagnosis of the situation of the Mapuche people, highlighting territorial dispossession, structural discrimination and the lack of political recognition. The

[586] IACHR, Resolution 48/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 19-25 Julia Chuñil Catricura regarding Chile, July 14, 2025.

[587] Government of Chile, Diplomatic Note No. 203/25, September 4, 2025, Annex: *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, September 4, 2025, Communication 344- 25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, pp. 10, 14. On IACHR's files.

[588] *Radio U Chile*, "Estado entrega por 25 años el inmueble de la ex Venda Sexy: agrupación de víctimas será la administradora" (State hands over the former "Venda Sexy" property for 25 years: victims' group to act as administrator), September 9, 2025; *Piensa Chile*, "Presentación del recién creado Archivo Nacional de la Memoria" (Presentation of the newly created National Archive of Memory), May 18, 2025.

[589] Government of Chile, Diplomatic Note No. 203/25, September 4, 2025, Annex: *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, September 4, 2025, Communication 344- 25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, pp. 13, 14. On IACHR's files.

[590] *Página 12*, "Chile reconocerá jurídicamente a los detenidos desaparecidos durante la dictadura" (Chile to legally recognize those detained and disappeared during the dictatorship), October 8, 2025; *La Tercera*, "Senado aprueba el proyecto que crea la calidad jurídica de ausente por desaparición forzada" (Senate approves bill creating legal status of absentee due to enforced disappearance), September 15, 2025.

[591] Supreme Court, "Corte Suprema realiza histórica audiencia de cumplimiento de sentencia de Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos," (Supreme Court holds historic hearing on compliance with Inter-American Court of Human Rights' judgement), September 25, 2025; Directorate of Studies of the Supreme Court, "Corte Suprema realiza audiencia pública sobre cumplimiento de sentencia de la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos en el caso 'Vega González y otros vs. Chile'" (Supreme Court holds public hearing on compliance with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights' judgement in the case *Vega González* et al*. v. Chile*), September 29, 2025.

[592] Judiciary, "Corte Suprema rechaza recursos de amparo de condenados por violaciones a derechos humanos" (Supreme Court rejects writs of amparo filed by those convicted of human rights violations), October 13, 2025; Civic Action Against Corruption [@accioncivicacl], (October 13, 2025), La edad no es excusa para la impunidad. La Corte Suprema, tras escuchar las voces de las víctimas, ha sido clara al rechazar (Age is no excuse for impunity. The Supreme Court, after listening to the voices of the victims, has been clear in rejecting this.) [X post], X, https://x.com/accioncivicacl/status/1977840541930037735.

[593] Government of Chile, Diplomatic Note No. 203/25, September 4, 2025, Annex: *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, September 4, 2025, Communication 344- 25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, p. 9. On IACHR's files.

document proposes comprehensive measures of reparation, land restitution and institutional reconciliation.[594] However, it was noted that the scope of these measures is limited to communities with formalized claims and to a constrained budget, which could leave out sectors that have faced historical violations but have been unable to complete the required administrative procedures.[595]

266. In addition, a bill was introduced to amend Law No. 20.249 ("Lafkenche Law") with the aim of facilitating the development of productive projects on coastal lands for which there had been requests to turn them into marine coastal spaces of indigenous peoples (ECMPO).[596]

267. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination**, the State made progress in the process of prior consultation on policies with an ethnic-racial approach, led by the Unit for the Coordination of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Affairs (UCAIA) of the Ministry of Social Development and Family.[597] In addition, actions were undertaken in the areas of awareness-raising and anti-racist education,[598] as well as initiatives focused on visibility, memory and the cultural rights of Afro-descendant women. These efforts included a regional meeting organized by the National Cultural Heritage Service and the granting of recognitions to Afro-descendant leaders in Arica and Parinacota.[599]

268. Regarding the rights of **LGBTI persons**, Chile made progress through the implementation of the first survey aimed at generating statistical data on sexual and gender diversity, conducted by the National Statistics Institute (INE).[600] In addition, noteworthy rulings were issued by the Constitutional Court, including the decision annulling a law that prevented the financing of hormone therapies for trans persons under the age of 18,[601] and the ruling authorizing changes of name and legal sex for trans persons under the age of 14.[602] For its part, the Third Criminal Trial Court of Santiago handed down, for the first time, a conviction for femicide on grounds of gender identity.[603] The State also invested efforts in promoting an inclusive agenda focused on trans and non-binary persons, particularly through labor awareness initiatives promoted by the Observatory on Citizen Participation and Non-Discrimination, and the National Training and Employment Service (SENCE) –

[594] Presidential Commission for Peace and Understanding, *Resumen Ejecutivo* (Executive summary), 2025;

[595] Citizen Observatory, "Observatorio Ciudadano ante el Informe de la Comisión para la Paz y el Entendimiento" (Citizen Observatory on the Report of the Commission for Peace and Understanding), May 15, 2025.

[596] Senate of the Republic of Chile, Improvements to the implementation of the Lafkenche Law advance to its particular debate, August 15 2025; Senate of the Republic of Chile, Boletín 15862-21 (Bulletin 15862-21).

[597] Chile, Ministry of Family and Social Development, Instruye un procedimiento administrativo para iniciar el proceso de consulta previa de las medidas que indica, y convoca a las instituciones representativas del pueblo mapuche en las regiones del biobío, la araucanía, los ríos y los lagos (Resolución) (The Ministry orders an administrative procedure to initiate the preliminary consultation process for the measures indicated, and convenes the representative institutions of the Mapuche people in the regions of Biobío, Araucanía, Los Ríos and Los Lagos), July 18, 2025.

[598] Museum of Contemporary Art (MAC) – University of Chile, Instagram, El racismo es odio (Racism is hate), August 30, 2025.

[599] Chile, National Cultural Heritage Service, "Más de 70 personas participaron en encuentro regional por el Día Internacional de las Mujeres Afrodescendientes" (More than 70 people participated in a regional meeting for the International Day of Afro-descendant Women), July 28, 2025; *Arica al Día*, "En el Día de Mujer Afrodescendiente reconocen a destacadas mujeres de la región" (On International Day of Afro-descendant Women, outstanding women from the region are recognized), July 27, 2025.

[600] National Statistics Institute (INE), "INE comienza a aplicar por primera vez una encuesta sobre diversidades sexuales y de género" (INE begins to apply a survey on sexual and gender diversity for the first time), July 11, 2025; *El Periodista*, "INE comienza a aplicar por primera vez una encuesta sobre diversidades sexuales y de género" (INE begins to apply a survey on sexual and gender diversity for the first time), August 7, 2025.

[601] *MOVILH*, "TC anula norma que prohibía el financiamiento de terapias hormonales en menores de 18 años" (Constitutional Court overturns a ruling that prohibited the financing of hormone therapies in minors under 18 years of age), January 9, 2025; *Nuevo Poder*, "TC rechazó prohibir tratamientos hormonales de niños y adolescentes trans" (Constitutional Court rejects a ban on hormonal treatments for transgender children and adolescents), January 10, 2025; Constitutional Court, Sentencia S/N (Sentence S/N), cases no. 15.981-24, no. 15.993-24, no. 15.994-24, no. 15.995-24, no. 15.996-24 y no. 16.000-24-CPT (binder), January 9, 2025.

[602] Republic of Chile, Constitutional Court, Sentencia Rol 15.664-2024, (Sentence Case no. 15.664-2024), April 24, 2025, *Diario Constitucional*, "Tribunal Constitucional permite cambio de nombre y sexo registral a menores de 14 años" (Constitutional Court allows change of name and registered sex for minors under 14 years of age), May 3, 2025.

[603] *T13*, "Un fallo histórico: Chile condena por primera vez a un hombre por femicidio lesbofóbico" (A landmark ruling: Chile convicts a man for lesbophobic femicide for the first time), July 27, 2025; *Swissinfo*, "Un tribunal dicta primera condena de cárcel en Chile a un hombre por lesbofobia" (Court issues first prison sentence in Chile to a man for lesbophobia), August 6, 2025; *MOVILH*, "Histórica condena por femicidio lesbofóbico en Chile: 15 años de pena efectiva para el asesino," (Historic conviction for lesbophobic femicide in Chile: 15 years of effective sentence for the murderer), August 6, 2025.

Municipalities Diverse Network Pilot Program, aimed at facilitating the labor insertion of trans persons in municipal care programs under the coordinated efforts of various public institutions.[604]

269. Notwithstanding the above, the Supreme Court reduced the sentence of a person who had been convicted of the murder and dismemberment of Ever Albarrán, a trans man, in 2023.[605] In addition, a 78 percent increase in reports of homophobia and transphobia was recorded compared to the previous year.[606] The Chilean Medical Association (COLMED) also reported harassment and threats against health professionals who provide gender-affirming healthcare services to trans persons.[607]

270. Regarding **persons with disabilities**, The State made progress in the processing of a bill aimed at granting priority to persons with disabilities and caregivers in access to public services, including both public and private institutions.[608] In addition, the National Disability Service (SENADIS), in collaboration with other external entities, advanced a research initiative that resulted in public policy guidelines to promote the labor inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities across the country.[609]

271. Regarding the situation of **persons in the context human mobility**, it is highlighted that a series of DESCA measures were adopted, such as the development of the Technical Guidelines for the 2025 Program of Access to Healthcare for Migrants, the Employment Pathway for Migrants and Refugees; and the implementation of cultural initiatives within the framework of the 2024–2026 National Action Plan on Migration and Foreign Nationals.[610]

272. However, official data indicated that the migrant population accounts for 8.8 percent of the total population of Chile, with a higher proportion of women than men.[611] At the same time, it was observed that throughout the year the deployment of the armed forces and security forces continued, with the stated objective of exercising border control;[612] in particular, a 2023 decree, which authorizes military and security

[604] Republic of Chile, Communication 203/25, Report submitted by the Republic of Chile in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of its *Annual Report,* 344-25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, Note No. 234/24, September 4, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[605] *MOVILH*, "Corte Suprema rebaja condena contra asesino de Ever Albarrán: de presidio perpetuo a 15 años de cárcel" (Supreme Court reduces sentence against Ever Albarrán's killer: from life imprisonment to 15 years in jail), July 3, 2025

[606] *MOVILH*, "Derechos LGBTIQ+ retroceden por primera vez en democracia y los casos y denuncias por homo/transfobia aumentan un 78% en Chile" (LGBTIQ+ rights regress for the first time in democracy, and cases and reports of homo/transphobia increase by 78 percent in Chile), March 18, 2025; *MOVILH*, *XXIII. Informe Anual de Derechos Humanos de la Diversidad Sexual y de Género en Chile* (XXIII. Annual Report on Human Rights of Sexual and Gender Diversity in Chile). 2025, p. 47.

[607] *MOVILH*, "Grave: «parlamentarios amedrentan a médicos que atienden a personas trans»" (Warning: "Parliamentarians intimidate doctors who treat trans persons"), March 14, 2025; Chile´s Medical Association (Colmed Chile) [@colmedchile], (March 13, 2025), "Rechazamos la persecución contra médicos que atienden a personas trans (…)" (We reject the persecution of doctors who treat trans persons […]) [X post], X, https://x.com/colmedchile/status/1900260632949080432; *Bio Bio Chile*, "Schneider y Colmed se reúnen con Fiscalía para advertir sobre judicializar atención a niños trans" (Schneider and Colmed meet with the Attorney General to warn against judicializing care for transgender children), July 15, 2025.

[608] Senate of the Republic of Chile, "Atención preferente a personas con discapacidad pasa a su último trámite" (Initiative to ensure preferential attention to persons with disabilities moves to its final stage), August 14, 2025.

[609] Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), "La OEI, Senadis y UNAB presentaron los resultados del estudio, Orientaciones de política pública para la inclusión laboral de personas con discapacidad intelectual en Chile" (The OEI, Senadis and UNAB present the results of the study *Public policy guidelines for the labor inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities in Chile*), October 16, 2025; Andrés Bello University, "Chile avanza hacia la inclusión laboral de personas con discapacidad intelectual" (Chile moves towards the labor inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities), October 9, 2025.

[610] Government of Chile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, Communication No. 344- 25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA of September 4, 2025. Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS, Note No. 203/25, September 4, 2025, p. 27. On IACHR's files.

[611] INE, 2024 Census, "Resultados Fecundidad, Migración Interna e Internacional" (Results: Fertility, Internal and International Migration), p. 15.

[612] Government of Chile, "Decreto con Fuerza de Ley No. 1 para el resguardo de las áreas de zonas fronterizas" (Decree/Law for the protection of border areas), February 20, 2023.

forces to control identity, search, and detain persons in the context of human mobility in the regions of Arica and Parinacota, Tarapacá, and Antofagasta, was extended for the remainder of the year.[613]

273. With regard to **human trafficking**, the State made progress through the provision of training sessions to public officials on the identification and initial assistance of victims of trafficking in persons.[614] At the same time, collaborative actions were carried out within the framework of the so-called "Operación Rescate" (Rescue Operation), which, following months of investigations, enabled the identification and establishment of trafficking routes, the dismantling of criminal organizations, and the recovery of 2,122 victims of trafficking in persons.[615]

274. With respect to the rights of **older persons**, progress was made in the area of social security with the entry into force of the new pension reform, adopted in March 2025. Its main objective is to improve the adequacy and equity of the system, including a gradual increase in the Universal Guaranteed Pension (PGU), the creation of Social Security Insurance financed by employers[616] and the establishment of an Autonomous Pension Protection Fund to administer the new Social Security Insurance.[617]

275. Notwithstanding the above, publicly available information indicates that more than 800 older persons are currently awaiting placement in long-term care facilities. More than half of these individuals were judicially referred to external care facilities due to cases of domestic violence.[618]

276. With regard to the situation of **children and adolescents,** the Commission takes note of the report published by UNICEF in April 2025 containing statistical data on the situation of children in the country, which indicates that Chile has a population of 4,493,995 people between 0 and 19 years of age, and that 39.8 percent of households include at least one child or adolescent.[619] Likewise, the Commission values the progress presented in the *2025 Public Accountability Report* of the National Service for Specialized Protection, which highlighted the design of a new residential care model with more personalized attention, the establishment of seven new Foster Care and Adoption Family Units, an increase in adolescents' access to higher education, the strengthening of initiatives aimed at preparation for independent living, and the updating of protocols in response to crimes of sexual exploitation and other critical events related to juvenile criminal responsibility.[620] Improvements in the coverage of the protection system were also reported: as of October 2025, the Service indicated that it was providing care to 117,195 children and adolescents, of whom 92,928 were enrolled in community-based programs, 10,481 were placed with foster families, and 5,163 were in residential alternative care programs, all of which reaffirms the State's emphasis on family-based care over residential care.[621]

[613] Government of Chile, "Decreto No. 50 prorroga vigencia del Decreto No. 78 de 2023, del Ministerio del Interior y Seguridad pública" (Decree No.50 extends the validity of Decree No. 78 of 2023 of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security), February 11, 2025; "Decreto No. 227 prorroga vigencia del Decreto No. 78 de 2023, del entonces Ministerio del Interior y Seguridad pública" (Decree No. 227 extends the validity of Decree No. 78 of 2023 of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security), August 11, 2025.

[614] Republic of Chile, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, September 4, 2025.

[615] Government of Chile, "PDI lidera 'Operación Rescate' de Ameripol" (Investigative Police of Chile leads "Operación Rescate" [Rescue Operation] of Ameripol), June 12, 2025.

[616] *Infobae*, "Comenzó a regir en Chile la nueva reforma de pensiones" (The new pension reform comes into effect in Chile), May 2, 2025.

[617] Government of Chile, *Report of the Republic of Chile to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*, Note 203/25, September 4, 2025.

[618] *CIPER Chile*, "Insuficiencia en hogares de larga estadía: 838 adultos mayores están en lista de espera, 510 derivados desde tribunales por maltrato" (Shortages in long-term care facilities: 838 elderly adults are on the waiting list, 510 referred from courts due to ill-treatment), May 15, 2025.

[619] UNICEF, "Datos y estadísticas de niñez y adolescencia en Chile (2025)" (Information and statistics about children and adolescents in Chile [2025]), June 2025.

[620] National Specialized Protection Service for Children and Adolescents, "Servicio ahondó en avances y desafíos del sistema de protección en Cuenta Pública 2025" (Service delves into the progress and challenges of the protection system in the 2025 Public Accounts report), July 25, 2025.

[621] National Specialized Protection Service for Children and Adolescents, "El poder de cuidar en cifras: octubre 2025" (The power of caring, in numbers: October 2025), November 5, 2025.

277. In April, data from the National Service indicated that the number of children under 24 months of age in residential alternative care programs increased by 72 percent between 2021 and 2025.[622] In August, the National Service reported that over 700 children under the age of 4 were in residential care programs. This information served as the basis for the launch of a national campaign titled "Cambiemos su historia," (Let's Change Their Story) presented by the Ministry of Social Development and Family and the National Service for Specialized Protection, with the aim of increasing the number of foster families and ensuring children's right to live in a family environment.[623]

278. Nevertheless, the Commission observes with concern the persistent challenges identified in the *2025 Diagnostic Report* of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children. During 2024, a total of 57 children and adolescents between 10 and 17 years of age died as a result of self-inflicted injuries, while 51 died as a result of firearm use. In addition, five further deaths from this cause were recorded during the first half of March 2025. These figures reflect a sustained increase in firearm-related lethality since 2000, reaching a cumulative increase of 122 percent. The *Diagnostic Report* also notes a decrease in police-reported cases of sexual abuse and rape against children between 2023 and 2024, but it warns of the persistence of a significant focus on sexual exploitation, particularly in digital environments. Data provided by the Office of the Public Prosecutor shows a 45.12 percent increase in online sexual exploitation crimes between 2022 and 2024, with a particularly critical rise of 62 percent in the acquisition and storage of child sexual abuse material.[624]

X. COLOMBIA

- **General considerations**

279. In 2025, the Republic of Colombia (hereinafter, "Colombia") made significant **progress** in the regulatory and judicial recognition of the rights of ethnic communities, together with the consolidation of gender and disability inclusive approaches across various public policies. The solidarity pillar of the retirement reform was also defined, aimed at expanding social protection for older persons without a contributory pension. In the transitional justice sphere, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) issued its first restorative sanctions, marking a milestone in the implementation of the Final Agreement.

280. At the same time, structural **challenges** persist in relation to violence, including political violence, as evidenced by the assassination of presidential pre-candidate Miguel Uribe, as well as delays in the implementation of comprehensive solutions provided for under the Peace Agreement. This context continues to affect institutional consolidation, the guarantee of rights, and the conditions necessary to ensure full democratic participation. The persistence of non-state armed actors and illicit economies hamper the State's presence and limit access to essential services. Furthermore, the institutional capacity to implement territorially-based and differentiated policies faces significant obstacles. All this has differentiated impacts on vulnerable populations and undermines the consolidation of effective guarantees.

281. On September 19, 2025, the State submitted an extensive and detailed response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.[625]

[622] *El País*, "Los bebés en residencias de menores en Chile aumentan un 72% en cuatro años" (The number of babies in children's homes in Chile has increased by 72 percent in four years), April 14, 2025.

[623] National Specialized Protection Service for Children and Adolescents, "Gobierno lanza campaña para sumar más Familias de Acogida" (Government launches campaign to recruit more foster families), August 20, 2025.

[624] Office of the Ombudsperson for Children, "Diagnóstico 2025: Defensoría de la Niñez alerta sobre preocupantes cifras relacionadas a los entornos violentos que viven niños, niñas y adolescentes en Chile" (2025 Diagnosis: The Office of the Ombudsperson for Children warns about worrying figures related to the violent environments experienced by children and adolescents in Chile), April 3, 2025.

[625] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025.

- **Specific issues**

282. With regard to **democratic institutionality**, the State reported a range of actions aimed at organizing the 2026 electoral process, including the launch of the pre-electoral cycle; the delivery of training activities with differentiated approaches; the issuance of a decree to regulate the Comprehensive Protection Plan, intended to ensure protection for the exercise of political activity in the country's current security context; measures providing guarantees to the political party that emerged from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, People's Army (FARC-EP),[626] and the implementation of the Interinstitutional Technical Roundtable for the Participation of Women in the Special Transitional Peace Electoral Districts (CITREP).[627] The Office of the Ombudsperson developed prevention strategies based on risk analysis initiatives, monitoring actions, and the activation of protection mechanisms for candidates at risk.[628] Likewise, together with the Electoral Observation Mission and international organizations, it promoted the "commitment to a free and peaceful electoral process," aimed at countering stigmatizing discourse and fostering secure spaces.[629]

283. Nevertheless, homicides of social and community leaders and human rights defenders were recorded, as well as the assassination of presidential pre-candidate Miguel Uribe Turbay as a result of an attack carried out against him during a campaign event on June 25. This highlights the persistence of political violence and the risks to democratic institutions. Civil society organizations reported that non-state groups exercised territorial control, which affects the political rights and the participation of several communities in various regions.[630] Looking ahead to the 2026 electoral process, challenges have been identified to ensure peaceful, inclusive, and violence-free elections, within a context of political polarization and confrontation that calls for coordinated efforts to strengthen protection and democratic dialogue.[631]

284. As for **human rights institutions and the implementation of the Peace Agreement**, the State highlighted that progress was made, stemming from the Final Agreement, including consolidated institutional reforms, an update of the Framework Implementation Plan, and the strengthening of the National Human Rights Action Plan as a key mechanism for governmental coordination on human rights. Furthermore, the State reported progress in the implementation of the Ethnic Chapter, the Comprehensive Rural Reform, cross-cutting differentiated approaches, and reparation processes. It also highlighted the purchase of 74,725 hectares (ha) for indigenous peoples and 8,013 ha for Afro-descendant communities, together with the formalization of 923,926 ha and 47,258 ha, respectively. It also highlighted progress in three indigenous collective reparations, the fulfillment of more than 50 percent of 25 Comprehensive Collective Reparation Plans, and the implementation of a Comprehensive Protection Program for signatories and their families.[632]

285. However, challenges persist regarding security and the guarantee of the rights of the signatories to the Peace Agreement, which is reflected in an increase of recorded killings, which reached 34 by September 2025.[633] The JEP ordered the relocation of 124 signatories who were at risk in the Catatumbo region and ordered additional protective measures in response to threats.[634] At an institutional level, the executive branch's temporary withdrawal of Bill No. 621 of 2025, aimed at consolidating the Ministry of Equality and

[626] *Ibid.*, pp. 6–7.
[627] *Ibid.*, p. 11.
[628] *Ibid.*, pp.9–10.
[629] *Ibid.*, pp.5–6.
[630] Fundación Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular / Programa por la Paz (CINEP), "EGC en el Chocó: violencia, poder y miedo" (EGC in Chocó: violence, power and fear), June 2025; IACHR, meeting with civil society organizations from Buenaventura, September 17, 2025. On IACHR's files.
[631] IACHR, Press Release No. 165/25, IACHR condemns the assassination of Miguel Uribe Turbay in Colombia and calls on the State to guarantee the safety of political leaders, August 15, 2025
[632] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, pp. 14-26.
[633] Indepaz, "Líderes sociales, defensores de DDHH y firmantes de Acuerdo asesinados en 2025" (Social leaders, human rights defenders, and Peace Agreement signatories killed in 2025), October 2025.
[634] JEP, The JEP ordered the relocation of 124 peace signatories from the extinct FARC-EP who were at risk in the Catatumbo region, along with additional actions to guarantee their rights and those of other former combatants., January 24, 2025.

Equity, generated uncertainty regarding the continuity of policies oriented towards reducing structural inequalities.[635]

286. Regarding the progress made under the Comprehensive Rural Reform, until March 31, 2025, 35,585 ha with duly registered titles had been allocated to 11,761 rural families. At the same time, 231,500 ha were provisionally allocated, of which 28,825 ha were allocated to ethnic communities,[636] with 130,000 ha being allocated during 2025.[637] In addition, 2,833,990 ha were formalized, which accounted for 41 percent of the aim established in the Final Agreement, with a significant impact on collective title processes.[638] Despite the reported progress, significant challenges persist in achieving the agreed targets, as definitive land allocation accounts for only 1.19 percent of the three million hectares committed,[639] a figure that rises to 9 percent when provisional allocations are included.[640]

287. In terms of **citizen security**, the State reported various actions aimed at strengthening public security, including the holding of 2,569 community meetings with social organizations and institutions to identify local challenges.[641] The Office of the Inspector General provided guidance to departmental and municipal governments on the development of Comprehensive Citizen Security and Coexistence Plans incorporating human rights, territorial, differentiated and gender approaches.[642]. Likewise, a Strategy against Multiple Types of Crime was implemented, aimed at coordinating the institutional capacity for special, intelligence and judicial operations against criminal structures. This resulted in the arrest of 37,753 individuals and the seizure of 322,696 kg of cocaine, among other outcomes.[643]

288. Moreover, the Paz Total (Total Peace) policy helped establish a mechanism to contribute to truth and non-repetition guarantees. It was made up of 16 peace facilitators drawn from the former United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia.[644] In addition, temporary location zones were established with the General Staff of the Blocks and Front in Catatumbo; the National Coordinator of the Bolivarian Army in Nariño and Putumayo; and the Comuneros del Sur in Nariño.[645] With these groups, plans aimed at disengaging children and adolescents together with other protective measures were agreed upon since children and adolescents had been forcibly recruited by these groups. In addition, other measures agreed included territory demining, the prohibition of the use of landmines,[646] and the substitution of illicit crops, together with the development of productive, educational and infrastructure projects.[647] Additionally, commitments were secured with the *Conquistadores de la Sierra Nevada* self-defense forces to prevent and eradicate the forced recruitment of children.[648]

289. Moreover, non-state armed groups and criminal organizations have expanded their activities, with clashes, attacks, and other violent incidents recorded in various parts of the country, resulting in civilian and military casualties. In January 2025, disputes between non-state armed groups in Catatumbo resulted in at least 60 casualties, including human rights defenders and Peace Agreement signatories. The scale of the

[635] *APN*, "Gobierno retira temporalmente proyecto de ley que daría creación al Ministerio de Igualdad y Equidad" (Government temporarily withdraws bill to establish the Ministry of Equality and Equity), June 10, 2025.
[636] United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, *Quarterly Report of the Secretary-General*, S/2025/595, September 26, 2025, para. 14.
[637] Office of the Inspector General, *Séptimo informe al congreso sobre la implementación del Acuerdo de Paz, septiembre de 2025* (Seventh report to Congress on the implementation of the Peace Agreement), p. 53.
[638] *Ibid.*, p. 56.
[639] *Ibid.*, p. 51.
[640] United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, *Quarterly Report of the Secretary-General*, S/2025/595, September 26, 2025, para. 14.
[641] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, p. 111.
[642] *Ibid.*, p. 114.
[643] *Ibid.*, pp. 112-113.
[644] *Ibid.*, p. 149.
[645] *Ibid.*, p. 150.
[646] *Ibid*, pp. 151-152.
[647] *Ibid*, pp. 152*153.
[648] *Ibid.*, p. 151.

violence led to the forced displacement of at least 60,000 people and the confinement of an additional 12,000, including 23 indigenous communities from the Bari and Yukpa peoples. This situation also caused the collapse of public service systems and deprived more than 46,000 children and adolescents of access to education.[649] In this context, the most recent ceasefire in force under the Paz Total policy was brought to an end with members of the self-proclaimed General Staff of the Magdalena Medio Blocks, including the "Comandante Gentil Duarte" and "Comandante Jorge Suárez Briceño" structures, and the "Raúl Reyes" Front of the FARC-EP.[650] The actions of armed groups in Guaviare also resulted in the murder of eight social leaders.[651][652] In addition, at least 24 attacks were recorded in Cauca, Valle del Cauca, and Antioquia, resulting in eight deaths and dozens of people injured.[653]. These incidents included the attack on the Military Aviation School in Cali, which caused seven casualties, as well as the attack on a police helicopter in Amalfi, Antioquia, where 12 people were killed.

290. In addition, civil society organizations expressed the need to participate in dialogues with armed groups under the Paz Total policy, while emphasizing the need to ensure the effective inclusion of victims' voices and the incorporation of ethnic-racial, territorial and gender approaches into the agreements. In regions such as Buenaventura and Chocó, serious impacts on ethnic peoples were reported, including murders, sexual violence, displacement and restrictions on ancestral mechanisms of organization. Territorial control practices exercised by armed groups[654] and perceptions of institutional tolerance of said practices were also reported, together with an increase in the threats against those who reported this situation, which continues to pose significant risks for local communities.[655]

291. With respect to challenges related to **access to justice**, the State reported on actions undertaken to safeguard the independence of the judiciary, highlighting the adoption of the Statutory Law on the Administration of Justice in October 2024.[656]. In this regard, the Office of the Ombudsperson highlighted the independence of the judiciary in the proceedings conducted by Judge Sandra Heredia of the Bogotá Criminal Trial Court, in the case involving former President Álvaro Uribe Vélez.[657] Additionally, the Office of the Ombudsperson highlighted the campaign to achieve parity among the high courts, as it recommends the creation of women-only candidate lists for the appointment of women justices to the State Council, the Supreme Court of Justice, and the Constitutional Court.[658]

292. Moreover, civil society organizations have reported high levels of impunity in cases of homicides against human rights defenders. In this regard, between 2016 and 2024, the Office of the Attorney General (FGN) recorded 1,372 homicides, of which 1,322 are currently under investigation. Of those cases, 793 showed no significant progress and, of the remaining 529 cases, 217 resulted in convictions, while only 20 led

[649] IACHR, Press Release No. 23/25, IACHR asks the State of Colombia to end the violence caused by armed groups, January 24, 2025; Office of the Ombudsperson of Colombia, "El Catatumbo padece la emergencia humanitaria más grande desde que hay registro en Colombia, a causa del conflicto armado" (The Catatumbo region is experiencing the largest humanitarian emergency recorded in Colombia as a result of the armed conflict), May 6, 2025.

[650] Presidency of the Republic, Decree No. 0448 2025, April 17, 2025.

[651] IACHR [@CIDH], (July 8, 2025), #Colombia: #CIDH expresa su consternación ante el hallazgo de ocho personas lideresas sociales sin vida en una fosa común en Calamar, Guaviare, quienes estaban desaparecidas desde abril de 2025 (#IACHR expresses its deep concern over the discovery of eight women social leaders found dead in a mass grave in Calamar, Guaviare, who had been reported missing since April 2025) [X post], X.

[652] IACHR, [@CIDH], (June 12, 2025), Colombia: #CIDH condena los atentados que habrían dejado al menos 8 personas fallecidas y 74 heridas, el 10 de junio, en diferentes lugares del país. Según información, se habrían registrado 24 ataques, la mayoría dirigidos contra estaciones de policía en los departamentos de Valle del Cauca, Cauca y Antioquia (According to available information, 24 attacks were allegedly recorded, most of them directed against police stations in the departments of Valle del Cauca, Cauca and Antioquia) [X post], X.

[653] IACHR [@CIDH], (June 12, 2025), Colombia: #CIDH condena los atentados que habrían dejado al menos 8 personas fallecidas y 74 heridas, el 10 de junio, en diferentes lugares del país (#IACHR condemns the attacks that allegedly caused at least eight deaths and 74 injured on June 10 in different parts of the country) [X post], X.

[654] IACHR, meeting with civil society organizations from Buenaventura, September 17, 2025. Meeting with civil society organizations from Chocó, August 27, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[655] Meeting with civil society organizations from Buenaventura, September 17, 2025. Meeting with civil society organizations from Chocó, August 27, 2025. CINEP, "EGC en el Chocó: violencia, poder y miedo" (EGC in Chocó: Violence, Power, and Fear), June 2025, p. 7.

[656] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, p. 172.

[657] *Ibid.*, p. 173.

[658] *Ibid.*, p. 173.

to the punishment of the masterminds.[659] Moreover, there are situations that hinder access to justice, such as the absence of judicial and civil state institutions in the territories of Buenaventura, which prevents the filing of complaints and the provision of security guarantees for complainants, particularly in cases of sexual violence against Afro-descendant girls, adolescents and women.[660]

293. Regarding the situation of **human rights defenders**, between January and July 2025, the Office of the Ombudsperson documented 107 homicides of human rights defenders with social and community leadership roles, and it recorded a total of 1,595 cases between 2016 and July 2025.[661] The OHCHR verified 29 of the 86 allegations received during the first half of the year, with additional cases under verification. The departments with the highest number of cases were Antioquia, Bolívar, Cauca, Chocó, Santander and Putumayo.[662] The Inter-American Commission granted three precautionary measures to protect three human rights defenders at urgent risk.[663] Furthermore, the State indicated that the FGN, through the National Threats Group, received 442 complaints, leading to requests for protection measures from the National Protection Unit in 406 cases and for preventive measures from the National Police in 395 cases. Finally, the proceedings resulted in two cases of convictions, four cases in which the principle of opportunity was applied, two cases were dismissed due to the death of the suspect, eight indictments, and nine cases in which charges were formally brought.[664]

294. Threats continue to be the most common form of aggression against human rights defenders. According to the Somos Defensores (We Are Defenders) Program, 58 cases of threats were reported during the first quarter of the year.[665] The case of adolescent environmental activist Francisco Vera came to light after he allegedly faced death threats, harassment and smear campaigns that prompted his departure from the country and continued while he was abroad.[666] The State reported on the criminal investigation opened in 2021 and on the measures adopted by the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare.[667] Moreover, civil society organizations reported 94 murders between January and July 2025, as well as differentiated risks faced by community leaders, in a context of armed presence that heightens exposure to reprisals and violence.[668]

295. In 2025, relevant progress was made in the regulatory and judicial recognition of the rights of **indigenous peoples**. The State issued a presidential decree strengthening the right to self-determination and regulating powers related to indigenous territories.[669] Moreover, Decree Law No. 481 of 2025 was enacted, recognizing the Indigenous Education System as a public policy of its own.[670] In the judicial sphere, the

[659] *El Espectador*, "La impunidad pone en riesgo la defensa de derechos humanos en Colombia" (Impunity poses a risk to the defense of human rights in Colombia), March 22, 2025.

[660] IACHR, meeting with civil society organizations from Buenaventura, September 17, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[661] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, p. 120.

[662] OHCHR in Colombia, "Homicidios de personas defensoras" (Homicides of human rights defenders), accessed on September 23, 2025.

[663] IACHR, Resolution No. 49/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 262-24, Dumar Eliecer Blanco Ruiz regarding Colombia, July 21, 2025; Resolution No. 50/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 834-25, Wendy Vanessa Quintero Guerrero, her mother and son regarding Colombia, July 24, 2025; Resolution No. 58/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 813-25, Juan Camilo Castaño Gutiérrez and his mother Gloria Nancy Gutiérrez regarding Colombia, August 18, 2025.

[664] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, p. 119. On IACHR's files.

[665] Somos Defensores (We Are Defenders) Program, *Boletín Trimestral Enero- Marzo 2025*, *Sistema de información sobre agresiones contra personas defensoras de derechos humanos en Colombia (SIADDHH)* (Quarterly Report January–March 2025, Information System on Attacks against Human Rights Defenders in Colombia [SIADDHH]), p. 8.

[666] IACHR, Request for Information pursuant to Article 1 of the American Convention on Human Rights regarding the measures adopted by the State in response to threats directed against adolescent environmental defender Francisco Javier Vera Manzanares in Colombia, 173-25/IACHR/SE//M1-Art.41, April 16, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[667] Republic of Colombia, Response to the request for information regarding the situation of adolescent human rights defender Francisco Vera in Colombia, S-GAPDH-225-018093, May 28, 2025.

[668] Colombian Commission of Jurists, "Violaciones al derecho a la vida de las personas defensoras, líderes y lideresas 2025" (Violations of the right to life of human rights defenders and leaders, 2025), Augusts 21, 2025.

[669] IACHR, Press Release No. 142/25, Colombia: IACHR welcomes decree strengthening Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in Colombia, July 16, 2025.

[670] Department of Public Service of Colombia, Decree 481 of 2025, Ministry of Education of Colombia, April 30, 2025.

Constitutional Court issued a decision favorable to the Je'eruriwa people, ordering measures of comprehensive reparation, territorial restitution and guarantees of non-repetition.[671]

296. Nevertheless, various challenges persist in connection with the impact of the armed conflict and the illicit economies in indigenous territories. Between January and August 2025, more than 22,600 people belonging to ethnic communities were recorded as having been forcibly displaced.[672] Among those affected were members of the Je'eruriwa people, despite the Constitutional Court's decision.[673] In the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the Kogui, Wiwa, Kankuamo, Arhuaco and Ette Naka peoples faced threats to their survival due to territorial disputes and illicit activities.[674] Likewise, concern persists regarding the under-utilization of funds allocated to the implementation of the Victims' Law and the ethnic decrees, which limits effective access to reparation, collective protection and institutional strengthening in contexts of heightened vulnerability.[675]

297. With regard to the situation of **Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination**, the State reported progress aimed at strengthening the rights of Afro-descendants, including the creation of the Special Harmonization Program (PEA) aimed at fostering reintegration with an ethnic and gender-based approach.[676] During the internal unrest, collective and individual protection measures were implemented in Catatumbo and Cúcuta.[677] The Ministry of Justice of Colombia launched the 2025 Project Bank to support initiatives aimed at transitioning to licit economies in prioritized territories,[678] while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia promoted workshops to harmonize Afro-Andean statistical parameters.[679] Affirmative actions in higher education[680] and cultural recognition[681] were also taken, as well as judicial orders issued by the Constitutional Court of Colombia to grant title to mangrove and tidal flat areas for the benefit of community councils,[682] and to protect the Jaguares de Yuruparí macro-territory affected by mercury contamination.[683]

298. Moreover, multiple incidents of violence were reported in regions with a high Afro-descendant presence, such as Cauca, Chocó, Nariño, and Valle del Cauca. In Buenaventura, during the first quarter of 2025, more than 50 Afro-descendant youths were killed, including Alan Valencia, a young leader of

[671] Constitutional Court of Colombia, T-185/25, May 26, 2025.

[672] Office of the Ombudsperson of Colombia, Boletín Mensual. Dinámicas de Movilidad Humana Forzada en Colombia (Monthly report. Dynamics of forced human mobility in Colombia), August 2025.

[673] Rodríguez Macuna, Oswaldo (Ipurepi) and Kleinner, Laura Ann, "Tras siete años de lucha, la Corte Constitucional de Colombia falla a favor del pueblo Je'eruriwa, víctima de desplazamiento forzado" (After seven years of struggle, the Constitutional Court of Colombia rules in favor of the Je'eruriwa People, victims of forced displacement), August 1, 2025.

[674] OHCHR, ONU Derechos Humanos llama a prevenir la extinción física y cultural de los Pueblos Indígenas de la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta garantizando sus derechos: colectivos e individuales (UN Human Rights calls for the prevention of the physical and cultural extinction of the indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, ensuring their collective and individual rights), May 20, 2025.

[675] Office of the Ombudsperson of Colombia, Defensoría del Pueblo, Procuraduría y Contraloría hacen un llamado al Gobierno por baja ejecución de recursos en implementación de la Ley de Víctimas y los Decretos Ley Étnicos (The Office of the Ombudsperson, the Office of the Inspector General and the Office of the Comptroller General call on the Government over the under-utilization of funds allocated to the implementation of the Victims' Law and the Ethnic Decree Laws), August 20, 2025.

[676] Presidency of the Republic, Department of Public Service, Decree No. 103 2025, January 28 2025.

[677] Presidency of the Republic, Department of Public Service, Decree No. 137 2025, February 5, 2025.

[678] Ministry of Justice and Law of Colombia, Project Bank 2025, 2025.

[679] Ministry of Foreign Affairs Colombia acoge talleres de la CEPAL/CELADE para la armonización de parámetros estadísticos que fortalezcan la caracterización de la población afroandina (Colombia hosts ECLAC/CELADE workshops aimed at harmonizing statistical parameters to strengthen the characterization of the Afro-Andean population), August 21, 2025.

[680] *Caracol Radio*, "Icetex abre convocatoria para comunidades afro: habrá créditos 100% condonables" (ICETEX opens a call for applications for Afro-descendants, offering 100% soft loans.), August 4, 2025.

[681] *El País (América Colombia)*, "Flecho, la fiesta de la lectura y la escritura que simboliza la resistencia del Chocó" (Flecho, the reading and writing festival that symbolizes resistance in Chocó), March 5, 2025; *El Espectador*, "¿Qué hacer en el Petronio?: Estas son algunas de las actividades imperdibles" (What to do at Petronio?: Here are some must-see activities), August 14, 2025.

[682] Ministry of Equality and Equity, "La titulación de Manglares es un fallo histórico que protege la vida y el territorio" (Mangrove titling constitutes a landmark ruling to protect life and territory), April 22, 2025.

[683] Constitutional Court of Colombia, *Boletín sentencias de tutela y constitucionalidad* (Report on writs of protection and constitutional review decisions), April 3, 2025, pp. 16–17; Mayor's Office of Bogotá, D.C. – Legal System, Judgment T-106 of 2025, March 25, 2025.

the Bahía Málaga Community Council,[684] which generated widespread fear.[685] In Chocó, armed strikes, mobility restrictions (confinement),[686] and clashes[687] were documented, hindering the delivery of humanitarian assistance.[688] The Office of the Ombudsperson issued an early warning regarding risks to the Afro-descendant population and people of low socioeconomic status in Cali, stemming from the presence of armed groups and criminal organizations.[689] The State also reported on operations conducted by law enforcement forces in corridors of the Pacific region aimed at reducing homicides and reopening roads.[690]

299. In terms of the human rights of **women**, progress was made in the legislative consideration of two key bills: a law aimed at prohibiting female genital mutilation, which has reached the Senate,[691] and the "Law on Care without Revictimization," which establishes mandatory training on violence against women and a gender perspective for public officials involved in such cases.[692] The Office of the Inspector General urged national and territorial authorities to strengthen and incorporate a gender perspective in the development and implementation of Comprehensive Citizen Security and Coexistence Plans (PISCC).[693] Additionally, during the first half of 2025, the Office of the Ombudsperson provided assistance, counseling, and guidance to 3,480 women victims of gender-based violence.[694]

300. Additionally, the State adopted measures to protect and guarantee sexual and reproductive rights. These measures included the decision of the Constitutional Court of Colombia urging an indigenous council to refrain from restricting requests for the voluntary termination of pregnancy,[695] a circular issued by the Ministry of Justice and Law of Colombia providing, on a temporary basis, for the availability of open cells for pregnant persons and persons in the breastfeeding period,[696] and the implementation of a course on professional secrecy with a gender perspective, aimed at students in the final semesters of law and health

[684] IACHR [@CIDH], (September 23, 2025), CIDH condena el homicidio de Alan Valencia, un joven líder del Consejo Comunitario de Bahía de Málaga, sucedido el #11sept en el marco de un continuo de violencia en contra de adolescentes en Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca (IACHR condemns the murder of Alan Valencia, a young leader of the Bahía Málaga Community Council, which occurred on September 11, in the context of ongoing violence against adolescents in Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca) [X post], X.

[685] *El Tiempo*, "Radiografía de Buenaventura donde las balas le arrebataron la vida a un menor que ya era líder social: esto se sabe del asesinato", (Buenaventura under the spotlight: bullets take the life of a young and emerging social leader—What we know about the killing), September, 15, 2025; *El País* (America-Colombia), "El último gol de 'Vlacho'" ("Vlacho's" last goal), April 3, 2025. *El Tiempo*, "Buenaventura: Denuncian toque de queda en comuna 12, obligado por bandas criminales", (Buenaventura; "Curfew established in Comuna 12, enforced by criminal gangs," August 15, 2025; *Race & Equality*, "SOS por Buenaventura: Que el terror no sea la norma ¡Protección y justicia para su población!", (SOS for Buenaventura: Let terror not become the norm — Protection and justice for its people!), September 25, 2025.

[686] *El País* (America-Colombia), "El ELN produce otro desplazamiento masivo con el anuncio de un paro armado en Chocó" (The ELN caused another mass displacement following the announcement of an armed strike in Chocó), February 17, 2025.

[687] OHCHR, "Colombia – UN report urges State to protect civilians and their rights amid ongoing violence by armed groups," February 24, 2025; Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies, Comunidades negras, afrodecendientes, raizales y palenqueras (Black, Afro-descendant, Raiza, and Palenquera communities), April 2023.

[688] OHCHR, *Situation of human rights in Colombia*, A/HRC/58/24, January 22, 2025; *Reuters*, "Residents of Colombia's Choco clamor for help as violence flares," February 24, 2025.

[689] Office of the Ombudsperson, Early Warning No. 012-2025, August 26, 2025.

[690] Reuters, "Colombia boosting troop footprint in renewed offensive against armed groups," June 30, 2025.

[691] Congress of the Republic of Colombia, House of Representatives, Plenaria de Cámara dijo SÍ a erradicar la Mutilación Genital Femenina en Colombia: proyecto de ley pasó a Senado (The House of Representatives plenary passes bill to eradicate female genital mutilation in Colombia, which has reached the senate), April 2, 2025; IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A, March 26, 2025, para. 479.

[692] Congress of the Republic of Colombia, House of Representatives, Bill No. 193 of 2024, "Law on Care without Revictimization," May 2025.

[693] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, p. 69.

[694] *Ibid.*, p. 70.

[695] Constitutional Court of the Republic of Colombia, Judgment SU-176/25, August 5, 2025.

[696] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, p. 70.

sciences programs.[697] Moreover, the Fondo Mujer Libre y Productiva (Free and Productive Women Fund) program, which promotes economic autonomy, benefited 16,015 women during the first half of the year.[698]

301. Moreover, available data on violence against women remains alarming.[699] Between January and September 2025, the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences recorded 438 alerts for extreme risk of femicide,[700] while the civil society reported 621 femicides (some committed with extreme cruelty)[701] and 320 attempted femicides.[702] During the same period, the National Police received 5,054 calls through the 155-Salvia hotline, 98 percent of which were made by women: 2,282 related to psychological violence, 2,171 to physical violence, and 355 to sexual violence.[703]

302. Meanwhile, violence against women in a situation of greater vulnerability is still critical. Reports of physical and sexual violence against girls and adolescents, particularly those from indigenous communities,[704] threats, extortion, and femicides against trans women and sex workers,[705] disappearances related to human trafficking, especially affecting girls, adolescents, and migrant women,[706] and acts of violence against women human rights defenders, women searching for disappeared persons, and indigenous women leaders, including threats, sexual violence, and murder,[707] persist. In addition, some women recognized as

[697] Ministry of Equality and Equity, Con Diplomado en Secreto Profesional, Colombia cumple acuerdo amistoso y avanza hacia la justicia con perspectiva de género (Course on professional secrecy: Colombia fulfills an amicable settlement and advances towards a gender-responsive justice system), May 23, 2025.

[698] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, p. 62.

[699] IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A, March 26, 2025, para. 279; IACHR, *Observaciones preliminares Visita in loco a Colombia* (Preliminary observations on the *in loco* visit to Colombia), April 15–19, 2024, pp. 3, 12 and 13.

[700] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, p. 67.

[701] *El Tiempo*, "Hombre asesinó a su joven pareja embarazada en Antioquia frente a sus cuatro hijos; la Policía se pronunció" (Man kills his young pregnant partner in Antioquia in front of her four children; Police issues a statement), May 6, 2025.

[702] Colombia Femicide Observatory, "VIVAS NOS QUEREMOS: Boletín mensual sobre feminicidios en Colombia" (WE WANT TO STAY ALIVE: Monthly report on femicides in Colombia) September 2025, October 14, 2025.

[703] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, p.72.

[704] Secretariat of Social Integration of Bogotá, "Distrito denuncia presunto caso de violencia sexual contra dos niñas en el alojamiento temporal La Rioja" (The District reports an alleged case of sexual violence against two girls at the La Rioja temporary shelter), June 2, 2025; National Commission of Indigenous Women of Colombia [@CNMIColombia], (May 29, 2025), DENUNCIA PÚBLICA ¡NO MÁS VIOLENCIA CONTRA NUESTRAS NIÑAS Y MUJERES INDÍGENAS! (PUBLIC STATEMENT: NO MORE VIOLENCE AGAINST OUR INDIGENOUS GIRLS AND WOMEN!) [X post], X, https://x.com/CNMIColombia/status/1928241749715210376; Office of the Attorney General, "Hombre señalado de abusar sexualmente a su sobrina en una comunidad indígena de Casanare fue enviado a la cárcel" (A man accused of sexually abusing his niece in an indigenous community in Casanare was sent to prison), October 22, 2025; Office of the Attorney General, "Profesor que habría abusado sexualmente de una estudiante en Soacha fue enviado a la cárcel" (A teacher accused of sexually abusing a student in Soacha is sent to prison), October 22, 2025.

[705] Office of the Attorney General, "Presuntos responsables de extorsionar a trabajadora sexual en la Comuna 10 de Medellín fueron enviados a la cárcel" (Suspected perpetrators accused of extorting a sex worker in Comuna 10 of Medellín are sent to prison), October 22, 2025; Caribe Afirmativo *et al*., 193rd regular period of sessions, request for a thematic hearing on the "Situación de violencia transfeminicida en Colombia" (Situation of transfeminicidal violence in Colombia), April 25, 2025, p. 3. On IACHR's files; Office of the Ombudsperson [@DefensoriaCol], (April 7, 2025), La identidad y expresiones de género, deben ser respetadas y reconocidas sin excepción (Gender identity and expressions must be respected and recognized without exception) [X post], X, https://x.com/DefensoriaCol/status/1909419283743940625; Santamaría Foundation, 193rd regular period of sessions, request for a thematic hearing on the "Situación de mujeres trans y trabajadoras sexuales en Colombia" (Situation of trans women and sex workers in Colombia), April 25, 2025, p. 7. On IACHR's files.

[706] Committee on Enforced Disappearances, *Report of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on its visit to Colombia pursuant to Article 33 of the Convention*, April 30, 2025, paras. 29 and 33.

[707] *El Espectador*, "Lideresas sociales: cuando defender derechos implica enfrentar violencia de género" (Women social leaders: when defending rights means facing gender-based violence), June 28, 2025; *Infobae*, "Reconocida líder indígena fue asesinada con arma de fuego en Morales, Cauca" (Famous indigenous leader shot dead in Morales, Cauca), July 20, 2025; INDEPAZ [@Indepaz], (July 20, 2025), #89LíderesAsesinados. Nombre: Aída Damaris Flor Camayo. Fecha:19/07/2025. Lugar: Morales, Cauca, (#89MurderedWomenLeaders; Name: Aída Damaris Flor Camayo; Date: July 19, 2025; Location: Morales, Cauca), [X post], X, https://x.com/Indepaz/status/1946994931643674654.

participants in JEP's proceedings are allegedly subjected to threats, extortion, surveillance, mobility restriction, and even sexual violence by armed actors, as retaliation for their participation in judicial proceedings.[708]

303. Moreover, different actions by public officials also constituted violence and/or discrimination against women.[709] In the judicial sphere, discriminatory actions by justice operators, technical shortcomings in the proceedings, and the use of the "parental alienation syndrome" are reported.[710] In this regard, a court found the judiciary responsible for having used disrespectful and discriminatory language against a woman who reported sexual violence.[711] Similarly, within the health system, cases of obstetric violence and persistent practices obstructing access to abortion were reported,[712] such as interference by healthcare personnel, lack of access to relevant information, and delays in carrying out the procedure.[713]

304. With regard to the rights of **children and adolescents**, complaints were recorded concerning environmental crimes in Barrancabermeja, where pediatricians warned of serious impacts on children's health possibly linked to the landfill operated by Veolia in Patio Bonito, since high levels of mercury and other toxic metals were detected in nearby areas.[714]

305. The rights of **LGBTI persons** have seen progress following measures ordered by the Constitutional Court to expedite name change procedures for trans persons without requiring notarized documents,[715] to extend breastfeeding-related rights regardless of gender,[716] and to punish acts of discrimination in the education system.[717] Moreover, the opening of a congressional debate on the

[708] Corporación Sisma Mujer and Colombia Diversa, 193rd regular period of sessions, request for a thematic hearing on the "Incumplimiento de obligaciones de debida diligencia en la implementación de mecanismos de protección con enfoque diferencial para mujeres y personas LGBTQ+ en la Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz" (Failure to comply with due diligence obligations in the implementation of protection mechanisms with a differentiated approach for women and LGBTQ+ persons within the Special Jurisdiction for Peace), April 25, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[709] Corporación Sisma Mujer and Centro de Justicia para las mujeres, 194th regular period of sessions, request for a thematic hearing on "La violencia institucional ejercida por fiscalías adscritas a la Fiscalía General de la Nación en Colombia" (Institutional violence exercised by prosecutors attached to the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation in Colombia), August 22, 2025, pp. 4-10. On IACHR's files.

[710] Corporación Sisma Mujer, 194th regular period of sessions, request for a thematic hearing on "El uso del síndrome de alienación parental en las Américas como una forma de violencia contra la mujer y en contra de niños y niñas" (The use of the parental alienation syndrome in the Americas as a form of violence against women and children), August 22, 2025, p. 6. On IACHR's files.

[711] Administrative Tribunal of Cundinamarca, Acción de reparación directa - apelación sentencia (Direct reparation action – Appeal of judgment), April 30, 2025, p. 12.

[712] IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A, March 26, 2025, para. 280.

[713] *El Espectador*, "La geografía del silencio el aborto para mujeres indígenas, afro y migrantes en Colombia" (The geography of silence: abortion for indigenous, Afro-descendant, and migrant women in Colombia), May 31, 2025; *La Verdad*, "Mujeres wayuu enfrentan violencia obstétrica y exclusión en la frontera colombo-venezolana" (Wayuu women face obstetric violence and exclusion along the Colombian–Venezuelan border), March 10, 2025.; Ministry of Health, *Encuesta Nacional de Demografía y Salud 2025* (2025 National Demographic and Health Survey), April 4, 2025, p. 49.

[714] *Global Witness*, Poisoned Ground:Secretly filmed footage shows Veolia pumping toxic pollutants into protected Colombian wetlands, March 27, 2025.

[715] *El Tiempo*, "Corte hace un llamado a la Registraduría para agilizar trámite de cambio de nombre de la población transgénero" (Court calls on the Civil Registry to expedite name change procedures for the transgender population), July 10, 2025; *Infobae*, "Corte Constitucional ordenó a la Registraduría agilizar cambios de nombre para población transgénero" (Constitutional Court orders the Civil Registry to expedite name change procedures for the transgender population), July 10, 2025.

[716] Republic of Colombia, Constitutional Court of Colombia, Judgment C-071 of 2025, February 27, 2025; *Radio RCN*, "Corte Constitucional extendió los derechos de lactancia a todas las personas sin importar su género" (Constitutional Court of Colombia extends breastfeeding-related rights to all persons, regardless of gender), February 28, 2025.

[717] *Infobae*, "Con emotiva carta, Corte Constitucional explicó a un niño que ganó tutela contra colegio que lo expulsó por homofobia: 'Enfrentaste momentos difíciles'" (In an emotional letter, the Constitutional Court explains to a child that he had who won an action for the protection of constitutional rights against a school that had expelled him due to homophobia: "You faced difficult times"), January 15, 2025; *DeJusticia*, ¡Ganó la diversidad! Corte Constitucional dio un paso histórico contra la discriminación en los colegios (Diversity prevails: the Constitutional Court of Colombia takes a historic step against discrimination in schools), February 10, 2025; *El País*, "El adolescente colombiano que obligó a su colegio evangélico a rendir cuentas ante las altas cortes: 'Mi sexualidad no tiene que ver con Dios'" (The Colombian teenager who forced his Evangelical school to answer before the high courts: "My sexuality has nothing to do with God."), August 4, 2025.

Comprehensive Trans Bill,[718] Circular No. 075 of 2025, aimed at guaranteeing the labor rights of trans and non-binary persons[719], as well as the trans voting protocol and the issuance of documents with the "non-binary" category, have ensured legislative and public policy advances. In March, the government approved CONPES 4147: the National Policy for the Guarantee of the Rights of the LGBTIQ+ Population.[720]

306. During the first half of 2025, the Ministry of Justice and Law made progress in the development of the LGBTIQ+ public policy for the judiciary, strengthening coordination with various entities. Moreover, the Office of the Inspector General held an inter-institutional roundtable to strengthen the prevention of prejudice-based violence; the Ministry of Equality and Equity launched the Salvia Dignidad program, aimed at eliminating barriers of access to fundamental rights; and the Ministry of Education began implementing Judgment T-529 of 2024 on the inclusion of students with diverse sexual orientation. [721]

307. By contrast, numerous murders and cases of violence against LGBTI and gender-diverse persons were recorded, many of which were carried out with extreme brutality, as noted by the Inter-American Commission in a statement expressing concern over this situation.[722] Between January and July, at least 50 killings were recorded,[723] including the murders of Fernanda Domicó,[724] Nawar Jiménez,[725] Victoria Strauss,[726] and Sara Millerey,[727] who was subjected to extreme violence, among other cases recorded during the year.[728] In the Catatumbo region, LGBTI leaders reported threats of extermination, targeted killings, displacement and

[718] *Raza e Igualdad*, "Colombia: Raza e Igualdad celebra avance en el Congreso del Proyecto de Ley Integral Trans" (Colombia: Raza e Igualdad Welcomes progress in Congress on the Comprehensive Trans Bill), June 3, 2025; *El País*, "El Congreso de Colombia da un paso sin antecedentes: aprueba en primer debate la ley integral trans" (The Congress of Colombia takes an unprecedented step: it passes the Comprehensive Trans Bill at first reading), June 20, 2025; *Swissinfo*, "Colombia da un primer paso legislativo para aprobar la Ley Integral Trans" (Colombia takes first legislative step towards passing the Comprehensive Trans Bill), June 4, 2025.

[719] Ministry of Labor, Circular No. 75 of 2025, June 20, 2025; Caribe Afirmativo [@Caribeafirmativ], (July 9, 2025), El Ministerio del Trabajo lanza la Circular 075 de 2025 (…) (The Ministry of Labor issues Circular No. 075 of 2025…) [X post], X.

[720] Republic of Colombia, National Council for Economic and Social Policy, National Planning Department, CONPES 4147: Política Nacional para la Garantía de los Derechos de la Población LGBTIQ+ (CONPES 4147: National Policy for the Guarantee of the Rights of the LGBTIQ+ Population), 2025; National Planning Department, "Colombia avanza a una nueva era de inclusión y justicia. Aprobado por unanimidad el CONPES LGBTIQ+" (Colombia advances towards a new era of inclusion and justice. CONPES LGBTIQ+ approved unanimously), March 28, 2025; *Caribe Afirmativo*, "El documento CONPES LGBTIQ+: una oportunidad para la garantía de los derechos de las personas LGBTIQ+ en Colombia" (The CONPES LGBTIQ+ document: an opportunity for advancing the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons in Colombia), March 28, 2025.

[721] Republic of Colombia, Note No. MPC/OEA 1574/2025 in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, 344-25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, September 2025. On IACHR's files.

[722] IACHR, Press Release No. 093/25, IACHR urges Colombia to reinforce measures to eradicate violence against LGBTI individuals, May 9, 2025.

[723] *Caribe Afirmativo*, "50 personas LGBTIQ+ asesinadas en Colombia: Es hallada muerta la jefa de bombero, una mujer trans de Dabeiba" (50 LGBTIQ+ persons killed in Colombia: fire chief found dead, a trans woman from Dabeiba), July 25, 2025; *API*, "Van 52 homicidios a personas de la comunidad LGBTQ+ en Colombia durante el 2025" (At least 52 LGBTQ+ persons killed in Colombia in 2025), September 29, 2025.

[724] *MSN*, "Asesinan a jefa de bomberos de Dabeiba, Antioquia: era una indígena trans y ofrecen millonaria recompensa por los responsables" (Fire chief killed in Dabeiba, Antioquia: indigenous trans woman; Substantial reward offered for information pointing to those responsible), July 26, 2025; *Infobae*, "Ofrecen recompensa por el asesinato de la jefa del Cuerpo de Bomberos de Dabeiba, Antioquia: era una destacada lideresa trans" (Reward offered for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the killing of the fire chief of Dabeiba, Antioquia: She was a prominent trans leader), July 25, 2025.

[725] *Infobae*, "Asesinato de Nawar Jiménez, lideresa trans y activista Lgbti+ enciende las alertas" (The killing of Nawar Jiménez, a trans leader and LGBTI+ activist, raises alarms), May 22, 2025; *El País*, "Crece el repudio por el asesinato de Nawar Jiménez, lideresa trans de El Carmen de Bolívar" (Outrage grows over the killing of Nawar Jiménez, a trans leader from El Carmen de Bolívar), May 25, 2025.

[726] *Washington Blade*, "Luto en Antioquia y Colombia: asesinan a la activista trans y politóloga Victoria Strauss" (Mourning in Antioquia and Colombia: Trans activist and political scientist Victoria Strauss is killed), October 2, 2025; *El Colombiano*, "Las angustiosas últimas horas de la lideresa trans que fue hallada muerta en Medellín" (The harrowing final hours of a trans leader found dead in Medellín), October 10, 2025.

[727] On April 6, 2025, Sara Millerey González Borja, a 32-year-old trans woman, was killed with extreme brutality and cruelty in Bello, Antioquia. Sara was found in a stream with multiple fractures; according to reports, she was tortured and left alive. She died hours later in a hospital due to the severity of her injuries. According to information provided by the State, the Office of the Attorney General opened an investigation to fully clarify the facts, in accordance with international standards. As a result, one person was arrested on May 1 and charged with the crimes of aggravated homicide and torture; *BBC Mundo*, "Sara Millerey: el brutal asesinato de una mujer trans que provocó una oleada de rechazo a la transfobia en Colombia" (Sara Millerey: Brutal killing of a trans woman sparks nationwide rejection of transphobia in Colombia), April 10, 2025; *Infobae*, "Capturan al segundo implicado en el crimen de Sara Millerey en Bello, Antioquia: esto se sabe" (Second suspect in the killing of Sara Millerey in Bello, Antioquia, is arrested: what is known so far), May 25, 2025.

[728] *Swissinfo*, "El asesinato de una mujer trans indigna a Colombia, que pide justicia en este caso" (The murder of a trans woman outrages Colombia, with calls for justice), April 9, 2025.

confinement attributed to armed groups[729]. In addition, a United Nations expert acknowledged normative progress, while warning of the need to effectively address discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity.[730]

308. With regard to the situation of **persons in the context of human mobility**, the Constitutional Court of Colombia determined that the Migration Service of Colombia violated the rights to personal liberty, due process of law and the principle of non-refoulement of three Cameroonian women who were denied entry into the country, and it ordered measures to ensure adequate standards in migration procedures.[731] In addition, in a case concerning the rights of a Peruvian migrant woman in an irregular situation, who was pregnant and living with HIV, the Constitutional Court of Colombia recalled the State's obligation to ensure pertinent care and enhanced protection for pregnant women, reaffirming constitutional standards of protection.[732]

309. Despite jurisprudential advances, structural challenges persist with regard to the recognition of refugee status. Civil society organizations reported prolonged delays in the adjudication of asylum applications, increases in rejections and a lack of adequate procedural guarantees, including insufficient public information and the limited availability of human, technical and financial resources. By mid-2025, more than 29,500 applications for international protection were pending.[733]

310. As for **internally displaced persons**, the Commission noted that the situation of internal displacement worsened as a result of clashes between non-state armed groups and criminal structures. The Office of the Ombudsperson reported that, as of August 2025, it had assisted 159,000 people affected by mass and individual displacement.[734] In the Catatumbo region, located in the northeast of the country, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that at least 56,091 people had been displaced between January and March 2025 to municipalities such as Cúcuta, Ocaña and Tibú.[735] An increase in situations of confinement and restrictions on freedom of movement was also reported due to the escalation of the conflict, which disproportionately affects rural and ethnic communities in highly vulnerable areas. The impacted municipalities include Ábrego, Teorama, Convención, Tibú, La Playa, El Carmen and Hacarí, as well as the Barí Indigenous Reserve.[736] The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) estimated that 2025 was set to be the worst year of the decade in humanitarian terms, amid the expansion of armed groups and escalating violence.[737]

311. With regard to **human trafficking**, the State reported that, between January 1 and July 31, 2025, the Criminal Investigation Directorate and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

[729] *El País*, "'Vamos a exterminar a todas las maricas': los líderes LGBTI del Catatumbo denuncian desprotección luego de ser desplazados" ("We will eliminate all faggots": LGBTI leaders in the Catatumbo report lack of protection after being displaced), February 19, 2025; *Caribe Afirmativo*, Crisis humanitaria de Catatumbo: Más de 40 personas LGBTIQ+ han sido desplazadas y/o perfiladas por su orientación sexual o identidad de género (Humanitarian crisis in the Catatumbo region: more than 40 LGBTIQ+ persons displaced and/or profiled based on their sexual orientation or gender identity), January 20, 2025.

[730] OHCHR, Colombia: Government must match impressive strategies with resources and implementation, says expert, May 30, 2025; United Nations Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, *Country visit to the Republic of Colombia (19 to 30 May 2025). End-of-mission statement*, May 30, 2025.

[731] Constitutional Court of Colombia, Second Review Chamber, Judgment No. T-060 of 2025, File No. T-10,187,941, February 17, 2025.

[732] Constitutional Court of Colombia, Third Review Chamber, Judgment No. T-213 of 2025, File No. T-10,686,485, June 4, 2025.

[733] Amnesty International, "Organizaciones de derechos humanos alertan sobre la grave crisis del sistema de refugio en Colombia" (Human rights organizations warn of severe crisis in the refugee system of Colombia), June 24, 2025.

[734] Office of the Ombudsperson of Colombia, "Más de 159.000 personas afectadas por eventos de desplazamiento forzado y confinamiento en los primeros ocho meses de 2025" (Over 159,000 persons affected by forced displacement and confinement in the first eight months of 2025), August 25, 2025.

[735] OCHA, *Colombia | Reporte de Situación No. 02: Necesidades humanitarias por desplazamiento masivo y restricciones a la movilidad en Catatumbo (Norte de Santander)* (Colombia | Situation Report No. 02: Humanitarian needs arising from mass displacement and restrictions on mobility in Catatumbo [Norte de Santander], March 7, 2025, p. 1.

[736] Doctors Without Borders, "Colombia: «En Catatumbo, muchas personas viven a tres o cinco kilómetros de un centro de salud funcional, pero no van por miedo al conflicto»" (Colombia: "In Catatumbo, many people live three to five kilometers away from a functioning health center, yet avoid seeking care because of the conflict"), August 21, 2025.

[737] ICRC, "Colombia: 2025 set to be the decade's worst year in humanitarian terms," July 30, 2025.

dismantled one transnational network and six criminal groups involved in human trafficking, and arrested three alleged perpetrators.[738] The LibertApp platform facilitated the rescue of four Colombian women who were victims of sexual exploitation and forced labor.[739] In June, the State delivered training to public officials as part of the National Plan for the Right to Live Free from Gender-Based Violence.[740] In March, the Colombian Senate passed a bill aimed at strengthening anti-human trafficking measures by updating existing regulations, expanding their scope to digital environments, enhancing prevention efforts and amending Article 188A of the Criminal Code to reflect current recruitment methods, including labor- and relationship-based schemes.[741]

312. In terms of **persons deprived of liberty**, the State is implementing a public policy focused on postrelease support through halfway houses aimed at individuals who have been released or are subject to house arrest or noncustodial alternative sanctions.[742] Colombia has also promoted social reintegration by recognizing productive activities as work experience and enabling sentence reductions through labor, with two days of imprisonment deducted for every three days worked.[743]

313. With respect to noncustodial sanctions, the State implemented measures to promote a "more efficient and effective" justice system, encourage restorative justice practices and strengthen the principle of opportunity as one of the grounds for release.[744] Furthermore, as of August, 176 women had been released following the application of alternative sentences of community service.[745] Nevertheless, the Commission voices its concern over the fact that women eligible for such benefits have been arbitrarily detained by authorities due to outdated judicial information systems.[746] With regard to the prevention of torture, the Constitutional Court upheld the constitutionality of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.[747]

314. Notwithstanding this progress, detention conditions remain inadequate, marked by high levels of overcrowding, deficient infrastructure, poor hygiene conditions and limited access to adequate food in terms of quality and quantity, as well as to health services, medical treatment and opportunities for social reintegration.[748] As of September 15, 103,996 persons deprived of liberty were held in prison facilities designed to accommodate 81,139 individuals, thus resulting in an overcrowding rate of 28 percent.[749] Moreover, as of July 23, 20,655 people were held in temporary detention facilities with a capacity of 9,684

[738] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025.

[739] *Ibid.*

[740] *Ibid.*

[741] Senate of the Republic of Colombia, "Senado aprueba más controles para combatir la trata de personas" (Senate approves tighter controls to combat human trafficking), March 11, 2025.

[742] Single Regulatory Information System, Decree No. 483 of 2025, April 14, 2025.

[743] District Legal Secretariat, Bogotá City Hall, Law No. 2,466 of 2025, June 25, 2025.

[744] Single Regulatory Information System, Law No. 2,447 of 2025, July 11, 2025. See also: Government of Colombia, Ministry of Justice, "Ya es ley la iniciativa para una Justicia más Ágil y Eficaz" (The bill providing for a more efficient and effective justice system has now become a law), July 14, 2025.

[745] Government of Colombia, Ministry of Justice, *Seguimiento a la implementación de la Ley de Utilidad Pública* (Monitoring the implementation of the Public Utility Law), September 6, 2024. See also: Public Service, Law No. 2,292, March 8, 2023.

[746] Mujeres Libres Colombia [@MujeresLibresCo], (October 22, 2025), Julieth fue capturada injustamente, organizaciones de la sociedad civil y personas que se solidarizan con esta causa firmamos un comunicado (Julieth was wrongfully detained. This press release is signed by civil society organizations and individuals in solidarity with this cause) [X post], X, https://x.com/MujeresLibresCo/status/1981111651303903469.

[747] Constitutional Court of Colombia, Judgment No. C-121 of 2025, April 3, 2025.

[748] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, p. 167. See also: Commission on the Monitoring of Life in Prison, *XII Informe de seguimiento a la vida en prisión* (Eleventh report on the monitoring of life in prison), April 2025; Dejusticia, *Persistencia de hacinamiento, hambre y violencia estatal en las prisiones: ¿una crisis carcelaria perpetua?* (Persistent overcrowding, hunger and state violence in prisons: a permanent prison crisis?), May 27, 2025; Dejusticia, *Una década y 12 informes sobre la crisis carcelaria en Colombia: ¿qué ha pasado?* (A decade and 12 reports on the prison crisis in Colombia: what has changed?), June 5, 2025; and *El Tiempo*, "Exclusivo| Crisis carcelaria: Contraloría advierte colapso en salud y 78.000 millones de pesos en irregularidades" (Exclusive | Prison crisis: Comptroller General warns of a collapse in prison healthcare and irregularities amounting to 78 billion Colombian pesos), July 6, 2025.

[749] Government of Colombia, National Penitentiary of Prison Institute (INPEC), *Población intramural nacional* (National statistics of incarcerated population), September 2025.

detainees, which reflects a severe overcrowding rate of 113 percent.[750] Women deprived of liberty have reported barriers to access to healthcare and food.[751] In San Isidro Prison in Popayán, protests erupted in response to poor food services,[752] and similar deficiencies were reported at El Pedregal Prison.[753]

315. Regarding incidents of violence involving persons in state custody, the Commission condemned the of Francisco Correa, who was facing charges for the murder of Paraguayan prosecutor Marcelo Pecci,[754] and voiced its concern over the violent incident that took place on September 14 at La Modelo Prison, which left one person dead and three others injured.[755] In addition, at least seven detainees died and five were injured following a fire allegedly sparked during a riot at a police station in Funza.[756]

316. In terms of **memory, truth and justice**, the State reported significant progress in the operation of the JEP. A total of 11,989 individual victims and 405 collective subjects were recorded in the Registry of Accredited Victims. Eighteen orders on the determination of facts and conduct were issued across the 11 macrocases, featuring 267 indictments. In 147 of these orders, full acknowledgments were made. The State also reported that the Chamber for the Definition of Legal Situations issued opinions on 11,003 submissions, that protection measures were granted to 313 individuals and 106 collective subjects, that 574 restorative actions and 4,435 monitoring logs for appearing persons were implemented and that 419 exhumations were carried out. Colombia also reported progress on 328 works, projects or activities with reparative or restorative content (TOAR), of which 110 were under implementation and 218 have already been certified. Finally, the State indicated that it had provided legal representation to 16,905 victims and 6,979 appearing parties, in addition to psychosocial support.[757]

317. Furthermore, the first two restorative sentences in the history of the JEP were issued on September 16 and 18: one in Case No. 001 concerning hostage-taking and severe deprivations of liberty committed by the FARC-EP,[758] and another in the Caribbean Coast subcase of Case No. 003, relating to killings

[750] Constitutional Court of Colombia, Order convening an interinstitutional working group to discuss, design and promote the legislative, regulatory and public policy measures required to ensure compliance with the structural orders issued by the Constitutional Court, July 29, 2025.

[751] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, p. 70.

[752] IACHR, Note submitted by persons deprived of liberty via email, January 10, 2025. On IACHR's files. See also: *Agencia de periodismo investigativo*, "Protestas en la cárcel de San Isidro de Popayán se agravan tras cinco días de huelga de hambre" (Protests at San Isidro Prison in Popayán escalate following five days of hunger strike), January 10, 2025; and *RCN radio*, "Se agrava la situación en la cárcel de San Isidro de Popayán, internos completan cinco días de protestas" (The situation at San Isidro Prison in Popayán has deteriorated, as inmates mark five days of protests), January 10, 2025.

[753] Mujeres Libres, "Denuncia pública - Persisten condiciones inhumanas en la alimentación y el trato a mujeres privadas de la libertad en la cárcel El Pedregal (Medellín)" (Public complaint – Inhumane conditions persist in food provision and treatment of women deprived of liberty at El Pedregal Prison [Medellín]), July 31, 2025.

[754] IACHR [@CIDH], (January 6, 2025), #Colombia #CIDH condena el asesinato de Francisco Luis Correa Galeano, privado de libertad y acusado por el homicidio del fiscal paraguayo Marcelo Pecci (#Colombia #IACHR condemns the killing of Francisco Luis Correa Galeano, a person deprived of liberty who was facing charges for the murder of Paraguayan prosecutor Marcelo Pecci) [X post], X, https://x.com/CIDH/status/1876416319584673834.

[755] *Infobae*, "Un muerto y tres heridos dejó pelea en la cárcel La Modelo de Bogotá: esto se sabe" (One dead and three injured after a fight at La Modelo Prison in Bogotá: what we know so far), September 14, 2025; *El Espectador*, "Masacre en Popayán: pelea en una discoteca dejó tres muertos y tres heridos" (Massacre in Popayán: fight at a nightclub leaves three dead and three injured), September 14, 2025; and *Vanguardia*, "Brutal riña terminó con un muerto y 3 heridos en la cárcel Modelo de Bogotá" (Brutal fight leaves one dead and three injured at La Modelo Prison in Bogotá), September 15, 2025.

[756] *La Opinión*, "A 7 subió la cifra de muertos por motín en estación de Policía en Funza: así ocurrió la emergencia" (Death toll rises to seven following a riot at a police station in Funza: here's what happened), September 18, 2025; *Infobae*, "Ya son siete los presos muertos tras incendio en estación de Policía, confirma Gobernación de Cundinamarca" (Seven inmates have now died following a fire at a police station, according to the Government of Cundinamarca), September 18, 2025; and *Emol*, "Colombia: Seis internos fallecidos y siete heridos tras incendio en estación de policía" (Colombia: six inmates dead and seven injured following a fire at a police station), September 18, 2025.

[757] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, pp. 17-33.

[758] JEP, Chamber for the Acknowledgment of Truth and Responsibility, Case No. 01: Hostage-taking, severe deprivations of liberty and other concurrent crimes committed by the FARC-EP, Conclusions Order No. 02 of 2022, Conviction Judgment, Judgment No. TP-SeRVR-RC-ST-No.0001-2025, September 16, 2025; JEP, "Comunicado 'La JEP dicta primera sentencia contra exintegrantes de las FARC-EP

and forced disappearances unlawfully presented as combat casualties.[759] These decisions imposed restorative sanctions of up to eight years, focused on projects related to memory, dignity, community reconstruction, the search for disappeared persons and demining. In parallel, the JEP and the government undertook joint interinstitutional efforts to establish coordination guidelines for the design and subsequent implementation of restorative sanctions imposed on those involved in judicial proceedings before the JEP.[760]

318. The State also reported on the coordinated work between the Ministry of Justice and the Unit for the Search of Persons Reported as Disappeared (UBPD) to advance a diagnostic assessment aimed at formulating the comprehensive public policy on search within the framework of the National Search System. However, the UBPD has faced challenges in its operations in La Escombrera, Medellín.[761] In this regard, the Appeals Section of the JEP ordered the continuation of search operations in the area.[762] In addition, the Victims Unit reported that 25 Comprehensive and Collective Reparations Plans have reached implementation levels equal to or exceeding 50 percent of the agreed commitments and that progress was made in the collective compensation of five subjects of collective reparations, with an investment of 3,401,867,820 Colombian pesos.[763]

319. The State reported progress in truth, reparation, accountability and search mechanisms for disappeared persons in relation to other armed actors. Colombia further noted the introduction of the Total Peace Bill with the aim of providing the State with legal tools to support demobilization, dialogue and justice efforts regarding illegal armed groups.[764] In addition, the Office of the Attorney General submitted a bill to amend the Justice and Peace Law.[765] The State also provided technical assistance to enhance access to transitional justice mechanisms in the territories and undertook actions related to the Public Policy on Historical Reparations for Afro-descendant, Raizal and Palenquera communities.[766]

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por toma de rehenes'" (Press Release: The JEP delivers its first judgment against former members of the FARC-EP for hostage-taking), September 16, 2025.

[759] JEP, Chamber for the Acknowledgment of Truth and Responsibility, Case No. 03, Caribbean Coast subcase: Killings and enforced disappearances unlawfully presented as combat casualties by state agents, Artillery Battalion No. 2 "La Popa", Judgment No. TP-SeRVR-RC-ST-No.002 of 2025, September 18, 2025; JEP, "Comunicado 'La JEP emite sentencia en el Caso 03 sobre ejecuciones extrajudiciales ('falsos positivos')', Comunicado institucional" (Press Release: The JEP delivers judgment in Case 03 concerning extrajudicial killings ['false positives']), September 18, 2025.

[760] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, pp. 17-33.

[761] Unit for the Search of Persons Reported as Disappeared (UBPD), "Comunicado de Prensa, La Unidad de Búsqueda insiste que se garantice la participación y centralidad de las víctimas en La Escombrera" (Press Release: The Unit for the Search for Persons Deemed as Disappeared reiterates the need to ensure the participation and central role of victims in La Escombrera), May 26, 2025; *El Colombiano*, "Víctimas rechazan ruptura de la JEP y la Unidad de Búsqueda en labor para encontrar a los desaparecidos en La Escombrera" (Victims reject the lack of coordination between the JEP and the search unit in efforts to locate those disappeared in La Escombrera), July 31, 2025; *El Colombiano*, "¿Tensión? JEP dejó afuera a la UBPD en audiencia clave para definir presupuesto en la búsqueda de desaparecidos" (Tensions? The JEP excludes the UBPD from a key hearing on funding for the search for disappeared persons), May 21, 2025; *El Colombiano*, "Búsqueda de desaparecidos en La Escombrera continúa y se amplía pese a que gobierno Petro no pone plata" (Search for the disappeared in La Escombrera continues and expands despite lack of funding from the Petro government), May 21, 2025; *El Colombiano*, "Unidad de Búsqueda alertó falta de plata para seguir búsqueda en La Escombrera; Alcaldía pondrá $2.000 millones" (The search unit warns of insufficient funding to continue search efforts in La Escombrera; the Mayor's Office will provide 2 billion Colombian pesos), March 31, 2025; *El Espectador*, "La Escombrera: Los detalles de la pugna entre JEP y Unidad de Búsqueda que llegó a Corte IDH" (La Escombrera: inside the dispute between the JEP and the search unit that reached the Inter-American Court of Human Rights), June 7, 2025.

[762] UBPD, "La Unidad de Búsqueda celebra decisión de la JEP de volver a La Escombrera, en Medellín" (The search unit welcomes the decision by the JEP to return to La Escombrera in Medellín), September 2, 2025.

[763] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, pp. 17–33.

[764] Government of Colombia, "MinJusticia radicó proyecto de ley para avanzar hacia la Paz Total y el respeto a víctimas" (The Ministry of Justice submits a bill aimed at advancing total peace and ensuring respect for victims), July 22, 2025; *El Espectador*, "Ministro de Justicia radicó en el Congreso el proyecto de sometimiento a grupos armados" (Minister of Justice introduced a bill on the submission of armed groups to justice), July 20, 2025.

[765] *El Espectador*, "Ley de Justicia y Paz: El proyecto de Fiscalía para cerrar procesos de exparamilitares de AUC" (Justice and Peace Law: the proposal of the Office of the Attorney General to close cases involving former United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia [AUC] paramilitaries), July 21, 2025; *El Espectador*, "Justicia y Paz: Ocho claves de la reforma a la ley que rige a exparamilitares de AUC" (Justice and Peace: eight key points of the reform to the law governing former AUC paramilitaries), July 22, 2025.

[766] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, pp. 17–33.

320. As for the situation of **persons with disabilities**, the State adopted legislation on the prevention and care of mental disorders and illnesses[767], and updated the national mental health policy.[768] Progress was also achieved in mainstreaming a disability-inclusive approach into the assistance provided to persons in situation of human mobility[769] and into electoral training activities,[770] as well as through the inclusion of a caregivers information module in the Registry for the Identification and Characterization of Persons with Disabilities, in alignment with the National Care System.[771] Furthermore, progress was reported in the comprehensive care provided to signatories with disabilities of the Peace Agreement.[772] The Commission also noted an increase in judicial orders issued by the JEP concerning persons with disabilities, rising from 27 between 2022 and 2024 to 81 in 2025. Likewise, the number of persons with disabilities accredited in the macrocases had reached 1,477 as of June 2025.[773]

321. With regard to challenges, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities voiced her concern over the barriers faced in obtaining disability certification; the ineffectiveness of certain departmental and district disability councils; and the reports received from adolescent girls and women with disabilities in relation to forced contraception or sterilization practices that were carried out without their informed consent.[774] In parallel, official data revealed a marked disparity in employment rates between persons with and without disabilities, with rates of 18.5 percent and 60.8 percent, respectively.[775]

322. In relation to the rights of **older persons**, the government announced the Pilar Solidario (Solidarity Pillar), aimed at benefiting more than 3 million people without contributory pensions through a monthly allowance of 230,000 Colombian pesos (approximately 60 US dollars).[776] However, the Colombian Pension Administration Agency (COLPENSIONES) reported that the necessary funding for its implementation had not yet been secured for the current year.[777] A bill was also introduced to exempt low-income older persons from property tax.[778] The National Care Policy was approved, which included specific provisions for older persons.[779] Finally, a fire was reported at a nursing home in Soledad, Atlántico, leaving two older persons dead and seven injured.[780]

[767] Public Service, Law No. 2.460 of 2025, June 16, 2025.
[768] Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Decree No. 0729 of 2025, June 25, 2025.
[769] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, p. 101.
[770] *Ibid.*, p. 6.
[771] *Ibid.*, p. 80.
[772] *Ibid.*, p. 22.
[773] *Ibid.*, pp. 35, 36, 108 and 109.
[774] OHCHR, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Country visits, July 25, 2025; and OHCHR, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, "Statement on country visit to Colombia," July 25, 2025, pp. 5–6.
[775] National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), *Mercado laboral de la población con discapacidad Trimestre móvil junio – agosto 2025* (Labor market conditions for persons with disabilities, June–August 2025 Rolling Quarter), October 14, 2025.
[776] Government of Colombia, "Más de tres millones de adultos mayores recibirán el Pilar Solidario" (More than three million older adults will receive the Pilar Solidario [Solidarity Pillar]), June 5, 2025.
[777] *Infobae*, "Gobierno aún no tiene recursos para pagar bono de 230.000 a adultos mayores, aseguró el presidente de Colpensiones" ("The government has not yet secured funding to pay the 230,000 Colombian pesos benefit to older adults," says President of the Colombian Pension Administration Agency [Colpensiones]), July 1, 2025.
[778] *Redjurista*, "Proyecto de ley en Colombia busca exonerar del impuesto predial a adultos mayores" (Bill in Colombia seeks to exempt older adults from property tax), June 16, 2025.
[779] Republic of Colombia, Input sent by the State of Colombia for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, MPC/OEA No. 1574/2025, September 19, 2025, p. 103.
[780] *Infobae*, "Fuerte incendio en conocido asilo de Soledad, Atlántico, dejó dos adultos mayores muertos y siete heridos" (A major fire at a well-known nursing home in Soledad, Atlántico, leaves two older adults dead and seven injured), July 11, 2025.

XI. COSTA RICA

- **General considerations**

323. The Republic of Costa Rica (hereinafter, "Costa Rica") reported **progress** in measures aimed at strengthening democratic institutionality, human rights, citizen security and access to justice. These initiatives include the establishment of education boards with community representation in public schools, the expansion of health and drinking water services and the adoption of legislation on the rights of women, mental health, older persons and indigenous peoples.

324. As for the **challenges**, the Commission remains concerned over citizen security and the predominantly punitive approach adopted by the State. The Commission also notes persistent concerns regarding threats to judicial independence arising from budgetary constraints, external pressures reportedly faced by justice operators and statements by high-level authorities aimed at discrediting other branches of government.

325. On September 4, 2025, the State submitted its response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.[781] Additionally, the Commission received information from the Office of the Ombudsperson on October 23, 2025.[782]

- **Specific issues**

326. In terms of **democratic institutionality**, the State reported that the Law on Education Boards was enacted in February 2025, with the purpose of establishing in each public school a multimember body composed of parents, students and representatives of the community or local indigenous education councils. These boards were granted legal status and designed to serve as advisory bodies for school management, resource oversight and administrative transparency.[783]

327. At the hearing titled "Costa Rica: General human rights situation," the Commission was informed of alleged setbacks in the State's commitments to its international obligations and the weakening of democratic institutionality. In particular, civil society organizations reported that the escalation of statements by high-level authorities of the executive branch aimed at discrediting other branches of government and oversight bodies, together with allegations of corruption involving the administration, have eroded public trust in institutions and weakened democratic checks and balances.[784]

328. With regard to **human rights institutions**, the State highlighted the enactment of several laws concerning healthcare, education and social welfare. These include the declaration of the Costa Rican Science Olympiad as an event of public interest, the reform of the Law on Horizontal Property to ensure access to drinking water, the inauguration of healthcare infrastructure and the reorganization of healthcare services in communities with high population density.[785] The State also underscored the enactment of Law No. 10,725, which ensures immediate psychological care for persons experiencing suicidal ideation or behavior through

[781] Republic of Costa Rica, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, General Directorate of Foreign Policy, OGPF-696-2025, Information submitted by the Republic of Costa Rica on the human rights situation during the period raging from January 1 to July 31, 2025, September 4, 2025, p. 1. On IACHR's files.

[782] Office of the Ombudsperson of Costa Rica, *2024–2025 Annual Report*. On IACHR's files.

[783] Republic of Costa Rica, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, General Directorate of Foreign Policy, OGPF-696-2025, Information submitted by the Republic of Costa Rica on the human rights situation during the period raging from January 1 to July 31, 2025, September 4, 2025, p. 1. On IACHR's files.

[784] IACHR, thematic hearing "Costa Rica: General human rights situation," 192nd regular period of sessions, March 5, 2025.

[785] Republic of Costa Rica, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, General Directorate of Foreign Policy, OGPF-696-2025, Information submitted by the Republic of Costa Rica on the human rights situation during the period raging from January 1 to July 31, 2025, September 4, 2025, pp. 1-2. On IACHR's files.

the 9-1-1 system, and drew attention to the declaration of mental health education as a matter of public interest and the adoption of a school mental health plan.[786]

329. In this context, the Commission was informed of budget cuts in sectors and institutions related to education, healthcare and social security, which have reportedly affected the enjoyment of human rights. In particular, civil society organizations raised concerns over the reductions in funding for public higher education and the National Child Welfare Agency (PANI). The proposed budget allocation for education represents 4.98 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), significantly below the constitutional requirement of 8 percent. Finally, the Commission was reported on the failure of the National Institute for Women (INAMU) to fulfill its mandate to prevent gender-based violence.[787]

330. As for the cross-cutting issue of **citizen security**, the Commission notes that significant challenges persist in Costa Rica. In 2023, the country recorded 907 murders for the first time in its history, and 2024 became the second most violent year, with 872 homicides. As of October 31, 2025, the Criminal Investigation Service had recorded 697 murders in the year.[788] In this context, civil society organizations informed the Commission that the rise in violence is linked to the expansion of organized crime and to increasing social inequality.[789] They further expressed concern over the predominantly punitive approach adopted by the State, which translated into measures such as the imposition of longer sentences, the expanded use of pretrial detention and the tightening of juvenile criminal legislation.[790]

331. Costa Rica reported international cooperation efforts aimed at combating drug trafficking and organized crime, by means of training initiatives carried out with agencies such as the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the United States Southern Command, which resulted in the seizure of synthetic drugs and a reduction in illicit trafficking flows to Europe. The State also participated in the 34th session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), where it presented its crime prevention policies.[791]

332. With respect to **access to justice** and **judicial independence**, the State reported that new legislation aimed at ensuring the enforcement of constitutional judgments on *habeas corpus* and writs of *amparo* with economic consequences had entered into force in May 2025. The law grants jurisdiction to the Court of Administrative Disputes and sets a four-year statute of limitations for enforcement proceedings.[792]

333. During a public hearing held in 2025, the Commission was informed of the weakening of the judiciary as a result of budgetary constraints. Civil society organizations underscored the need to strengthen the judicial career system and to implement objective procedures for the appointment of Supreme Court justices. The organizations further reported that the executive branch has exerted pressure on justice operators and members of the Office of the Public Prosecutor in the context of investigations into alleged acts of corruption involving senior public officials.[793]

334. As to the rights of **indigenous peoples**, the Constitutional Chamber granted a writ of *amparo* filed by the Office of the Ombudsperson seeking to ensure the participation of indigenous children and

[786] *Ibid.*, p. 2.
[787] IACHR, thematic hearing "Costa Rica: General human rights situation," 192nd regular period of sessions, March 5, 2025.
[788] Judiciary of Costa Rica, *Estadísticas del Organismo de Investigación Judicial* (Criminal Investigation Service Statistics), last accessed: October 31, 2025.
[789] IACHR, thematic hearing "Costa Rica: General human rights situation," 192nd regular period of sessions, March 5, 2025.
[790] *Ibid.*
[791] Republic of Costa Rica, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, General Directorate of Foreign Policy, OGPF-696-2025, Information submitted by the Republic of Costa Rica on the human rights situation during the period raging from January 1 to July 31, 2025, September 4, 2025, p. 5. On IACHR's files.
[792] Ibid., p. 6.
[793] IACHR, thematic hearing "Costa Rica: General human rights situation," 192nd regular period of sessions, March 5, 2025.

adolescents in the 2024–2036 national policy on children and adolescents.[794] Furthermore, the Office of the Public Defender of the Judiciary reported that judicial proceedings involving indigenous persons increased by 15 percent compared to the previous year, reaching a total of 3,875 cases. Members of the Bribri, Cabécar and Ngäbe peoples accounted for the majority of those involved in the proceedings, and the cases primarily concerned family law and child support matters.[795]

335. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in 2025, the Commission received information indicating that indigenous peoples continue to face significant barriers to the full enjoyment of their rights. Among other issues, conflicts persist due to the lack of legal certainty over the ownership of ancestral lands, as between 38 percent and 97 percent of such lands remain occupied by nonindigenous persons. Moreover, public policies have reportedly been formulated with no participation of indigenous peoples, in violation of applicable national and international standards. According to the information received, the State has failed to take action to recover and restore lands to indigenous communities, which has resulted in increased violence in these territories.[796]

336. With regard to the rights of **women**, Costa Rica strengthened its legal framework for the protection against gender-based violence. In particular, the State enacted the Law against Vicarious Violence;[797] ratified Convention No. 190 of the International Labor Organization (ILO) on the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work;[798] amended the Law on the Criminalization of Violence against Women to include the use of corrosive, flammable, toxic or acidic substances as well as attacks against pregnant women as aggravating circumstances; adopted the National Mandatory Protocol for Alert and Expeditious Action in cases of disappearance or failure to locate women;[799] and took steps to advance a bill aimed at safeguarding the right to housing for women victims of violence.[800]

337. The State also launched the Ela mobile application, which provides information and assistance in cases of gender-based violence,[801] and the national violence prevention campaign "Que vos no seas la próxima" (Don't be the next one).[802] Moreover, according to official data, 53 violent deaths of women were recorded between January and August, 27 of which were classified as femicides.[803] In addition, during the April–June quarter alone, the Operational Center for Assistance in Cases of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women (COAVIFMU) reported having handled 5,888 incidents.[804]

338. In terms of sexual and reproductive rights, the State launched a national vaccination campaign against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) targeting children and adolescents,[805] and provided free mammograms to more than 80 women living in situations of vulnerability or poverty.[806] However, the

[794] *CRC 891*, "Declaran con lugar recurso de amparo que obliga al PANI a garantizar derechos de la niñez y adolescencia indígena en el país" (Court grants writ of *amparo* and orders the National Child Welfare Agency [PANI] to ensure the rights of indigenous children and adolescents nationwide), March 25, 2025.

[795] Office of the Public Defender of the Judiciary of Costa Rica, "Defensa Pública registra aumento de procesos judiciales en los que intervienen personas usuarias indígenas" (The Office of the Public Defender reports an increase in cases involving indigenous persons within the justice system), October 1, 2025.

[796] IACHR, thematic hearing "Costa Rica: General human rights situation," 192nd regular period of sessions, March 5, 2025.

[797] Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Costa Rica, Law against Vicarious Violence, January 29, 2025.

[798] Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Costa Rica [@asambleacr], (August 20, 2025), Aprobado en #SegundoDebate el exp 22.569 (File No. 22,569 approved in #SecondDebate) [X Post], X, https://x.com/asambleacrc/status/1958197909410689242.

[799] Government of Costa Rica, Response to the request for information on the human rights situation, DGPE-696-2025, September 4, 2025, p. 3. On IACHR's files.

[800] *Monumental*, "Diputados avalan proyecto que garantiza vivienda a mujeres víctimas de violencia" (Lawmakers approve bill ensuring housing for women victims of violence), September 19, 2025.

[801] National Institute for Women (INAMU), "INAMU lanza aplicación móvil que brinda información en materia de derechos y violencia" (INAMU launches mobile application offering information on rights and gender-based violence), April 25, 2025.

[802] INAMU, "INAMU presenta avance de la estrategia del combate al femicidio" (INAMU reports progress on the strategy against femicide), July 7, 2025.

[803] Gender Observatory of the Judiciary, *Muertes violentas de mujeres* (Violent deaths of women), August 30, 2025.

[804] INAMU, "INAMU presenta avance de la estrategia del combate al femicidio" (INAMU reports progress on the strategy against femicide), July 7, 2025.

[805] Government of Costa Rica, Response to the request for information on the human rights situation, DGPE-696-2025, September 4, 2025, p. 3. On IACHR's files.

[806] INAMU, "Primeras 83 mujeres ya recibieron una mamografía gratuita" (83 women have already received free mammograms), May 26, 2025.

Commission notes with concern that the new Peace and Coexistence Education Curriculum, which replaced the Comprehensive Sexuality and Affective Education Program, excludes essential content related to sexual health, gender identity and sexual and reproductive rights.[807] Reports of obstetric violence in hospitals throughout the country also continued to be documented.[808]

339. According to civil society organizations, women victims of violence face obstacles, which include revictimization and procedural delays. The organizations also raised concerns over the repeal of the technical standard that had regulated therapeutic abortion since 2019 and drew attention to the adoption of a new regulation that further limits its application.[809]

340. With respect to the rights of **children and adolescents**, the Commission noted a judgment issued by the Constitutional Chamber of Costa Rica in March 2025, which granted a writ of *amparo* filed by the Office of the Ombudsperson concerning the exclusion of indigenous children and adolescents from the consultation process on the 2024–2036 national policy on children and adolescents. The chamber ordered the National Council for Children and Adolescents to conduct a consultation process with children and adolescents from the 24 indigenous territories within the next 12 months, with the aim of ensuring the protection of their rights under the policy.[810]

341. The Commission also noted an increase in medical services provided to children and adolescents who were victims of sexual abuse in Costa Rica.[811] According to statistics published in March by the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), between 2019 and 2024, outpatient consultations rose from 7,705 to 11,768 cases per year, representing an increase of 52.7 percent, while emergency care cases increased by 35.5 percent, from 989 to 1,340 cases. In addition, during the first three months of 2025, the National Children's Hospital reported 110 cases, 41 of which involved children between 1 and 9 years of age.[812]

342. Regarding **LGBTI persons**, the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Costa Rica ruled in favor of a woman whose request for co-motherhood leave had been denied by the CCSS, thereby recognizing the rights of diverse families.[813] In contrast, in January, the Ministry of Public Education (MEP) terminated both the Comprehensive Sexuality and Affective Education Program and the protocol for addressing school bullying against LGBTI students.[814] In April, the CCSS opposed the Bill on the Recognition of Trans,

[807] Office of the Ombudsperson of Costa Rica, "Defensoría rechaza posición del MEP" (Office of the Ombudsperson rejects the position adopted by the Ministry of Public Education [MEP]), June 27, 2025; Office of the Ombudsperson of Costa Rica, "Defensoría recomendó al MEP revertir decisión de eliminar Programa de Afectividad y Sexualidad Integral" (Office of the Ombudsperson urged the MEP to reverse its decision to eliminate the Comprehensive Sexuality and Affective Education Program), May 6, 2025.

[808] Office of the Ombudsperson of Costa Rica, "Violencia obstétrica sigue presente en los hospitales" (Obstetric violence persists in hospital settings), May 28, 2025; IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A, Costa Rica, March 26, 2025, para. 311.

[809] IACHR, thematic hearing "Costa Rica: General human rights situation," 192nd regular period of sessions, March 5, 2025.

[810] *CRC 891*, "Declaran con lugar recurso de amparo que obliga al PANI a garantizar derechos de la niñez y adolescencia indígena en el país" (Court grants writ of *amparo* and orders PANI to guarantee the rights of indigenous children and adolescents nationwide), March 26, 2025.

[811] *Diario Extra*, "Violencia infantil aumenta alarmantemente" (Alarming increase in violence against children), March 14, 2025; *Prensa Latina*, "Abuso sexual contra menores costarricenses centra debate legislativo" (Sexual abuse against Costa Rican minors takes center stage in legislative debate), March 14, 2025; *Delfino*, "Casos de abuso sexual contra personas menores de edad en aumento: PANI desbordado y Asamblea en alerta" (Cases of sexual abuse against minors on the rise: PANI overwhelmed and Legislative Assembly on alert), April 12, 2025.

[812] *Delfino*, "Casos de abuso sexual contra personas menores de edad en aumento: PANI desbordado y Asamblea en alerta" (Cases of sexual abuse against minors on the rise: PANI overwhelmed and Legislative Assembly on alert), April 12, 2025.

[813] *La Teja*, "Sala IV tomó importante decisión en caso de mujer que se le negó su licencia de maternidad" (Constitutional Chamber issues landmark decision in case of woman denied maternity leave), April 13, 2025; *Costa Rica Hoy*, "Sala IV ordena dar licencia de maternidad a mujer cuya esposa está embarazada" (Constitutional Chamber rules that maternity leave must be granted to a woman whose spouse is pregnant), April 12, 2025; *Semanario Universidad*, "Hito en derechos de las mujeres y la diversidad sexual: Sala Constitucional reconoce derecho a licencias de co-maternidad para parejas homoparentales" (Milestone for women's rights and sexual diversity: Constitutional Chamber recognizes the right to co-maternity leave for same-sex couples), February 28, 2025; Judiciary of Costa Rica, Judicial Bulletin No. 089, year CXXXI, constitutional notice 1V, Case No. 24-008527-0007-CO, Order No. 2025002790, May 19, 2025.

[814] *La Nación*, "MEP eliminaría protocolo de atención del 'bullying' contra la población LGBT" (MEP allegedly plans to eliminate the protocol for addressing bullying against the LGBT population), January 24, 2025; *El Mundo*, "IEM alerta sobre retroceso en educación tras eliminación de programas de sexualidad y protocolo contra bullying LGBTIQ+" (The Institute for Women's Studies [IEM] raises

Nonbinary, Gender-diverse and Intersex identities citing, among other reasons, risks to institutional autonomy, insufficient human resources and trained personnel, and financial limitations.[815] In June, the government banned the participation of minors in the closing event of the LGBTI Pride 2025, a decision later upheld by the Constitutional Chamber.[816]

343. As for **persons in the context of human mobility**, the Commission noted that Costa Rica entered into a cooperation agreement, among other purposes, to receive persons expelled from the United States and to provide support for deportations to their countries of origin. Under this agreement, Costa Rica assumed exclusive responsibility for the actions related to migration and law enforcement, including interdictions, access to protection, the provision of adequate and humane temporary accommodation, inadmissibility determinations and the processing of travel documents when required.[817] According to public information, in February, 200 persons of different nationalities arrived in Costa Rica on two flights from the United States, including approximately 50 children.[818]

344. In response to this situation, the General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Nationals (DGME) issued Resolution D.JUR-0057-02-2025-JM on February 18, 2025, authorizing the entry and temporary stay of foreign nationals expelled from the United States to Costa Rica. The resolution specifies that the sole purpose of entry into Costa Rican territory is to allow those expelled to continue their journey to their countries of origin or to third countries.[819] Subsequently, on July 7, the DGME issued Resolution D.JUR-0222-07-2025-JM, granting regular migration status on humanitarian grounds to 25 foreign nationals expelled from the United States who, at that time, were staying at the Temporary Reception Center for Migrants (CATEM sur) located in the southern region of the country.[820]

345. In this regard, according to information received by the Commission, these individuals had been detained at a migrant reception center near the border with Panama. Although state officials reportedly declared that all individuals had expressed their intention to return to their countries of origin, civil society organizations assert that at least five of them had sought recognition of refugee status in Costa Rica.[821]

346. The Office of the Ombudsperson of Costa Rica emphasized that the State has the obligation to assess whether, upon return to their countries of origin, any of these individuals would be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, or whether such deportation would be contrary to the principle of non-

concerns over setbacks in education following the elimination of sex education programs and the antibullying protocol for LGBTIQ+ students), January 27, 2025.

[815] *CR Hoy*, "CCSS rechaza proyecto de ley que le obligaría a realizar cirugías de reasignación de sexo" (Costa Rican Social Security Fund [CCSS] rejects bill that would require it to perform gender reassignment surgeries), April 1, 2025; *Diario Extra*, "Caja rechaza plan para realizar cirugías de cambio de sexo" (Social Security Fund rejects plan to perform gender reassignment surgeries), April 4, 2025; *Delfino*, "CCSS objeta proyecto de ley de reconocimiento de identidades trans, no binarias, género diverso e intersex" (CCSS expresses opposition to bill recognizing trans, nonbinary, gender-diverse and intersex identities), April 2, 2025.

[816] *La Nación*, "Gobierno prohíbe participación de menores de 18 años en evento de cierre del Pride 2025" (Government prohibits the participation of persons under 18 in the Pride 2025 closing event), June 23, 2025; *El Mundo*, "Gobierno de Chaves prohíbe participación de menores de edad en cierre de la Marcha del Orgullo LGTBIQ+" (Chaves administration bans participation of minors in the closing event of the LGBTIQ+ Pride march), June 24, 2025; *La Nación*, "Sala IV respalda veto a menores en acto de cierre de la marcha de la diversidad Pride 2025" (Constitutional Chamber upholds ban on minors attending the closing event of the Pride 2025 diversity march), July 30, 2025.

[817] Government of the United States of America, Department of State, Qualifying Non-binding instruments. Case Act Reporting, May 2025.

[818] *CNN*, "Costa Rica prevé albergar hasta 6 semanas a los 200 migrantes asiáticos deportados por EE.UU.; entre ellos hay 50 niños" (Costa Rica expects to host 200 Asian migrants deported by the United States for a period of up to six weeks, including 50 children), February 19, 2025; *DW*, "Costa Rica será puente para migrantes deportados por EE.UU." (Costa Rica to become a transit hub for migrants deported from the United States), February 18, 2025; *The New York Times*, "Costa Rica Will Take Central Asian and Indian Migrants Deported by U.S.," (February 17, 2025).

[819] *Official Gazette* of Costa Rica, General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Nationals Resolution D.JUR-0057-02-2025-JM, February 18, 2025, p. 55.

[820] *Official Gazette* of Costa Rica, General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Nationals Resolution D.JUR-0222-07-2025-JM, July 7, 2025.

[821] Human Rights Watch, "Costa Rica: Allow Deported Migrants to Seek Asylum," March 18, 2025.

refoulement.[822] The Office of the Ombudsperson further noted that, although States may enter into migration agreements, in practice, all necessary conditions of protection and assistance must be in place to ensure that such measures comply with national and international human rights standards.[823] At the same time, the Office of the Ombudsperson reported shortcomings in the assistance provided to these persons, including the lack of adequate reception facilities, insufficient information regarding the procedures to be followed in Costa Rica, the absence of interpreters[824] and a lack of awareness of alternatives for those unable to return.[825]

347. In addition, a reverse flow of persons seeking to reach South America was identified, in light of changes in migration policies adopted by other countries in the region. According to a joint report by the Offices of the Ombudsperson of Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia, between January 31 and July 2025, CATEM Sur had received a total of 1,480 people. The report highlights that the individuals who were interviewed declared that they did not have access to clear and timely information in a language they could understand regarding migration procedures, international protection options and available services. According to the report, shortcomings were also identified in the provision of humanitarian assistance.[826]

348. With regard to **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission welcomes the introduction, on May 22, of a bill aimed at establishing a legal framework to promote education, training and employment opportunities for women who are accused or convicted, and for family members under their care.[827] However, the Commission notes with concern that, according to available information, the State plans to begin the construction of a megaprison with an estimated capacity of approximately 5,000 people.[828]

349. This initiative allegedly seeks to address prison overcrowding and the increase in the number of detainees. According to statistics from the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (MNPT), as of March 31, 2025, a total of 17,692 persons were deprived of liberty in Costa Rica, which represents an annual increase of 9.47 percent, thus marking the third consecutive year of rising figures. The reasons for such increase are linked to greater reliance on criminal law and incarceration, particularly in response to organized crime. Furthermore, given that the available capacity is 13,665 people, overcrowding reaches 29.5 percent, the highest rate recorded in the past five years. However, in some cases, this percentage is higher. For instance, at the Institutional Care Centers (CAI) of Liberia, Antonio Bastida de Paz, Jorge Debravo and Limón, overcrowding rates exceed 70 percent.[829]

[822] Office of the Ombudsperson of Costa Rica, "Defensoría: País queda obligado a garantizar derechos de personas deportadas por Estados Unidos" (Office of the Ombudsperson: our country must ensure the rights of migrants deported by the United States), February 19, 2025; Office of the Ombudsperson of Costa Rica, "Defensoría pide cuentas sobre procedimientos migratorios a personas deportadas ubicadas en el CATEM" (Office of the Ombudsperson calls for accountability regarding migration procedures affecting deported persons at the Temporary Reception Center for Migrants [CATEM]), March 28, 2025.

[823] Office of the Ombudsperson of Costa Rica, "Costa Rica nunca estuvo preparada para una atención adecuada de personas deportadas" (Costa Rica was never prepared to provide adequate assistance to deported persons), July 24, 2025.

[824] Office of the Ombudsperson of Costa Rica, "Defensoría identificó fallas en abordaje para atención de personas deportadas" (The Office of the Ombudsperson identified shortcomings in the assistance provided to deported persons), February 21, 2025.

[825] Office of the Ombudsperson of Costa Rica, "Defensoría puntualizó aspectos de mejora en atención de personas migrantes" (The Office of the Ombudsperson highlighted areas for improvement in the assistance provided to migrants), March 4, 2025.

[826] Office of the Ombudsperson of Costa Rica, Office of the Ombudsperson of Panama, Office of the Ombudsperson of Colombia, *Migración inversa en la ruta Costa Rica–Panamá–Colombia: Desafíos de protección y necesidad de una respuesta humanitaria regional* (Reverse migration along the Costa Rica–Panama–Colombia corridor: protection challenges and the need for a regional humanitarian response), August 2025, pp. 7-8.

[827] Official Gazette of Costa Rica, File No. 24,997. Bill on the creation of employment, education and training opportunities for women involved in criminal proceedings and their dependents, June 6, 2025.

[828] *Reuters*, "Costa Rica to start building massive El Salvador-inspired prison," August 13, 2025; *La República*, "Cárcel al estilo de El Salvador se construirá en 195 días, promete Rodrigo Chaves" (Rodrigo Chaves promises construction of El Salvador–style prison in 195 days), May 4, 2025; *AP News*, "Costa Rica sigue los pasos de Bukele con construcción de nueva cárcel" (Costa Rica follows in Bukele's footsteps with construction of new prison), May 2, 2025; *La República*, "(Video) Costa Rica se asesora en El Salvador para construir una megacárcel al estilo Nayib Bukele" ([Video] Costa Rica seeks advice from El Salvador to build a Nayib Bukele–style megaprison), April 9, 2025; *Swissinfo*, "Costa Rica prepara «modelo» para construcción de nueva cárcel con apoyo de El Salvador" (Costa Rica develops a "model" for building a new prison with support from El Salvador), April 9, 2025.

[829] Government of Costa Rica, National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, *Informe Anual de Labores 2024* (2024 Annual Report), July 2025, pp. 23, 26, 28, 29, 76, 75, 78, 82 and 119.

350. Furthermore, the Commission voices its concern over the shortage of security personnel in detention centers. According to the Office of the Ombudsperson, the staffing deficit increased from 1,754 correctional officers in 2023 to 2,722 in April 2025. This situation limits access to medical, technical and educational services for persons deprived of liberty and negatively impacts staff due to work overload, fatigue and difficulties in taking leave.[830]

351. The Commission also takes note of concerns raised by civil society organizations and relatives of persons deprived of liberty regarding the adoption, on April 22, of Instruction No. DVJ-009-04-2025 by the Vice-Ministry of Justice and the General Directorate of Social Rehabilitation. This directive tightens detention conditions in the so-called "high containment circuits," where persons deemed to "pose a high institutional risk, exhibit heightened dangerousness or engage in persistent violent behavior" are held.[831]

352. In particular, said directive restricts the entry of food, personal belongings and hygiene items; limits visits, including by preventing the entry of children; and reduces the duration of telephone calls. The directive also restricts access by academic staff and educational materials, reportedly leaving more than 100 persons deprived of liberty without access to programs offered by the Remote Learning State University.[832] In this context, detainees allegedly face difficulties in accessing medical care and adequate food. Furthermore, relatives of detained persons informed the Commission that a man died in state custody on September 25, allegedly due to a lack of access to healthcare.[833]

353. With regard to the rights of **older persons**, the Commission welcomes the adoption of the Law on Strengthening Social Welfare Organizations for Older Persons, which aims to address the intersectional vulnerabilities faced by this population and establishes that older persons in a situation of neglect are subject to state intervention.[834]

354. In 2025, according to data from Costa Rica's National University, there was an increase in the number of cases of abuse and neglect of older persons, which reveals the need to strengthen reporting mechanisms and the oversight of long-term nursing homes.[835] Additionally, the media reported the closure of a home in Miramar due to allegations of abuse and unsanitary conditions.[836]

355. Concerning dignified aging, according to media reports, thousands of older persons live on monthly incomes of less than 82,000 colones (around 163 US dollars) in a context of rising living costs and limited access to basic services.[837] It was also reported that population aging is a structural challenge for the sustainability of the social security system of the country.[838] Moreover, private initiatives were promoted to

[830] Office of the Ombudsperson of Costa Rica, "Defensoría: Hay un faltante de 2.722 policías en centros penitenciarios" (Office of the Ombudsperson: There is a shortage of 2,722 police officers in penitentiary centers), July 7, 2025.

[831] Government of Costa Rica, Ministry of Justice and Peace, Instruction No. DVJ-009-04-2025, April 22, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[832] Familia Penitenciaria Unida, Subject: Information on the situation of persons deprived of liberty and the punitive and populist policies of the State of Costa Rica, email dated June 14, 2025. On IACHR's files; Fundación Retorno a la Libertad y Observatorio Internacional de Prisiones, Subject: Urgent complaint concerning systematic human rights violations in the Costa Rican prison system, email dated June 3, 2025, on IACHR's files; and Information provided to the Commission by a relative of a person deprived of liberty and by legal representatives, emails dated April 27 and September 14 and 24, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[833] Information provided to the Commission by relatives of persons deprived of liberty and the civil society, emails dated September 27, 28 and 29, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[834] Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the OAS, Note No. DGPE-697-2025, Information from Costa Rica on the situation of human rights during the period ranging from January 1 to July 31, 2025, September 5, 2025, p. 4.

[835] *El Mundo CR*, "Aumentan maltrato y abandono de adultos mayores en Costa Rica, según informe de la UNA" (Abuse and neglect of older persons on the rise in Costa Rica, according to National University report), June 13, 2025.

[836] *Teletica*, "Cierran hogar de adultos mayores en Miramar tras denuncias de maltrato e insalubridad" (Nursing home in Miramar closed following allegations of abuse and unsanitary conditions), July 1, 2025.

[837] *Teletica*, "Vivir con 82 mil colones al mes: la dura realidad de adultos mayores en Costa Rica" (Living on 82,000 colones a month: the harsh reality of older persons in Costa Rica), June 30, 2025.

[838] *Una Comunica*, "Envejecimiento de la población es una bomba de tiempo para la seguridad social" (Population aging is a time bomb for social security), March 12, 2025.

improve the mobility and autonomy of older persons, such as the incorporation of a specific option on digital transport platforms for them to travel safely.[839]

356. Regarding access to pensions, the State reported it enacted the Law on Revitalizing Assistance for Vulnerable Populations, which broadens the coverage of the Social Development and Family Allowance Fund (FODESAF) to include older persons, among other groups. Finally, it highlighted the reform of the Worker Protection Act, which allows pensioners or active affiliates of the Mandatory Supplementary Pension Scheme to withdraw all their funds in case of serious or terminal illness.[840]

357. With respect to the rights of **persons with disabilities**, the State issued the School Mental Health Plan and enacted Law No. 10,725, which guarantees immediate psychological care for persons at risk of suicide. It also amended the Law on the Criminalization of Violence against Women to include disability as an aggravating circumstance in such cases. Furthermore, the State passed the Law on Strengthening Social Welfare Organizations for Older Persons, which sets forth the obligation to provide financial support to persons with disabilities in a situation of neglect, and the Law on Revitalizing Assistance for Vulnerable Populations, which includes persons with disabilities as beneficiaries of the FODESAF.[841]

358. However, official data from the National Institute of Statistics and Census on persons with disabilities indicated that 59.4 percent of this population reported having experienced violence, that 55.8 percent are not in the labor force and that only 18.3 percent has completed higher education programs.[842]

359. With regard to **human trafficking**, the Commission notes that between February and April 2025, training sessions were carried out by the Regional Coalition against Human Trafficking and Illicit Smuggling of Migrants (CORETT)[843] with the aim of strengthening, among other things: i) coordinated strategies for the prevention and detection of victims in Mesoamerica; ii) methods to standardize criteria for data collection and analysis; and iii) the investigation and prosecution of said crimes by means of mock trials with a gender-based and human rights perspective.

XII. DOMINICA

- **General considerations**

360. As it relates to **progress**, the IACHR highlights efforts by the State to reduce its judicial backlog and to address incidents of gun violence. Moreover, the Commission welcomes the launch national campaign aimed at eliminating all forms of abuse against children. In addition, the IACHR takes note of the implementation of the agreement on the free movement of persons with specific countries of the Caribbean Community.

361. As it relates to **challenges**, the Commission notes social unrest relating to electoral reform efforts by the State. Additionally, the IACHR takes note of the persistence of legal provisions that allow corporal punishment against children. The Commission also notes that LGBTQ+ persons faced discrimination and reported a lack of trust in law enforcement in the State.

[839] *El Observador*, "Uber lanza en Costa Rica opción diseñada para los adultos mayores" (Uber launches option designed for older persons in Costa Rica), July 25, 2025.

[840] Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the OAS, Note No. DGPE-697-2025, Information from Costa Rica on the situation of human rights during the period ranging from January 1 to July 31, 2025, September 5, 2025, pp. 5–6.

[841] *Ibid.*, pp. 2-4.

[842] National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) of Costa Rica, "INEC presenta una mirada al entorno de la población con discapacidad en Costa Rica" (INEC presents an overview of the situation of persons with disabilities in Costa Rica), May 29, 2025.

[843] International Organization for Migration (IOM), "Países de la región se reúnen para fortalecer estrategias conjuntas contra la trata de personas" (Countries in the region meet to strengthen joint strategies against human trafficking), April 2, 2025.

362. The State did not respond to the request for information for the preparation of this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

363. Regarding **democratic institutionality**, the Commission notes ongoing efforts by the State to reform its electoral process. As previously reported by the Commission,[844] in December 2024, the IACHR requested information on the electoral reform process, including issues surrounding voter identification, the independence of the Electoral Commission, campaign financing, and overseas voting practices.[845] In February 2025, as requested by letter from the State, the IACHR sent a follow-up letter providing further clarification.[846]

364. In this regard, in April, after the passage of the electoral reform Bills triggered widespread protests, the IACHR issued a Press Release expressing its concerns over the State's electoral reform process and emphasizing the importance of democratic principles and citizen participation.[847] In addition to highlighting the significance of safeguarding freedom of assembly and expression, the IACHR called for electoral reforms that align with international human rights standards. Moreover, in May, a group of concerned citizens instituted legal proceedings seeking to prevent any elections from taking place in Dominica until the pending electoral reforms have been implemented. The claimants cite procedural flaws in the two previous General Elections in 2019 and 2022, such as voter registration irregularities, bloated voters list and lack of voter identification cards, among other concerns.[848]

365. In relation to **human rights institutions**, the Commission notes that to date, a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) has not been established in Dominica. In this scenario, the IACHR notes that in the context of the Fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the State noted that it remained open to discussions on establishing a national human rights institution. However, bearing in mind the cost of establishing such an institution, the State highlighted that the cost of rebuilding after recent climate-related natural disasters had left the country with a debt-to-gross domestic product ratio of 100% and as such, they would require financial support to establish an NHRI.[849]

366. With regards to **access to justice**, the IACHR highlights the decision of the State to reintroduce "night court" in September. According to the Ministry of National Security, night court is scheduled from 2:00 PM until 9:00 PM and will operate in a manner that allows greater flexibility and provide better access to the Courts. Ultimately, it is hoped that this reintroduction will assist with addressing the backlog of cases faced by the Courts. In this regard, available information indicated that for the period July 1, 2024, to June 20, 2025, a total 2,471 cases were disposed of by the Court however a backlog still persists.[850]

367. Regarding **citizen security**, according to public information, a total of 14 homicides were reported up to September 21, 2025.[851] This represents a homicide rate of 21.1 per 100,000 inhabitants up to September.[852]

368. Moreover, the IACHR notes the announcement by the State regarding plans to address gun violence, including a limited gun amnesty and the establishment of a special multi-agency Firearms Task Force. Regarding the gun amnesty, the allowed persons to surrender illegal firearms and ammunition without fear of

[844] IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV.A "Dominica", 2024, para. 333.
[845] IACHR, Dominica – Electoral Reform, Article 41 IACHR Statute, December 19, 2024, IACHR Archive.
[846] IACHR, Dominica – Electoral Reform, Article 41 IACHR Statute, February 14, 2025 IACHR Archive
[847] IACHR, Press Release No. 074/25, "IACHR expresses concern regarding the electoral reform process in the Commonwealth of Dominica", April 16, 2025.
[848] Dominica News Online, Court case by concerned citizens seeking to halt general elections in Dominica gets its first hearing, claimants concerned about electoral integrity, May 28, 2025.
[849] Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review* Dominica, A/HRC/58/10, December 20, 2024.
[850] Dominica News Online, Dominica re-introduces night court, September 4, 2025.
[851] Dominica News Online, Dominica records 14 homicides thus far for 2025, September 21, 2025.
[852] The IACHR calculated the homicide rate based on the State's population of 66,205 according to data from The World Bank. The World Bank, Population, total - Dominica, 2024.

prosecution from July 16 to August 15, 2025.[853] According to publicly available information, four illegal firearms along with a quantity of ammunition were surrendered during the amnesty.[854]

369. According to official information, this Firearms Task Force will identify, apprehend and prosecute persons involved with the trade of illegal firearms.[855] The Task Force includes multi-agency personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department, Special Branch and K9 Unit of the Police Force, as well as the Excise Division of the Coast Guard and the National Joint Intelligence Centre. Further, the State launched a confidential hotline for the reporting of illegal firearms or other suspicious activity and announced a reward of $1,000 for accurate inform leading to the retrieval of illegal firearms or ammunition.[856]

370. With respect to the rights of **children**, the Commission takes note of the launch, in June 2025, of the national campaign aimed at eliminating all forms of abuse through raising awareness and education. This initiative by the State, in collaboration with the IOM, seeks to create a safer environment for children and adolescents by strengthening protection services; establishing specialized units including a Child Protection Unit within the Social Welfare Division; and developing communication mechanisms and strategic alliances between the government, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector.[857]

371. Furthermore, the Commission takes note of information presented within the framework of the State's Fourth UPR regarding the persistence of legal provisions that allow corporal punishment. In particular, several recommendations were made to the State to repeal section 49 of the Education Act and move towards the explicit prohibition of corporal punishment against children in all settings, in line with international standards.[858]

372. With regard to **persons in the context of human mobility**, the IACHR notes the progress achieved in the implementation of the agreement on the free movement of persons signed together with Barbados, Belize, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines within the framework of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).[859] According to available information, the agreement, which has been in force since October 1, guarantees the right of nationals of the four States to enter, move freely and reside in each other's territories, while ensuring equal access to economic, social and cultural rights in the host State, including the right to work.[860]

373. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, CARICOM noted and welcomed the Second International Decade for People of African Descent (2025–2034) and renewed the regional reparations agenda for slavery and colonialism in cultural and youth forums.[861]

374. Regarding the rights of **LGBTI persons**, a study on police interactions with LGBTQ+ persons in the Eastern Caribbean found that community members, especially in Dominica, lack trust in law enforcement and instead rely on friends for protection. Respondents reported neglect, discrimination, and dismissal of complaints, including sexual assault cases, with little to no follow-up. They also noted the absence of

[853] Dominica News Online, Minister for National Security affirms gun amnesty starting today, July 16, 2025.
[854] Dominica News Online, Four illegal firearms surrendered to police following one-month gun amnesty, August 19, 2025.
[855] Dominica Government Information Service, PM Skerrit Announces Seven-Point Plan To Combat Gun Violence, July 14, 2025; Dominica News Online, Dominica Police Force Intensifies Crackdown On Illegal Firearms, July 14, 2025.
[856] Dominica News Online, Firearms Task Force to be established to tackle gun violence in Dominica, July 14, 2025.
[857] International Organization for Migration (IOM), Awareness + Action = Change: Ministry of Health, Wellness and Social Services, UN Migration launch communication campaign aimed at eliminating abuse in Dominica, , June 13, 2025.
[858] Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review* Dominica, A/HRC/58/10, December 20, 2024.
[859] Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Barbados, Belize, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines ready for full free movement on 1 October 2025, September 30, 2025.
[860] Caribbean National Weekly, Barbados, Belize, Dominica and St. Vincent finalize systems for full free movement, September 20, 2025.
[861] Caribbean Community (CARICOM), CARICOM welcomes declaration of the Second Decade for People of African Descent, January 9, 2025; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), From pledges to action: Second International Decade for People of African Descent, August 29, 2025.

mechanisms to report police misconduct or initiatives to build trust, concluding that engaging with police is often futile. The study stressed the need for non-discrimination policies within police forces to ensure fair treatment.[862]

375. Concerning the **death penalty**, the IACHR once more notes that Dominica continues to retain the death penalty, even though no execution has been carried out since 1986. It further notes that, as of May 2023, no one was on death row in the State, and no progress has been made in removing this form of punishment from the law.[863]

XIII. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- **General considerations**

376. With regard to **progress**, the Commission welcomes the measures adopted by the Dominican Republic to combat corruption within public institutions and takes note of the continuation of actions aimed at reducing the judicial backlog in courts, the implementation of a police reform, and the decrease in homicide rates. At the same time, it highlights the provision of legal, health and psychological services for victims of violence, as well as measures to improve the performance of the justice system in these cases, together with the implementation of a pilot plan on the first "national prison registry."

377. Among the **challenges**, the Commission is concerned over the adoption of new migration measures that allegedly hinder access to healthcare for migrants, as well as their impact on Dominican people of Haitian descent, and the continued increase in the number of people in human mobility who are being expelled from the country. At the same time, it continues to note limitations in the exercise of the right to nationality of Haitian people and Dominican people of Haitian descent, and the persistence of a context of structural discrimination. In addition, the Commission is concerned about the continued occurrence of pregnancies among girls and adolescents, the maintenance of the absolute prohibition of abortion, acts of violence against human rights defenders, as well as the overcrowding and the poor detention conditions in the country's prisons.

378. On October 3, 2025, the State submitted its response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.[864]

- **Specific issues**

379. In the area of **democratic institutionality**, the State reported on a series of actions aimed at strengthening transparency, accountability and the fight against corruption. Among these, the following stand out: i) the creation, in February, of the Presidential Commission on Transparency and Anti-Corruption, to integrate and coordinate government strategies on prevention, transparency, access to public information, auditing, and the recovery of illicitly obtained assets; ii) the adoption, in March, of Decree No. 166-2025, which establishes measures to strengthen transparency in public administration; iii) the legal formalization of the anti-fraud unit of the Office of the Comptroller General, by means of Decree No. 382-25 of July, to address complaints regarding the use of public resources; and iv) the adoption, in July, of Decree No. 47-25, which

[862] Caribbean Development Research Services Inc., Police Interactions with LGBTQ+ Persons in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean: A Comprehensive Analysis (2024-25)

[863] IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV.A "Dominica", 2023, para. 328; World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Dominica, May 23, 2023; last visited: September 2025.

[864] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic, Diplomatic Note MPRD-OEA-1326-2025 – Annex: Input of the Dominican Republic for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, October 3, 2025.

created the Public Procurement Law, incorporating a new system of administrative and criminal sanctions, as well as patrimonial liability for public officials and civil servants.[865]

380. Likewise, the State reported on the creation of the *Ojo Cívico* (Civic eye) digital platform, aimed at facilitating access to public information on public officials, as well as the implementation of training programs in institutions such as the Ministry of Public Administration (MAP) and the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP), aimed at developing technical and ethical competencies and promoting transparency, efficiency and accountability in public service.[866]

381. In the area of **citizen security**, the State provided details on actions related to the process of modernization of the National Police. It highlighted the incorporation of dialogue protocols among officers, citizens, and authorities, as well as training to update intervention methods and ensure a proportional use of force. It also noted the creation of the Directorate for Human Rights within the National Police, and the designation of a liaison officer responsible for cross-cutting human rights policies between the National Police and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Likewise, the State reported that, in August, it submitted the Comprehensive Human Rights Policy of the National Police for review and approval by the Superior Police Council and it detailed a series of training activities on human rights, the use of force and international humanitarian law targeted at members of the security forces.[867]

382. Moreover, it indicated that it continued to strengthen the comprehensive citizen security strategy and the joint task force, which would be reflected in a 17.4 percent reduction in the country's homicide rate, a 5.7 percent decrease in the number of people injured by firearms, and a 15.6 percent decline in overall robberies, among other indicators.[868]

383. Concerning **access to justice**, the State informed the Commission of the creation of the Ministry of Justice by means of Law No. 80-25, which was enacted on August 7, 2025. This Ministry will serve as the institution responsible for planning, directing, coordinating and implementing, as appropriate, the State's policy to combat crime. It will also cooperate functionally and administratively with the justice system, represent the State and the public administration in judicial and extrajudicial proceedings, and coordinate the national human rights system and the correctional prison system.[869]

384. In addition, the Commission continued to support the country's efforts to reduce the judicial backlog. According to information provided by the State, between January and August 2025, a total of 344,489 cases were received, of which 337,841 were resolved, accounting for 98.1 percent of the cases filed. As of August, 7,973 cases remained pending, reflecting a 65.08 percent decrease compared to the 22,835 cases recorded at the end of 2024. The State further specified that 82 percent of court chambers nationwide were free of backlog.[870] The State also reported on the strengthening of the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation and arbitration, through which a total of 22,561 people were assisted.[871]

385. With regard to **persons in the context of human mobility**, the Commission took note of the implementation of 15 migration measures, for which it requested information from the State.[872] According to official information, these measures focus, *inter alia*, on strengthening border security with the support of the armed forces and on establishing a protocol to control access to public hospitals for people in an irregular migration situation. This protocol would require staff at hospitals of the National Health Service (SNS) so that they could request identification, proof of employment in the country, and proof of residence. In cases in which

[865] *Ibid.,* pp. 6-7.
[866] *Ibid.,* pp. 4-5.
[867] *Ibid.,* pp. 48, 49 and 50.
[868] *Ibid.*, p. 53.
[869] *Ibid.*, p. 8.
[870] *Ibid.*, pp. 32-33.
[871] *Ibid.,* pp. 33 and 36.
[872] IACHR, Letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (CADH), July 9, 2025. On IACHR´s files.

the requirements to receive medical care are not met, the person would be treated but expelled immediately after recovery.[873] The adoption of this protocol takes place within a broader context of a series of migration measures, including the announcement by the National Security and Defense Council of the expulsion of up to 10,000 people in an irregular migration situation per week, as previously observed by the Commission in its *2024 Annual Report*.[874]

386. In its response to the Commission, the State indicated that migration represents a structural burden on the national health system. With respect to the "procedure for the management of health services for foreign patients," it reported that this procedure does not limit access to medical care but rather organizes interinstitutional coordination between the SNS and the General Directorate of Migration (DGM). It further establishes clearly that no person may be deprived of emergency medical care, including childbirth, obstetric emergencies and perinatal complications. According to the State, the verification of a person's migration status is carried out only after discharge, which does not interfere with the health service or the professional behavior of health personnel.[875]

387. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Commission notes with concern the persistence of a migration policy marked by racially discriminatory prejudices against Afro-descendant people, particularly Haitian people and Dominican people of Haitian descent. Official data from the DGM indicate that, between January and April 2025, a total of 119,003 people were expelled, representing a 71 percent increase compared to the same period in 2024.[876] These expulsions were reportedly accompanied by public gatherings at which xenophobic speeches were delivered.[877] In particular, 2,188 detentions in health centers were reported during the first month of implementation of the aforementioned protocol.[878]

388. For their part, civil society organizations informed the Commission that this set of measures imposes barriers to access to critical public services for migrant children and pregnant women, who have experienced stigmatization for exercising their rights to health and education.[879] They further indicated that these measures have had an impact both on people in need of international protection who have been prevented from obtaining it,[880] and on Dominican people of Haitian descent who face difficulties in proving their nationality in the country. This situation arises as a consequence of the lack of action to resolve cases of deprivation of nationality resulting from Judgment TC 168-13 of the Constitutional Court and delays in the implementation of Law No. 169-14.[881]

389. Additionally, the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI) expressed

[873] Presidency of the Dominican Republic, "Presidente Abinader anuncia 15 medidas para enfrentar la migración ilegal y garantizar la soberanía nacional ante la crisis haitiana" (President Abinader announces 15 measures to address irregular migration and safeguard national sovereignty in light of the Haitian crisis), April 6, 2025.

[874] IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A. Situation of human rights in the region, May 8, 2025, para. 756; see also: Presidency of the Dominican Republic, "Consejo de Seguridad y Defensa Nacional acuerda operativo para repatriar hasta 10,000 migrantes por semana" (National Security and Defense Council agrees on operation to repatriate up to 10,000 migrants per week), October 2, 2024.

[875] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic, Diplomatic Note MPRD-OEA-1326-2025 – Annex: Input of the Dominican Republic for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, October 3, 2025, p. 18.

[876] Migration, Dominican Republic, "Suman 119 mil los deportados en el 2025; un 71% más que en iguales meses del 2024" (The number of deportees in 2025 totaled 119,000; 71 percent more than in the same months of 2024), May 5, 2025.

[877] *Acento*, "Centenares de dominicanos marchan contra la presencia de haitianos en el país (Friusa)" (Hundreds of Dominicans march against the presence of Haitians in the country), March 31, 2025; *Hoy*, "Todo lo que necesitas saber sobre la concentración de la Antigua Orden Dominicana este 27 de abril" (All you need to know about the Antigua Orden protest on April 27), April 25, 2025.

[878] Amnesty International, "República Dominicana: informe al comité de derechos humanos de la ONU 143 periodo de sesiones 2025" (Dominican Republic: Report to the UN Human Rights Committee, 143rd session 2025), January 13, 2025; Amnesty International, "Dominican Republic: The fight against racism must be respected and protected by the authorities," March 26, 2025; *Diario Libre*, "Detienen 2,188 indocumentados en primer mes del "protocolo hospitalario"" (2,188 undocumented immigrants detained in the first month of the "hospital protocol"), June 1, 2025.

[879] Amnesty International, "Dominican Republic: Health protocol reinforces racism in migration policies," April 23, 2025.

[880] IACHR, Letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (CADH), July 9, 2025. On IACHR´s files; see also: Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), Monthly bulletin, June 2025.

[881] IACHR, Letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights, July 9, 2025. On IACHR´s files.

concern regarding the institutional violence involved in the detention and deportation in hospitals of Afro-descendant women and pregnant and postpartum Haitian migrant women.[882] In a similar vein, the Commission has observed that Haitian migrant women, girls and adolescents continue to face discrimination and violence, in particular sexual,[883] institutional and obstetric violence.[884] According to official figures, between April 21 and May 30, 186 pregnant women and 559 postpartum women were deported.[885] Reports were also received of acts of racial discrimination and violence against Afro-descendant women and Haitian migrant women by police officers during a commemorative event held in the context of International Women's Day,[886] as well as cases of sexual exploitation and human trafficking involving migrant women and girls in tourist areas.[887]

390. In the area of children and adolescents in the context of human mobility, the State informed the Commission that, between January and August 2025, it assisted 13,718 girls, boys and adolescents, of whom 45 percent were accompanied, while 9.9 percent were unaccompanied. Of the total number of unaccompanied children and adolescents assisted, 1,329 were reunified with their families in the Dominican Republic, and 1,520 were returned to Haiti by means of the binational CONANI–*Institut du Bien-Être Social et de Recherches* (IBESR) mechanism.[888]

391. Regarding statelessness, the Dominican State reported on two actions aimed at advancing the implementation of the National Regularization Plan.[889] In this regard, it indicated that: i) it ordered the exemption from payment of fees for services related to requests for the transcription of civil registry records to apply for the issuance of identity and electoral cards; and ii) it held working meetings with civil society organizations and international bodies to encourage people belonging to Group B under Law No. 169-14[890] to attend immigration centers to apply for identity cards, as well as for the transcription of naturalization. In addition, the Central Electoral Board established procedures for requesting the transcription of naturalization, with the expectation that such requests would be processed in the shortest possible time.[891]

392. Concerning **human trafficking**, the State highlighted that, in January, February, June and July, the Office of the Specialized Prosecutor against Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking (PETT), together with the Office of the Public Prosecutor, carried out search operations and victim rescue actions in operations

[882] OAS MESECVI, "Committee of experts expresses concern over acts of racial discrimination and institutional violence against Afro-descendant and Haitian migrant women in the Dominican Republic," May 7, 2025

[883] EDVAW Platform, "Members of the EDVAW Platform on Violence against Women Issue an Urgent Call to Action Regarding Alarming Rates of Sexual Violence against Haitian Women and Girls," January 30, 2025; Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, Visit to the Dominican Republic, *Report of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls*, May 1, 2025, para. 44.

[884] OAS MESECVI, "Committee of experts expresses concern over acts of racial discrimination and institutional violence against Afro-descendant and Haitian migrant women in the Dominican Republic," May 7, 2025

[885] Government of the Dominican Republic, "DGM asegura que se cumple el protocolo de control de extranjeros indocumentados en hospitales de RD" (DGM assures that the protocol for controlling undocumented foreigners in Dominican Republic hospitals is being followed) June 1, 2025.

[886] OAS MESECVI, "Committee of experts expresses concern over acts of racial discrimination and institutional violence against Afro-descendant and Haitian migrant women in the Dominican Republic," May 7, 2025; CIPAF *et al*., Complaint regarding discriminatory and violent acts constituting violations of freedom of expression motivated by racist, xenophobic and gender-based reasons that occurred during the commemoration of March 8 in the Dominican Republic, March 31, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[887] Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, Visit to the Dominican Republic, *Report of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls*, May 1, 2025, para. 41; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic, Diplomatic Note MPRD-OEA-1326-2025 – Annex: Input of the Dominican Republic for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, October 3, 2025, pp. 21-22.

[888] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic, Diplomatic Note MPRD-OEA-1326-2025 – Annex: Input of the Dominican Republic for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, October 3, 2025, October 3, 2025, p. 27.

[889] IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A. Situation of human rights in the region, May 8, 2025, para. 760; see also: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic, Diplomatic Note MPRD-OEA-1326-2025 – Annex: Input of the Dominican Republic for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, October 3, 2025, p. 26.

[890] National Congress of the Dominican Republic, "Ley No. 169-14 que establece un régimen especial para personas nacidas en el territorio nacional inscritas irregularmente en el registro civil dominicano y sobre naturalización" (Law No. 169-14 establishing a special regime for people born in the national territory irregularly registered in the Dominican civil registry and on naturalization), May 23, 2014.

[891] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic, Diplomatic Note MPRD-OEA-1326-2025 – Annex: Input of the Dominican Republic for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, October 3, 2025, pp. 26-27.

known as Venus, Begonias and Atlántico. Through these actions, transnational human trafficking networks for purposes of sexual exploitation were dismantled.[892]

393. For its part, the Commission welcomes the approval, in February, of the 2025–2028 National Action Plan against Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants, which establishes, *inter alia*, objectives and actions in the areas of prevention, protection and prosecution of the crime of human trafficking.[893] Likewise, it takes note of the approval, in May, of the bill amending Law No. 173-03 on the Smuggling of Migrants and Human Trafficking. Among the main reforms it proposes are: i) the imposition of prison sentences of 20 to 25 years on those found guilty; ii) the non-application of the statute of limitations in cases of human trafficking; and iii) a disqualification from holding public office for a period of 10 years, and 20 years in cases of recidivism, for public servants and/or their accomplices.[894]

394. Concerning the situation of **Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination**, the Commission takes note of initiatives aimed at regional dialogue and coordination. Afro-descendant organizations held the Bicentennial Forum for Afro-descendant Reparations in Santo Domingo, which concluded with the Santo Domingo Declaration in favor of their full political participation and against racism and xenophobia.[895]

395. In the area of **rights of women**, concerning gender-based violence, the State continued and expanded the provision of comprehensive care services for victims, including legal, health, and psychological services, as well as economic support and protection measures.[896] It also adopted measures to improve the performance of the justice system in cases of violence, such as the establishment of a Special Prosecutor's Office in Sosúa focused on the investigation and prosecution of cases related to pimping, human trafficking and sexual exploitation,[897] and the approval of the protocol for the forensic interviews of victims and witnesses in situations of vulnerability.[898]

396. Moreover, the new Penal Code incorporated the criminalization of femicide, harassment, the non-consensual dissemination of intimate material, and economic and patrimonial violence within the family, which could contribute to the prevention of and protection against such forms of violence.[899] At the same time, it presents shortcomings that result in insufficient protection of women's rights. For example, it maintains the absolute prohibition of abortion, exhibits technical weaknesses in the definition of certain crimes, including sexual offenses, omits the criminalization of other conducts that also constitute violence against women and

[892] *Ibid.*, pp. 21, 22 and 23.

[893] Government of the Dominican Republic, "Comisión Interinstitucional contra la Trata de Personas y el Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes aprueba el Plan Nacional de Acción 2025-2028" (The Inter-institutional Commission against Human Trafficking and the Smuggling of Migrants approves the 2025-2028 National Action Plan), February 11, 2025.

[894] Government of the Dominican Republic, "Senado aprueba con modificaciones proyecto que modifica Ley 137-03, sobre Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes y Trata de Personas" (Senate passes bill with modifications to amend Law 137-03, on Illicit Trafficking of Migrants and Human Trafficking) May 13, 2025.

[895] *El Caribe*, "Emmanuel Fritz presentará credenciales como embajador de Haití en RD" (Emmanuel Fritz presents his letters of credence as Ambassador of Haiti to the Dominican Republic), May 28, 2025.

[896] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic, Diplomatic Note MPRD-OEA-1326-2025 – Annex: Input of the Dominican Republic for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, October 3, 2025, p. 56; Office of the Attorney General, "Procuraduría valora apertura de la unidad de servicios para víctimas de violencia en Cedi-Mujer" (The Office of the Attorney General is considering opening a service unit for victims of violence at Cedi-Mujer), June 20, 2025.

[897] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic, Diplomatic Note MPRD-OEA-1326-2025 – Annex: Input of the Dominican Republic for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, October 3, 2025, p. 23; Office of the Attorney General, "Ministerio Público inaugura primera Fiscalía Especial en Sosúa" (Office of the Public Prosecutor opens first Special Prosecutor's Office in Sosúa), July 27, 2025.

[898] Judiciary of the Dominican Republic, "SCJ aprueba Protocolo de Entrevistas Forenses para víctimas y testigos en condición de vulnerabilidad" (SCJ approves Forensic Interview Protocol for victims and witnesses in vulnerable situations), August 4, 2025.

[899] National Congress of the Dominican Republic, "Ley Orgánica que instituye el Código Penal de la República Dominicana" (Organic law establishes the Penal Code of the Dominican Republic), August 4, 2025, Articles 93, 94, 192, 124.

allows practices such as the corporal punishment of children.[900] Various entities have criticized the new Code and called on the President to veto it prior to its entry into force in 2026.[901]

397. In this context, a high incidence of femicidal, domestic and sexual violence persists. According to official data, as of August 2025, 48 violent deaths of women were recorded, of which 36 were committed by their current or former partners, and eight by state security agents.[902] As of July, 21,390 complaints of domestic violence and 3,854 complaints of sexual offenses had been recorded, including sexual assault (1,178), rape (681), and sexual harassment (510).[903]

398. In terms of sexual and reproductive rights, the State reported progress in the design of a menstrual health policy that includes the distribution of menstrual kits in prioritized public schools,[904] as well as in the design and pilot implementation of a Critical Roadmap for the protection of fundamental rights in cases of early unions and adolescent pregnancy in prioritized territories.[905] In this regard, according to official data, 7,391 pregnancies among girls and adolescents aged 15 to 19 were recorded during the first half of the year, an 11.6 percent reduction compared to the same period of the previous year.[906] However, through the first week of September, 105 maternal deaths were reported.[907]

399. With respect to advances in the rights of **LGBTI persons**, on November 18, the Constitutional Court declared Articles 210 of the Code of Justice of the National Police and 260 of the Code of Justice of the Armed Forces unconstitutional. These provisions punished police officers and military personnel with up to two years of imprisonment for engaging in sexual relations with people of the same sex. The Court held that such provisions violated the rights to equality, human dignity, privacy and the free development of personality.[908]

400. Regarding the situation of **human rights defenders**, during a public hearing held in the context of the 193rd regular period of sessions, civil society organizations informed the Commission of state actions aimed at closing the civic space in the country, which would particularly affect those engaged in the defense of the rights of historically excluded populations. They underscored that human rights defense is carried out in a hostile environment, in which civil society organizations and activists have been subjected to smear campaigns, stigmatizing discourse, digital harassment, physical threats, hostile demonstrations in front of their premises, among other actions. For its part, the State acknowledged that respect for freedom of association and citizen participation are pillars of democracy and rejected all the reports on acts of violence

[900] Government of the Dominican Republic, "Ministerio de la Mujer reitera: reforma del Código Penal vulnera los derechos humanos de las mujeres" (Ministry of Women reiterates: reform of the Penal Code violates the human rights of women), July 28, 2025; National Congress of the Dominican Republic, "Ley Orgánica que instituye el Código Penal de la República Dominicana" (Organic law establishes the Penal Code of the Dominican Republic), August 4, 2025, Articles 129, 141; Amnesty International, Dominican Republic: New penal code does not guarantee the rights of women and girls, August 12, 2025; *Un mejor código*, "Por un Código Penal que proteja la vida y garantice justicia para todas las personas" (To a Penal Code that protects life and guarantees justice for all people), n/d., consulted on October 9, 2025.

[901] *CND*, "Feministas y miembros de la comunidad rechazan recién aprobado Código Penal" (Feminists and community members reject the newly approved penal code), August 1, 2025; *El Nuevo Diario*, "CNDH dice nuevo Código Penal regresivo atenta contra los derechos de las mujeres" (National Commission of Human Rights says new regressive penal code threatens women's rights), August 2, 2025; Amnesty International, Dominican Republic: New penal code does not guarantee the rights of women and girls, August 12, 2025

[902] Office of the Attorney General, "Ministerio de Interior y Policía y Procuraduría General implementarán plan para frenar feminicidios" (The Ministry of the Interior, the Police and the Office of the Attorney General to implement a plan to curb femicides), August 4, 2025.

[903] Office of the Attorney General, "Denuncias de violencia de género, intrafamiliar y delitos sexuales enero-julio 2025" (Reports of gender-based violence, domestic violence and sexual offenses in January-July 2025), September 1, 2025.

[904] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic, Diplomatic Note MPRD-OEA-1326-2025 – Annex: Input of the Dominican Republic for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, October 3, 2025, p. 17.

[905] *Ibid.*

[906] National Statistics Office, "Infografía embarazos en adolescentes en República Dominicana 2025- segundo trimestre" (Infographic of teenage pregnancies in the Dominican Republic 2025 - Second quarter), September 26, 2025.

[907] Government of the Dominican Republic, "MSP garantiza los derechos y promueve mayor acceso a información en salud sexual y reproductiva" (Ministry of Health guarantees rights and promotes greater access to information on sexual and reproductive health), September 4, 2025.

[908] Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic, Judgment TC-01225-25 issued on November 18, 2025.

and persecution against human rights defenders. It also indicated that it guaranteed the right to peaceful protest and highlighted measures it had implemented to investigate the facts alleged during the hearing.[909]

401. As for **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission welcomes the implementation, in June, of the pilot plan for the first "national prison registry," which aims to collect, record and update information on this population, prison infrastructure and system resources.[910]

402. In addition, it values efforts in the area of social reintegration. In particular, in April, the National Office for Support to Prison Reform and the Directorate of the Presidential Social Assistance Plan signed an agreement to facilitate the labor inclusion of incarcerated people in the "semi-liberty" phase within the aforementioned plan's social programs.[911] In September, the prison system signed an agreement with two educational institutions to allow them to select incarcerated people to pursue technical and higher education studies through the granting of scholarships.[912] In July, reforms to the Penal Code that promote social reintegration and establish measures to reduce the use of imprisonment, such as semi-liberty, were approved; however, it is of concern that, in certain cases, penalties are increased to up to 60 years of imprisonment. [913] In addition, the Commission takes note of the information submitted by the State regarding the progressive opening of the "Las Parras" center, with 2,400 places, which will make it possible to reduce overcrowding and improve conditions for persons deprived of liberty therein.[914]

403. Despite these efforts, the Commission reiterates its concern regarding the poor detention conditions in Dominican prisons. According to the National Office of Public Defense (ONDP), with a prison population of 24,725 people, overcrowding reaches 63 percent. In light of this situation, the Commission takes note that, according to official information, the judiciary, the ONDP, and the Office of the Public Prosecutor are working on a project to reduce overpopulation.[915] It is also concerning that people detained at the San Felipe Correction and Rehabilitation Center in Puerto Plata face, in addition to overcrowding, challenges in access to healthcare and poor detention conditions when housed in "reflection cells." In this context, the Commission welcomes the August judgment of the Constitutional Court, which, as a result of a writ of amparo filed by the public defense, ordered immediate measures to guarantee improved detention conditions at said facility.[916] Lastly, it is also a matter of concern that the Office of the Attorney General identified that there were 26 persons

[909] IACHR, thematic hearing "Dominican Republic: Closing of civic space and impacts on human rights," 193rd regular period of sessions, July 24, 2025.

[910] Office of the Attorney General, Government of the Dominican Republic, "Procuraduría presenta resultados del Plan Piloto del primer 'Catastro Nacional Penitenciario'"(Office of the Attorney General presents the results of the Pilot Plan on the first "National Penitentiary Registry"), June 27, 2025.

[911] Government of the Dominican Republic, "Plan Social y la Oficina de Apoyo a Reforma Penitenciaria formalizan acuerdo de colaboración" (Social Assistance Plan of the Presidency and the Office for Penitentiary Reform Support formalize a collaboration agreement), April 30, 2025.

[912] *RC Noticias*, "Privados de libertad tendrán acceso a becas en la Uteco gracias a convenio interinstitucional" (Persons deprived of liberty to have access to scholarships at Uteco thanks to an inter-institutional agreement), September 1, 2025; *Al ritmo de la semana*, "UTECO, Sistema Penitenciario y FUNMUJER firman acuerdo en favor de la educación" (UTECO, the Penitentiary System and FUNMUJER sign an agreement in favor of education), September 3, 2025.

[913] Presidency of the Dominican Republic, "Presidente Abinader promulga el nuevo Código Penal, con avances para la justicia y la seguridad en la República Dominicana" (President Abinader enacts the new Penal Code, with advances for justice and security in the Dominican Republic), August 3, 2025; *El Caribe*, "Nuevo Código Penal en RD: penas más severas y foco en resocialización" (New Penal Code in the Dominican Republic: harsher penalties and a focus on rehabilitation), July 31, 2025.

[914] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic, Diplomatic Note MPRD-OEA-1326-2025 – Annex: Input of the Dominican Republic for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, October 3, 2025, p. 26.

[915] ONDP, Government of the Dominican Republic, "Defensa Pública aclara informaciones desactualizadas sobre el sistema penitenciario" (ONDP clarifies outdated information on the prison system), February 21, 2025.

[916] Constitutional Court, Government of the Dominican Republic, Judgment No. TC/0634/25 (Sentence no. TC/0634/25), August 14, 2025; *RC noticias*, "Defensa Pública logra otra sentencia histórica a favor de las personas privadas de libertad" (ONDP secures another landmark judgment in favor of persons deprived of liberty), August 15, 2025; *Las primeras*, "Defensa Pública logra otra sentencia histórica a favor de las personas privadas de libertad" (ONDP secures another landmark judgment in favor of persons deprived of liberty), August 16, 2025.

deprived of liberty due to failure to pay financial guarantees, which could be covered by an amount lower than the cost of their detention and subsistence.[917]

XIV. ECUADOR

- **General considerations**

404. In 2025, the Republic of Ecuador (hereinafter, "Ecuador") made **progress** in several fields. For instance, it implemented measures to promote inclusion and accessibility in the elections, including an option for persons with disabilities to vote from home and handing out intercultural materials to indigenous peoples and nations. Moreover, the State consolidated public policies on gender equality, LGBTI rights and care for victims of violence, and it fostered the participatory design of the Organic Law for Persons with Disabilities and the expansion of social programs aimed at Afro-descendant and indigenous populations.

405. Nevertheless, significant **challenges** persisted in connection with citizen security, democratic institutionality and the situation of persons deprived of liberty. The repeated renewal of the state of emergency and the expansion of the scope of action of the armed forces to encompass internal security tasks triggered a worrying process of militarization. In addition, high levels of criminal violence were recorded, and the Commission noted reports of forced disappearances and cases of repression in the context of social demonstrations, which highlighted social tensions that require effective and intercultural dialogue.

406. On September 4, 2025, the State submitted its response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.[918]

- **Specific issues**

407. In relation to **democratic institutionality**, the National Assembly approved amendments to the Organic Law on Elections and Political Organizations, which were aimed at preventing and punishing violence against women in political contexts and promoting the participation of Ecuadorians living abroad in the country's elections.[919] The 2025 general elections were held in two rounds[920] and included votes cast from home by persons with disabilities, and votes cast by persons deprived of liberty that have not received a final binding judgment.[921] In addition, the election materials were drafted in three indigenous languages: Cha'palaa, Kichwa and Shuar.[922] The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States highlighted the transparency and accuracy of the official results and the referendum call.[923] On November 16, a popular

[917] Office of the Attorney General, Government of the Dominican Republic, "Procuraduría presenta resultados del Plan Piloto del primer "Catastro Nacional Penitenciario"" (Office of the Attorney General presents results of the pilot plan on the first "National Prison Registry"), June 27, 2025.

[918] Republic of Ecuador, Note Verbale No. 4-2-208/2025 in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[919] Republic of Ecuador, Note Verbale No. 4-2-208/2025 and Memorandum No. MREMH-DSI-2025-0525-M in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, p. 16. On IACHR's files. Also, see: National Electoral Council of Ecuador (CNE), "1.414 Personas Privadas de la Libertad sufragaron en las Elecciones Generales 2025" (1,414 persons deprived of liberty voted in the 2025 general elections), February 6, 2025.

[920] Republic of Ecuador, Note Verbale No. 4-2-208/2025 and Memorandum No. MREMH-DSI-2025-0525-M in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the 2025 Annual Report, September 4, 2025, p. 16. On IACHR's files.

[921] *Ibid.*, p. 16.

[922] *Ibid.*

[923] OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Ecuador, Press Release No. E-017/25, OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Ecuador Expresses Confidence in the Results Presented by the CNE, April 14, 2025; and *Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Ecuador for the second round of the presidential elections*, April 15, 2025.

consultation and referendum were held which, among other things, resulted in the rejection of the initiative to convene a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution.[924]

408. However, civil society organizations expressed concern about violence in the electoral context, especially against political leaders.[925] There were also acts of political violence against women, including attacks, harassment and coercion.[926] In this regard, a group of independent United Nations experts voiced their concern about reports of political, administrative and judicial harassment against the Vice President of Ecuador, María Verónica Abad Rojas, and about the specific and gender-based nature of these attacks.[927]

409. Concerning **citizen security**, during the first half of 2025, Ecuador recorded 4,619 intentional homicides, which accounts for an increase of nearly 47 percent in comparison with the same period in 2024.[928] In response to this situation, the State declared at least five new states of emergency to address crime and reinforce internal security operations. These measures expanded the scope of action of the armed forces, who took on tasks that were usually assigned to the National Police.[929] The executive and legislative branches insisted on characterizing the context as a non-international armed conflict, an approach incorporated into the Organic Law on National Solidarity, which was declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court (CC).[930]

410. In addition, the Commission condemned the disappearance and subsequent murder of child Steven Medina and adolescents Josué Arroyo, Saúl Arboleda and Ismael Arroyo in Guayaquil;[931] these events were followed by a reported 30 additional disappearances of adolescents and men attributable to state forces. In a public hearing, family members and organizations reported to the Commission on extrajudicial executions,

[924] The questions included in the referendum and consultation referred to: i) eliminating the prohibition on establishing foreign military bases or foreign facilities for military purposes and on ceding national military bases to foreign armed or security forces, which required partially reforming the Constitution; ii) eliminating the State's obligation to allocate resources from the General National Budget to political organizations, which required partially reforming the Constitution; and iii) reducing the number of National Assembly members by establishing that the lower house must be comprised of 10 members on behalf of the country, 1 member elected by each province and 1 additional provincial member for every 400,000 inhabitants, according to the latest national census. See: CNE, *Preguntas, Anexos y Estatutos del Referéndum y Consulta Popular 2025* (Questions, annexes and statutes of the 2025 Referendum and Popular Consultation), 2025.

[925] According to reports from the Citizen Observatory on Political Violence (OCVP) and the Association of Women for Gender Equity and Autonomy (MEGA), with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Ecuador (FES Ecuador), 80 attacks against the integrity and lives of political actors have been recorded, including 1 physical assault, 21 threats, 46 murders, 8 attacks and 4 kidnappings. The total number of documented aggressions accounts for a 158 percent increase compared to the civil society's recorded incidents during the 2023 elections, which amounted to 31 cases. See: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES-ILDIS), *Democracia en riesgo: análisis político del Ecuador 2023–2024* (Democracy at risk: political analysis of Ecuador, 2023–2024), July 2024.

[926] Citizen Observatory on Political Violence, *Violencia política en las elecciones generales, 2025 - Ecuador* (Political violence in the 2025 general elections in Ecuador), May 2025.

[927] OHCHR, "Experts alarmed at reported political harassment and persecution against Ecuador's Vice President," February 18, 2025.

[928] Ecuadorian Observatory on Organized Crime (OECO) – Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), *Semiannual bulletin of intentional homicides in Ecuador: January–June 2025*, July 30, 2025.

[929] In this regard, the IACHR issued a statement reminding that states of emergency authorizing the armed forces to perform security tasks must be extraordinary. In 2025, the Republic of Ecuador notified five states of emergency to the General Secretariat of the OAS, in compliance with Article 27.3 of the American Convention on Human Rights. The first state of emergency was notified on January 3, 2025, via Note No. 4-2-002/2025; the second on April 15, 2025, via Note No. 4-2-073/2025; the third on September 22, 2025, via Note No. 4-2-228/2025; the fourth on October 9, 2025, via Note No. 4-2-249/2025; and the fifth on November 6, 2025, via Note No. 4-2-287/2025. See: IACHR, Press Release No. 15/25, IACHR condemns the disappearance and subsequent murder of a child and three adolescents of African descent in Ecuador, January 22, 2025; and OAS, *Recent Suspensions of Guarantees regarding Multilateral Treaties*, last accessed on November 11, 2025.

[930] Constitutional Court of Ecuador, *Sentencia No. 52-25-IN y acumulados, sobre control de constitucionalidad de la Ley Orgánica de Solidaridad Nacional* (Judgment No. 52-25-IN and related cases, on the constitutionality of the Organic Law on National Solidarity), September 26, 2025.

[931] IACHR, Press Release No. 15/25, IACHR condemns the disappearance and subsequent murder of a child and three adolescents of African descent in Ecuador, January 22, 2025.

torture and forced disappearances linked to the militarization of security during the successive states of emergency.[932]

411. Between September 15 and October 22, indigenous and social organizations carried out a national strike in protest against diesel subsidy cutbacks,[933] to which the government responded with a state of emergency and military mobilization.[934] The demonstrations were most intense in Otavalo and Imbabura, where there were alleged cases of excessive use of force and acts of violence that are not encompassed by the right to protest, as analyzed by the Inter-American Commission in a press release calling for dialogue.[935] In this context, Kichwa community member Efraín Fueres was killed on September 28 in Cotacachi[936] and José Alberto Guamán was killed on October 15 in Imbabura; both incidents are under criminal investigation.[937] Organizations recorded at least 473 people injured, mainly in Imbabura; 206 detained, 16 disappeared and 13 facing charges for alleged acts of terror.[938] Still, the government maintained its refusal to engage in dialogue with indigenous organizations.[939]

412. With regard to **access to justice and judicial independence**, training was provided to strengthen the investigation of femicides, legal pluralism and restorative juvenile justice.[940] The Organic Law on Public Integrity was passed, thus empowering the Council of the Judiciary to declare a "state of emergency" within the judiciary, which has reportedly allowed for the establishment of a special and expedited regime for admissions into the justice system and early evaluations of judges and prosecutors.[941] This law was declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court due to procedural flaws in its adoption.[942]

413. Furthermore, the independence of the Constitutional Court was threatened following its rulings on the unconstitutional nature of certain laws, which were of priority for the government. In

[932] IACHR, *Summary of Public Hearings from the 193rd period of sessions*, July 31, 2025; and public hearing "Ecuador: Disappearances in the context of the militarization of public security," 193rd regular period of sessions, July 23, 2025. This phenomenon has been documented by grassroots organizations and international civil society organizations; see: Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CDH), *Reporte de desapariciones forzadas en el Ecuador. Desapariciones forzadas en contexto de la militarización en la costa en Ecuador* (Report on forced disappearances in Ecuador. forced disappearances in the context of militarization on the coast of Ecuador) (as of April 10, 2025), January 31, 2025 (last accessed: November 11, 2025); Amnesty International, "Ecuador: Enforced disappearances committed by the military reveal failed security strategy," September 22, 2025 (last accessed: November 11, 2025).

[933] *Infobae*, "La Conaie suspendió el paro sin diálogo ni concesiones: un hecho inédito en la historia democrática de Ecuador" (The Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador suspended the strike without dialogue or trade-offs: an unprecedented event in the democratic history of Ecuador), October 23, 2025.

[934] On September 22, 2025, the General Secretariat of the OAS received Note Verbale No. 4-2-228/2025 and annex notifying the suspension of guarantees from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador, in compliance with Article 27.3 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

[935] IACHR, Press Release No. 208/25, IACHR reiterates call for effective dialogue to prevent human rights violations in Ecuador, October 14, 2025.

[936] *Ibid*.

[937] IACHR [@CIDH], (October 17, 2025), #Ecuador: #CIDH condena las muertes de Rosa Elena Paqui, el 14 de octubre en Loja y José Alberto Guamán, el 15 de octubre en Imbabura, durante la respuesta estatal a las protestas del Paro Nacional. Expresa preocupación por denuncias de uso excesivo de la fuerza y urge al Estado a investigar, juzgar y sancionar estos hechos. Según información de la sociedad civil, a la fecha, en el contexto del Paro Nacional se han reportado tres personas fallecidas, 282 heridas, 15 desaparecidas y 172 detenidas (#Ecuador: The #IACHR condemns the deaths of Rosa Elena Paqui on October 14 in Loja and José Alberto Guamán on October 15 in Imbabura during the State's response to the national strike protests. It expresses concern about reports of excessive use of force and urges the State to investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible for these acts. According to information from the civil society, to date, in the context of the national strike, three people have been reported dead, 282 injured, 15 missing and 172 detained) [X post], X, https://x.com/CIDH/status/1979280301751767135.

[938] Alliance of Human Rights Organizations of Ecuador, *Informe de vulneraciones a los Derechos Humanos durante el Paro Nacional de Ecuador, septiembre - octubre 2025* (Report on human rights violations during the national strike in Ecuador, September–October 2025), November 2025.

[939] *La Jornada*, "Ecuador: anuncian fin del paro contra aumento al precio del diésel" (Ecuador: end of strike against diesel price increase announced), October 22, 2025.

[940] Republic of Ecuador, Note Verbale No. 4-2-208/2025 in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the 2025 Annual Report, September 4, 2025, p. 2. On IACHR's files.

[941] Republic of Ecuador, *Ley Orgánica de Integridad Pública (LOIP)* (Organic Law on Public Integrity), Third Supplement of the *Official Gazette* No. 68, June 26, 2025.

[942] Constitutional Court of Ecuador, *Sentencia No. 52-25-IN y acumulados, sobre control de constitucionalidad de la Ley Orgánica de Integridad Pública* (Judgment No. 52-25-IN and related cases, on the constitutionality of the Organic Law on Public Integrity), September 26, 2025.

consequence, high-ranking officials described the Court as an "enemy of the people" and accused its members of siding with organized crime.[943] The Inter-American Commission warned that these actions constituted a threat to judicial independence and might jeopardize the safety of the members of the Court and their personnel.[944]

414. In addition, organized crime threatened judicial independence by means of acts of violence against judicial officials and prosecutors. The Commission condemned the murder of judge Marcos Mendoza, perpetrated on October 16 in Manabí,[945] which occurred in addition to nine other attacks against justice officials —as reported by the civil society—, such as the murder of judge María Belén Cherrés, who died as a result of an armed assault by hit men in La Libertad.[946]

415. Regarding **human rights defenders**, the State reported on having drafted a protocol on the protection of human rights defenders who take part in criminal proceedings as victims or witnesses, in which gender-, ethnic-cultural and collective-based approaches were incorporated.[947]

416. However, civil society and indigenous organizations stated that they face a hostile landscape, which is characterized by threats, attacks and stigmatization campaigns against human rights defenders. The Commission received reports of harassment on social media, intimidating phone calls and texts, and acts of criminalization linked to the causes these defenders advocate for.[948] On August 26, the State passed the Organic Law on Social Transparency, presented as an urgent measure to address the economic crisis, which expands the State's authority to control civil society organizations.[949] This law imposes financial obligations; allows for sanctions such as suspension or closure under ambiguous grounds, like "irregularities" or disrupting public order; and allows the State to issue administrative precautionary measures to freeze funds in the event of

[943] *Primicias*, "El oficialismo apunta a la Corte Constitucional: sus voceros hablan del 'enemigo del pueblo'" (The incumbent party targets the Constitutional Court: its spokespeople refer to it as the "enemy of the people"), August 8, 2025; OHCHR, "Ecuador: Injerencia en la Corte Constitucional amenaza al Estado de derecho y a las garantías contra el abuso de poder" (Ecuador: interference in the Constitutional Court threatens the Rule of Law and safeguards against abuse of power), August 15, 2025.

[944] IACHR, Press Release No. 175/25, IACHR calls on Ecuador to respect and guarantee the independence of the Constitutional Court, August 29, 2025. The Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers made a similar statement; see: OHCHR, "Ecuador: Injerencia en la Corte Constitucional amenaza al Estado de derecho y a las garantías contra el abuso de poder" (Ecuador: interference in the Constitutional Court threatens the Rule of Law and safeguards against abuse of power), August 15, 2025.

[945] IACHR [@CIDH], (November 22, 2025), #Ecuador: #CIDH condena el asesinato del juez Marcos Mendoza, ocurrido el 16 de octubre en Manabí. El ataque contra el juez Mendoza se suma a otros atentados contra personas operadoras de justicia que atentan contra la independencia de la Función Judicial. La CIDH urge al Estado a reforzar la protección de quien procura e imparte justicia, e investigar y sancionar a los responsables materiales e intelectuales de la violencia en su contra (#Ecuador: The #IACHR condemns the murder of judge Marcos Mendoza, which occurred on October 16 in Manabí. The attack against judge Mendoza is one of several assaults against justice operators that undermine the independence of the judiciary. The IACHR urges the State to strengthen protection for those who seek and administer justice and to investigate and punish those materially and intellectually responsible for the acts of violence perpetrated against them), [X post] X, https://x.com/CIDH/status/1980393046379286650.

[946] The Observatory on Rights and Justice (ODJ) documented at least nine attacks against justice operators and prosecutors in Ecuador. See: ODJ [@ODJEcuador], (October 17, 2025), #SeguridadJudicial. La violencia contra operadores judiciales pone en riesgo la independencia de la justicia en Ecuador. Con el asesinato del juez Marcos Mendoza, ocurrido ayer, ODJ registra 9 ataques contra la Función Judicial en 2025 (#JudicialSecurity. Violence against justice operators jeopardizes the independence of the justice system in Ecuador. Counting the murder of judge Marcos Mendoza yesterday, the ODJ has recorded nine attacks against the judiciary in 2025) [X post], X, https://x.com/ODJEcuador/status/1979198829552394348; and the report issued by the ODJ in March 2025, *Safety of Ecuadorian Justice Operators in the Context of Organized Crime*, which includes an assessment of the security situation of justice operators, particularly in the context of the prosecution of cases related to organized crime. Also: *Radio Pichincha*, "Violencia judicial: un fiscal herido, dos jueces y un secretario asesinados en lo que va del año" (Judicial violence: one prosecutor injured, two judges and one clerk murdered so far this year), October 18, 2025; *Primicias*, "Jueza de Santa Elena, María Belén Chérrez, sufre atentado armado en plena vía de La Libertad" (Judge María Belén Chérrez of Santa Elena suffers armed assault in broad daylight in La Libertad), January 17, 2025.

[947] Republic of Ecuador, Memorandum No. MREMH-DSI-2025-0525-M in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, September 3, 2025, p. 5. On IACHR's files.

[948] Cáritas Ecuador and FIAN, *La lucha por la libertad, la dignidad y la vida. Diagnóstico sobre la situación de personas defensoras de derechos en el Ecuador* (The struggle for freedom, dignity and life. a diagnosis of the situation of human rights defenders in Ecuador), June 2025.

[949] *Ecuador 221*, "Asamblea Nacional aprueba la Ley de Transparencia Social" (National Assembly passes Law on Social Transparency), August 26, 2025; *Lexis Noticias*, "Ley de Transparencia Social promulgada en el Registro Oficial" (Law on Social Transparency enacted in the *Official Gazette*), August 27, 2025; *El Mercurio*, "Asamblea aprobó Ley de Transparencia Social" (Assembly passes Law on Social Transparency), August 26, 2025.

suspicious transactions.[950] These measures are issued without prior legal assessment, given that a judicial review takes place after the funds have been frozen.[951]

417. By enforcing this law, the Financial and Economic Analysis Unit provisionally froze the bank accounts of at least 21 social organizations and human rights defenders for alleged suspicious transactions;[952] in this regard, high-ranking executive branch authorities stated that the frozen funds were allegedly intended to destabilize the government in the context of the national strike.[953] Civil society organizations and human rights defenders reported to the Inter-American Commission that said bank accounts were frozen suddenly, without prior notification, and in some cases, without allowing the holders to access their case files. According to these reports, this has had an impact on these groups' work and has had a deterrent effect on the defense of human rights.[954] Additionally, criminal investigations were reportedly opened against more than 50 indigenous, peasant and environmental leaders.[955]

418. With respect to the rights of **indigenous peoples**, 2025 was a year marked by growing tensions between the State and indigenous peoples amidst social protests against diesel subsidy cutbacks and the increase in the cost of living.[956] In addition, there were reports of state measures that allegedly affected collective rights, such as the passing of the Organic Law for the Strengthening of Protected Areas[957] without prior consultation, which will reportedly lead to the militarization of indigenous territories and might result in the violation of the rights to ownership, possession and self-determination.[958]

419. Concerning the situation of **Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination**, the State sent an apology to former Afro-descendant workers involved in the Furukawa case and announced reparation measures.[959] It also gave grants to 12 indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montuvio organizations for

[950] *IFEX*, "Organizaciones de la sociedad civil expresan su preocupación por la aprobación de la nueva Ley de Transparencia Social" (Civil society organizations express concern over the passing of the new Law on Social Transparency), September 4, 2025; *Infobae*, "Más de cuarenta fundaciones alertaron por la aprobación de la Ley de Transparencia Social en Ecuador" (Over 40 foundations warned about the passing of the Law on Social Transparency in Ecuador), August 28, 2025.

[951] National Assembly of Ecuador, *Ley Orgánica de Transparencia Social* (Organic Law on Social Transparency), Third Supplement of the *Official Gazette* No. 112, August 28, 2025, Article 17.3.

[952] The IACHR held meetings with affected civil society organizations.

[953] *GK*, "La denuncia de bloqueos bancarios a la Conaie, dirigentes y activistas, explicada" (The complaint about freezing of bank accounts against the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador, leaders and activists, explained), September 24, 2025; *Teleamazonas*, "Noboa: 'Sí voy a pedir licencia' para hacer campaña en la consulta y referéndum 2025" (Noboa: "I am going to take leave" to campaign for the 2025 consultation and referendum), October 31, 2025.

[954] Information received by the IACHR during meetings with civil society organizations on the situation of human rights defenders in Ecuador held on September 23 and October 23, 2025. Also, see: Human Rights Watch, "Ecuador: Government Freezes Groups' Bank Accounts," December 9, 2025.

[955] *El Comercio*, "Fiscalía indaga a 50 dirigentes que participan en el paro convocado por la CONAIE" (Office of the Attorney General investigates 50 leaders participating in the strike called by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador), September 28, 2025; *Infobae*, "La Fiscalía de Ecuador investiga a 50 dirigentes de la principal organización indígena del país" (The Office of the Attorney General of Ecuador investigates 50 leaders of the country's main indigenous organization), September 27, 2025; *El Universo*, "Investigación por presunto enriquecimiento privado no justificado se inició contra más de 50 dirigentes sociales, alerta CONAIE" (Investigation into alleged unjustified private enrichment opened against more than 50 social leaders, warns the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador), September 26, 2025; Fundamedios, "Bloquean cuentas bancarias de dirigentes indígenas y defensores del agua" (Bank accounts of indigenous leaders and water defenders frozen), September 23, 2025; *SWI swissinfo.ch*, "Indígenas de Ecuador denuncian bloqueos de sus cuentas bancarias por 'órdenes estatales'" (Indigenous people in Ecuador denounce the freezing of their bank accounts under "state orders"), September 20, 2025; *Infobae*, "La principal organización indígena de Ecuador denuncia el bloqueo de sus cuentas bancarias" (Ecuador's main indigenous organization denounces the freezing of its bank accounts), September 20, 2025.

[956] Information provided to the IACHR by indigenous organizations during a meeting on the national strike, September 23, 2025; United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, *Urgent Call to Protect the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Ecuador*, September 27, 2025.

[957] National Assembly of Ecuador, *Ley Orgánica para el Fortalecimiento de Áreas Protegidas* (Organic Law for the Strengthening of Protected Areas), Fourth Supplement of the *Official Gazette* No. 80, July 14, 2025.

[958] Amazon Frontlines, "Indigenous and human rights organizations denounce Ecuador's Protected Areas Law as unconstitutional due to its regressive nature and lack of consultation," August 13, 2025.

[959] *El País*, "Ecuador pide perdón a los afrodescendientes víctimas de esclavitud moderna de Furukawa" (Ecuador apologizes to Afro-descendants who were victims of modern slavery in Furukawa), June 1, 2025.

community production projects.[960] The Office of the Attorney General trained 4,203 agents in the application of ethnic-racial legal instruments and assisted 30,000 Afro-descendant women victims of violence.[961] Moreover, Afro-descendant youth in Esmeraldas met to discuss discrimination, access to higher education and dignified jobs, and commended the existence of 36 schools teaching ethnic studies in the country.[962]

420. In turn, climate and natural disasters in Esmeraldas disproportionately impacted coastal communities mainly made up of Afro-descendants. Floods, landslides and an earthquake resulted in damage to roads, houses and crops and caused power outages in neighboring cantons, among other consequences.[963] According to official information released by the press, the government reported a rupture in the Trans-Ecuadorian Pipeline System (SOTE) in Quinindé, which resulted in the spillage of thousands of barrels of crude oil, thus triggering containment, water distribution and medical assistance measures, and a halt in operations for a few days.[964]

421. Regarding the human rights of **women**, the State adopted the General Regulations to apply the Organic Law on Support and Transformative and Comprehensive Reparation for relatives of victims of femicide and other gender-based violent deaths, in which all forms of reparation are listed, including a financial fund for the victims' families.[965] The expansion of the scope of the Centros Violeta (Purple Centers) also continued,[966] which provided a total of 32,127 services to women, girls and adolescents who were victims of gender-based violence in the period ranging from January to July 2025.[967] In terms of gender equality, the Labor Code was amended to recognize and regulate paid home-based work,[968] and the Organic Law to Promote the Economy of Women Entrepreneurs was passed.[969]

422. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Ministry of the Interior absorbed the Ministry of Women and Human Rights (MMDH), which resulted in the loss of the governing body for public policies on the rights of women and diverse people.[970] This occurred in a context in which, according to official figures, 538 women were killed between January and September 2025, 43 of whom were classified as victims of femicide, mostly

[960] *El Comercio*, "Daniel Noboa entregó recursos a indígenas, afroecuatorianos y montuvios; este es el objetivo" (Daniel Noboa allocates resources to indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montuvio communities —here is why), June 12, 2025.

[961] Republic of Ecuador, Note Verbale No. 4-2-208/2025 in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights, August 14, 2025, pp. 2 and 23. On IACHR's files.

[962] *El Universo*, "Jóvenes afrodescendientes debaten vulnerabilidades y soluciones en encuentro salesiano" (Afro-descendant youth discuss vulnerabilities and solutions at Salesian meeting), August 30, 2025.

[963] *El Universo*, "Esmeraldas: lluvias causan hundimientos y cierran vías en el norte del país" (Esmeraldas: rainfall causes landslides; roads are closed in the north part of the country), February 28, 2025; *El Universo*, "Lluvias en Muisne ocasionan deslizamientos de tierra e inundaciones de fincas y viviendas" (Rainfall in Muisne causes landslides and flooding of farms and homes), April 10, 2025; *El Comercio*, "Al menos 20 heridos y 60 viviendas afectadas deja el sismo en Esmeraldas" (At least 20 injured and 60 houses affected by earthquake in Esmeraldas), April 25, 2025.

[964] *El Comercio*, "Se restablece la operación del SOTE tras rotura en Esmeraldas" (SOTE operations restored after rupture in Esmeraldas), March 20, 2025.

[965] Republic of Ecuador, *Decreto Ejecutivo N° 558* (Executive Decree No. 558), March 8, 2025; *Primicias*, "Daniel Noboa reglamenta las reparaciones y acompañamiento de las víctimas de femicidio" (Daniel Noboa regulates reparations and support for victims of femicide), March 9, 2025.

[966] Republic of Ecuador, Note No. 4-2-208/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, p. 21. On IACHR's files; Ministry of Women and Human Rights of Ecuador, "Tulcán inaugura su Centro Violeta: un espacio seguro para mujeres, niñas, niños y adolescentes víctimas de violencia" (Tulcán opens its Centro Violeta [Purple Center]: a safe space for women, children and adolescents who are victims of violence), August 13, 2025; National Council of the Judiciary of Ecuador, "Napo contará con un Centro Violeta en el Complejo Judicial para atender a víctimas de violencia" (Napo will set up a Centro Violeta [Purple Center] in the judicial district to assist victims of violence), June 26, 2025.

[967] Republic of Ecuador, Note No. 4-2-208/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025, p. 22. On IACHR's files.

[968] National Assembly of Ecuador, *Ley Orgánica reformatoria al Código de Trabajo para dignificar el trabajo del hogar* (Organic Law amending the Labor Code to dignify home-based work), Second Supplement of the *Official Gazette* No. 94, August 1, 2025.

[969] National Assembly of Ecuador, *Ley Orgánica para Impulsar la Economía de las Mujeres Emprendedoras* (Organic Law to Promote the Economy of Women Entrepreneurs), Third Supplement of the *Official Gazette* No. 758, March 10, 2025.

[970] Republic of Ecuador, *Decreto N° 101* (Decree No. 101), August 15, 2025; Ecuadorian Center for the Promotion and Action of Women (CEPAM Guayaquil), "Fusión del Ministerio de la Mujer: Un retroceso en derechos humanos y lucha feminista" (Merger of the Ministry of Women: a setback for human rights and the feminist struggle), July 29, 2025; *Infobae*, "Grupos LGBT de Ecuador dicen que cierre de Ministerio de la Mujer pone en riesgo derechos" (LGBT groups in Ecuador say closure of Ministry of Women puts rights at risk), July 25, 2025.

perpetrated by the victims' partners or ex-partners.[971] In addition, 12,422 crimes related to sexual violence were recorded —most of them against girls and adolescents—, of which 5,897 were cases of sexual abuse, 5,410 were cases of rape and 1,115 were cases of sexual harassment.[972] Additionally, during the first half of the year, there were 78 recorded victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation, most of them women and girls.[973]

423. Moreover, the Court of Pichincha rejected the appeal filed in the case of the femicide of María Belén Bernal; it upheld the conviction of the perpetrator and declared the second suspect innocent.[974] The National Assembly also rejected the report drafted by the special parliamentary committee created exclusively to determine the State's responsibility for the death of second lieutenant Aidita Ati —which occurred inside a military barracks in 2024—. Said report recommended initiating legal proceedings against public officials that had been possibly involved in her death.[975]

424. In relation to sexual and reproductive rights, the Constitutional Court issued a judgment acknowledging the obstetric violence suffered by an adolescent in a situation of human mobility and reaffirmed the State's duty to guarantee access to dignified, safe and respectful healthcare.[976] Furthermore, according to information submitted by the civil society, obstacles to access the voluntary termination of pregnancy persist, even in cases of rape.[977] In this regard, the United Nations Human Rights Committee determined that the State was responsible for denying an abortion to a girl who had suffered sexual violence.[978]

425. With regard to the rights of **LGBTI persons**, the MMDH reported progress in the implementation of the LGBTI+ Diversity Action Plan (PAD 2022–2025). Sex and gender variables were included in the work of 24 state-run entities and the Ministerial Agreement MMDH-2024-0001-A —which regulates information management with a focus on diversity— was approved. In addition, an inter-institutional agreement was signed between the MMDH and the Institute of Statistics and Census to develop the National Survey on LGBTI+ Persons' Living Conditions. Furthermore, a technical working group on LGBTI+ comprehensive health was created, inclusive care protocols were updated and technical contributions were introduced for the prevention of violence and the promotion of good health practices. Progress was also made in validating the protocol on supporting children and adolescents in the process of affirmation of their gender identity, in compliance with Judgment No. 95-18-EP/24. The State also reported the launch of the initiative "Public Institution Free of Violence and Discrimination Against LGBTI+ Persons".[979]

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[971] Office of the Attorney General of Ecuador, *Análisis de las muertes de mujeres en contexto delictivo* (Analysis of women deaths in criminal contexts), as of October 2, 2025.

[972] Office of the Attorney General of Ecuador, *Estadísticas de noticias del delito (NDD)* (Crime news statistics), as of October 2, 2025.

[973] National Police of Ecuador, "Nueve víctimas de trata de personas con fines de explotación sexual rescatadas y cuatro aprehendidos por este delito" (Nine victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation rescued and four suspects detained), June 6, 2025; IOM Ecuador, "9na Vigilia Nacional por las personas sobrevivientes de la trata de personas" (Ninth national vigil for survivors of human trafficking) July 31, 2025.

[974] *Primicias*, "Caso María Belén Bernal: Corte ratifica sentencia contra Cáceres y mantiene inocencia del teniente Alfonso C" (Case of María Belén Bernal: Court upholds sentence against Cáceres and maintains innocence of lieutenant Alfonso C.), May 29, 2025.

[975] *Prensa Latina*, "Niegan en Ecuador juicios políticos por posible femicidio a militar" (Ecuador rejects impeachment proceedings for alleged femicide of military officer), May 6, 2025; *Primicias*, "Informe sobre caso Aidita Ati se cae por falta de votos en el Pleno de Asamblea Nacional" (Report on Aidita Ati case is dropped due to insufficient votes in National Assembly plenary session), May 6, 2025.

[976] Constitutional Court of Ecuador, *Sentencia 96-21-JP/25* (Judgment No. 96-21-JP/25), May 22, 2025.

[977] *Efeminista*, "Violencia, castigo y desconocimiento: barreras de las mujeres para abortar en Ecuador" (Violence, punishment and ignorance: barriers to abortion for women in Ecuador), September 2, 2025; IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A, March 26, 2025, para. 360.

[978] United Nations Human Rights Committee, *Views adopted by the Committee under article 5 (4) of the Optional Protocol, concerning communication No. 3628/2019*, June 20, 2025; OAS, MESECVI, *Committee of Experts of the MESECVI Welcomes International Decision Condemning Ecuador and Nicaragua for Violating the Rights of Girls Victims of Sexual Violence Forced into Motherhood*, February 14, 2025.

[979] Republic of Ecuador, Note Verbale No. 4-2-208/2025 in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the 2025 Annual Report, September 4, 2025. On IACHR's files.

426. The Office of the Attorney General carried out processes to build up institutional capacity by offering training on gender-based violence and criminal policy on access to justice for LGBTI+ persons, which was targeted at prosecutors and technical teams. The team specializing in gender provided support and followed up on 744 cases of gender-based violence between May 2024 and June 2025. The State also promoted a criminal policy on access to justice for LGBTIQ+ persons to address hate crimes and discrimination, prioritizing protection measures and equal care for victims. Sex, gender and sexual orientation variables were included in online complaint forms, and this information was in turn added to the Unified Registry of Violence (RUV), a tool that centralizes data from across the country to improve the prevention of and response to gender-based violence.[980] The Constitutional Court made progress in recognizing the rights of transgender children by ordering the Ministry of Education to devise support protocols[981] and by reviewing the case of Amada, a transgender girl whose name and sex registration was authorized but then reversed by the Civil Registry Office.[982]

427. Nonetheless, the judgment in favor of the transgender girl prompted demonstrations by around 40 groups in rejection of what they consider to be the "imposition of gender ideology."[983] The executive branch also signed an agreement with religious leaders committing to repel this alleged ideology from classrooms.[984] In August, the mayor of Pujilí, José Arroyo, changed his gender on his identity card without changing his name, sparking controversy over the possible misuse of legislation that enables transgender people to change their gender in legal documents.[985]

428. Regarding the rights of **persons with disabilities**, Ecuador made progress with the formulation of a new Organic Law for Persons with Disabilities, which was shaped by many contributions from citizens.[986] Moreover, technical regulations for the provision of specialized services in comprehensive day care centers, inclusive reception centers and shelters for persons with disabilities and their families, by means of public and private assistance units, were updated.[987] The State also implemented a new model of Independent Living Centers for persons with disabilities to live an autonomous and self-determined life, which is currently in a pilot stage. Finally, the Caregivers' Committees were strengthened; reportedly, there are over 1,400 active committees made up of more than 45,000 members nationwide.[988]

429. However, the Commission received complaints regarding the alleged arbitrary detention of a person with an intellectual disability in the context of the security measures adopted by the government on September 26 in San Rafael de Otavalo; reports also indicate that this person has been missing since then.[989]

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[980] Republic of Ecuador, Note Verbale No. 4-2-208/2025 203/25 and Memorandum No. MREMH-DSI-2025-0525-M in response to the IACHR's letter requesting information no. 344-25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, September 4, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[981] *Expreso*, "Una escuela de Santa Elena discriminó a una niña transgénero, según la Corte" (A school in Santa Elena discriminates against a transgender girl, according to the Court), January 8, 2025.

[982] *Primicias*, "La historia de Amanda, la adolescente ecuatoriana que espera sentencia para registrar su cambio de sexo" (The story of Amanda, the Ecuadorian teenager awaiting ruling to register her sex change), January 20, 2025; *Expreso*, "Niñez transgénero: Corte Constitucional revisará el caso de Amada" (Transgender girl: Constitutional Court to review Amada's case), Januay 8, 2025.

[983] *Ecuavaisa*, "Unos 40 colectivos marcharon en respuesta a una sentencia de la Corte Constitucional sobre una niña trans" (Around 40 groups marched in response to a Constitutional Court judgment on a transgender girl), February 22, 2025; *El Comercio*, "Sentencia de menor discriminada en Salinas causa reacciones de grupos LGBTI y religiosos" (Judgment on discrimination against minor in Salinas sparks reactions from LGBTI and religious groups), January 17, 2025.

[984] *El Comercio*, "Daniel Noboa firmó acuerdo sobre ideología de género con lideres religiosos" (Daniel Noboa signed an agreement on gender ideology with religious leaders), March 11, 2025.

[985] *Expreso*, "'Cambio de género' de José Arroyo reaviva debate sobre uso indebido de derechos trans" (José Arroyo's "gender change" reignites debate on misuse of trans rights), August 8, 2025.

[986] Republic of Ecuador, Memorandum No. MREMH-DSI-2025-0525-M, September 3, 2025, p. 34; Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the OAS, Note No. 4-2-208/2025. On IACHR's files.

[987] *Ibid*.

[988] *Ibid*.

[989] Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO), "Denuncia por criminalización del Estado ecuatoriano contra pueblos indígenas y personas con discapacidad" (Complaint against the State of Ecuador for the criminalization of indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities), September 30, 2025.

430. With respect to **human trafficking**, the Action Plan against Human Trafficking and the Protocols on Comprehensive Care for Victims were updated to ensure that they were aligned with the Organic Law against Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants.[990] The ECU 911 Integrated Security Service and the Decentralized Autonomous Municipal Government of the Canton of Cuenca issued a resolution to regulate the interoperability of local platform systems for the provision of emergency services, among others, to victims of human trafficking.[991] Despite this, migrants with cognitive and sensory disabilities have been victims of smuggling and trafficking on the Colombian-Ecuadorian border, where they have been reportedly forced to engage in illegal activities by criminal organizations.[992]

431. Concerning **persons in the context of human mobility**, there has been a reported increase in the number of migrants and internally displaced people, as well as an increase in the number of people arriving in Ecuador seeking international protection. In addition, the Commission was informed about irregular migration and limited access to integration mechanisms, while humanitarian aid systems continue to be under strain and face difficulties in responding to the needs of the population in the context of mobility.

432. Nevertheless, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in 2025 the State carried out reforms to manage these flows of people.[993] In this regard, the Organic Law on Public Integrity was passed in July, which introduced reforms to the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code (COIP), among other changes. The aforementioned legislation incorporated Article 61.1 into the COIP, which authorizes the State —if an internal armed conflict is declared— to deport any migrant deprived of liberty and ban them from entering Ecuadorian territory for 40 years. Moreover, in the event of non-compliance with this prohibition and if the internal armed conflict persists, the regulation allows such foreigners to be considered a military target.[994] According to available information, over 800 persons deprived of liberty have been deported to Colombia on the basis of this provision.[995]

433. In addition, by means of Decree No. 123 of September 12, 2025, the Office of the President of Ecuador denounced the entire content of the Migration Statute between the Republic of Ecuador and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, signed on July 6, 2010. This document established a simplified migration regularization procedure for Venezuelan nationals and their family members residing in Ecuador.[996]

434. Meanwhile, **internal displacement** continues to be on the rise in Ecuador.According to the UNHCR, in June the number of displaced Ecuadorian families amounted to 150,000, which translates to approximately 300,000 people.[997] The previous year, it was estimated that 101,000 new people were internally displaced in Ecuador as a result of conflict and violence.[998]

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[990] Report submitted by the Republic of Ecuador in response to the IACHR's request for information for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, September 3, 2025.

[991] Republic of Ecuador, *Servicio Integrado de Seguridad ECU 911, Resolución de Interoperabilidad* (ECU 911 Integrated Security Service, Interoperability Resolution), April 4, 2025.

[992] *El Tiempo*, "Aberrante caso de tráfico de migrantes con personas en situación de discapacidad en la frontera con Ecuador" (Abhorrent case of migrant smuggling involving persons with disabilities on the border with Ecuador), March 28, 2025.

[993] UNHCR, *Ecuador: Operational Update N.7*, July 2025.

[994] Republic of Ecuador, *Ley Orgánica de Integridad Pública (LOIP)* (Organic Law on Public Integrity), Third Supplement of the *Official Gazette* No. 68, June 26, 2025.

[995] *DW*, "Ecuador deporta a más de 800 presos colombianos" (Ecuador deports over 800 Colombian inmates), July 26, 2025; *Infobae*, "Ecuador deportó a más de 800 presos colombianos en un operativo que tensó la relación entre los gobiernos de Noboa y Petro" (Ecuador deports over 800 Colombian inmates in an operation that strains relations between the Noboa and Petro administrations), July 26, 2025.

[996] Republic of Ecuador, *Decreto Ejecutivo No. 123* (Executive Decree No. 123), September 12, 2025; *La República*, "Noboa firma decreto que pone fin a acuerdo migratorio con Venezuela" (Noboa signs decree ending immigration agreement with Venezuela), September 13, 2025.

[997] UNHCR, *Tendencias nacionales. El desplazamiento forzado en Ecuador 2025* (2025 national trends on forced displacement in Ecuador), June 20, 2025, p. 13.

[998] Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, *2025 Global Report on Internal Displacement*, May 13, 2025, p. 79.

435. With regard to the rights of **older persons**, the State offered a course titled "National Specialized System for the Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Older Persons" (SINEPIDPAM), which was attended by 3,500 technical personnel nationwide. Comprehensive care services for older persons living in poverty, vulnerable situations or in a state of neglect were strengthened by means of new residential nursing homes, day care centers and socialization spaces, as well as home care programs aimed at promoting active and healthy aging.[999] In addition, the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) set up state brigades in commemoration of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day to promote the respect for and the protection of the rights of older persons.[1000]

436. In terms of social welfare, retirees demanded an increase in their pensions, which currently ranges from 225 US dollars to 450 US dollars per month, while the basic food basket in Ecuador reportedly amounts to 800 US dollars.[1001] Still, the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS) ruled out the possibility of raising the retirement age.[1002]Reports also indicate high levels of poverty and informality affecting older persons, especially in urban areas such as Quito, where many continue to work in precarious or informal conditions to complement their income.[1003]

437. With respect to **persons deprived of liberty**, a polyclinic was opened in the Guayas No. 1 Detention Center in Guayaquil, which houses almost 20 percent of the country's detainees.[1004]

438. In terms of challenges, according to official data, as of July 25, 2025, Ecuador recorded 36,161 persons deprived of liberty, while its official prison capacity is 26,818 inmates,[1005] which means that overcrowding reaches 34.8 percent.[1006] The most critical situation is that at the Guayas No. 1 Detention Center, which has a 64 percent rate of overcrowding[1007] and hundreds of cases of tuberculosis.[1008]

439. The Commission noted with concern the numerous deaths of persons in custody. In this regard, in a press release of November 26, it condemned the deaths of at least 663 persons deprived of liberty

[999] Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the OAS, Note No. 4-2-208/2025 and Memorandum No. MREMH-DSI-2025-0525-M, September 3, 2025, pp. 27–32.

[1000] MIES, "Con brigada de servicios estatales, MIES conmemora la importancia de la toma de conciencia del abuso y maltrato en la vejez" (With a state brigade, MIES commemorates the importance of raising awareness about elder abuse and ill-treatment), June 10, 2025.

[1001] *La Hora*, "La mayoría de jubilados en Ecuador recibe menos de 450 al mes y se exige aumento de pensiones" (Most retirees in Ecuador earn less than 450 US dollars per month; pension increases are being demanded), July 2, 2025.

[1002] *La Hora*, "IESS asegura que no subirá edad de jubilación en Ecuador, mientras pensiones consumen el 70% de su presupuesto" (IESS assures that it will not raise the retirement age in Ecuador, while 70 percent of its budget is allocated to pensions), July 3, 2025.

[1003] *El Comercio*, "Ser adulto mayor en las calles de Quito sin pensión ni ingreso fijo: 'Si no vendo, no como'" (Being an older person in the streets of Quito without a pension or fixed income: "If I don't sell anything, I don't eat"), June 22, 2025.

[1004] National Service for Comprehensive Care for Adults Deprived of Liberty and Adolescent Offenders (SNAI), "SNAI inaugura policlínico en el CPL Guayas Nro. 1, el más poblado del país" (SNAI opens polyclinic at Guayas No. 1 Detention Center, the most populous penitentiary in the country), June 6, 2025.

[1005] World Prison Brief, Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research, World Prison Brief data - Ecuador, 2025, accessed on September 10, 2025.

[1006] The calculation was made by the IACHR based on available information; see: *El Diario*, "Hay más de 36 mil presos en Ecuador, algunas cárceles registran hacinamiento, según reportes del SNAI" (There are over 36,000 inmates in Ecuador, with some prisons experiencing overcrowding, according to SNAI's reports), September 9, 2025; *Sí se puede Ecuador*, "Hay más de 36 mil presos en Ecuador, algunas cárceles registran hacinamiento" (There are over 36,000 inmates in Ecuador, with some prisons experiencing overcrowding), September 10, 2025; and *La Marea*, "Hay más de 36 mil presos en Ecuador, algunas cárceles registran hacinamiento, según reportes del SNAI" (There are over 36,000 inmates in Ecuador, with some prisons experiencing overcrowding, according to SNAI's reports), September 10, 2025.

[1007] The calculation was made by the IACHR based on available information; see: *El Diario*, "Hay más de 36 mil presos en Ecuador, algunas cárceles registran hacinamiento, según reportes del SNAI" (There are over 36,000 inmates in Ecuador, with some prisons experiencing overcrowding, according to reports from the SNAI), September 9, 2025; *Sí se puede Ecuador*, "Hay más de 36 mil presos en Ecuador, algunas cárceles registran hacinamiento" (There are over 36,000 inmates in Ecuador, with some prisons experiencing overcrowding), September 10, 2025; and *La Marea*, "Hay más de 36 mil presos en Ecuador, algunas cárceles registran hacinamiento, según reportes del SNAI" (There are over 36,000 inmates in Ecuador, with some prisons experiencing overcrowding, according to SNAI's reports), September 10, 2025.

[1008] SINAI, "Se fortalece el Plan de Atención de Salud con el traslado de 401 internos del CPL Guayas" (Healthcare Plan strengthened with the transfer of 401 inmates from Guayas Detention Center), August 1, 2025.

in violent incidents between January 2020 and November 9, 2025, 72 of which occurred in 2025.[1009] It also condemned the deaths of 14 people in a riot in Machala on September 22, 2025,[1010] and of 17 people in the Esmeraldas massacre on September 25.[1011] In addition, the Commission noted that the civil society recorded 590 deaths due to health problems at the Guayas No. 1 Detention Center, which is also known as the "Penitenciaria del Litoral." The cause of this phenomenon is allegedly linked to deficient medical assistance, a lack of health measures to prevent the spread of diseases and extremely poor nutrition.[1012]

440. To address the crisis of violence within prisons, the executive branch issued decrees, in particular Decree No. 599 of April 12 and Decree No. 23 of June 10, authorizing military intervention in detention centers.[1013] However, in this landscape, there have been reports of human rights violations against persons deprived of liberty during the militarization of prisons. According to data submitted by the civil society, the Guayas No. 1, Esmeraldas and Cotopaxi detention centers give out insufficient food, present obstacles to accessing reinsertion programs and visits, and provide restricted health services, which includes delays in inmate transfers for medical appointments and to hospitals during emergencies.[1014] There have also been reports of violence against prison officers: at least eight officers were reportedly shot in 2025, five of whom died.[1015]

XV. EL SALVADOR

- **General considerations**

441. With regard to **progress**, the Commission highlights efforts made by the Republic of El Salvador (hereinafter, "El Salvador") to promote accessibility and inclusion within democratic institutions, such as measures aimed at facilitating voting by persons with disabilities, protocols to prevent political violence, and the application of a minimum 30 percent quota for women candidacies. It also notes actions aimed at recognizing the right to receive and provide care under conditions of equality and dignity, and at reducing gender gaps by means of co-responsibility for care and the economic empowerment of women. In addition, the Commission commends the development of the Protocol on Care of Women and Children Victims of Violence

[1009] IACHR, Press Release No. 12/25, IACHR urges Ecuador to take effective action to end ongoing prison violence, January 14, 2025.

[1010] IACHR [@CIDH], (September 23, 2025), #Ecuador: #CIDH condena la muerte de al menos 14 personas, entre ellas un guardia penitenciario, en el contexto de un motín ocurrido en la cárcel de #Machala de la provincia #ElOro el #22Sept, que también resultó en decenas de personas fugadas (…) (#Ecuador: The #IACHR condemns the death of at least 14 people, including a prison guard, in the context of a riot that occurred at the #Machala prison in the province of #ElOro on #SEPT22, which also resulted in dozens of fugitives […]) [X post], X, https://x.com/cidh/status/1970497035674542179?s=43.

[1011] *France 24*, "Un segundo motín carcelario en Ecuador deja al menos 17 muertos en Esmeraldas" (A second prison riot in Ecuador results in at least 17 dead in Esmeraldas), September 25, 2025; *DW*, "Al menos 17 muertos deja nueva masacre en cárcel de Ecuador" (At least 17 die in new massacre at a prison in Ecuador), September 25, 2025; *SWI swissinfo.ch*, "Las masacres en cárceles vuelven a sacudir a Ecuador con más de 30 muertos en tres días" (Prison massacres shake up Ecuador once again, with more than 30 dead in three days), September 26, 2025.

[1012] Alianza por los Derechos Humanos Ecuador, Statement: We demand an end to the latent prison massacre perpetuated by the Ecuadorian State in the Penitentiary of the Litoral, November 20, 2025.

[1013] United Nations Committee against Torture, *Information received from Ecuador on follow-up to the concluding observations on its eighth periodic report*, CAT/C/ECU/FCO/8, September 8, 2025, paras. 25 and 41; also see: Republic of Ecuador, Consultas de Decretos (Decree searches), 2025.

[1014] Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights [@CDHGYE], (September 15, 2025), #Pronunciamiento CDH denuncia 394 personas privadas de libertad fallecidas en cárceles de Guayaquil durante el 2,025 resultado de la ocupación militar (#Statement. The CDH reports that 394 persons deprived of liberty died in Guayaquil prisons during 2025 as a result of the military intervention) [X post], X, https://x.com/CDHGYE/status/1967586679197491694/photo/1; Committee of Relatives for a Dignified Life, Information received by the IACHR via email, September 16, 2025.

[1015] *Primicias*, "Guía penitenciaria fue asesinada cuando salía de la cárcel de Guayaquil, el 17 de septiembre" (Prison guard murdered as she leaves the Guayaquil prison on September 17), September 17, 2025; *El Universo*, "Guía penitenciaria fue asesinada a tiros frente a cárcel de Guayaquil" (Prison guard shot dead outside the Guayaquil prison), September 17, 2025; *El comercio*, "Guía penitenciaria fue asesinada en Guayaquil mientras esperaba un bus" (Prison guard murdered in Guayaquil while waiting for the bus), September 17, 2025.

established by the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ). The Commission further acknowledges the sustained significant reduction in the country's homicide rate.

442. With regard to the **challenges**, the Commission observes the excessive prolongation of the state of emergency, which has led to more than 88,000 detentions and mass claims of human rights violations. It also notes the approval of constitutional reforms enabling indefinite presidential reelection, as well as restrictions on civic space stemming from the detention of human rights defenders and the passing of the Foreign Agents Law. Access to justice for persons deprived of liberty and the conditions of their detention remain a concern, along with new allegations of torture and deaths of persons under state custody. The Commission also notes legislative reforms under which minors can be transferred to adult prisons.

443. On September 8, 2025, the State submitted its response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.[1016]

- **Specific issues**

444. With regard to **democratic institutionality**, the State reported that, since January, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) has advanced on the planning of the 2027 elections with instruments such as the General Elections Plan, the Institutional Strategic Plan and the Special Extraordinary Elections Budget.[1017] The TSE also adopted measures aimed at improving accessibility and promoting the inclusion of historically excluded groups, including the development of materials in accessible formats; training targeted at electoral personnel; preferential assistance for vulnerable groups; oversight of adaptations to polling stations for persons with disabilities; application of a minimum 30 percent quota for women candidacies; together with the implementation of protocols to prevent political violence. In addition, it reported efforts to strengthen the transparency and legitimacy of the electoral process, such as receiving international electoral observation missions.

445. On July 31, 2025, the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador passed and ratified a constitutional reform to lift the prohibition on presidential reelection, remove the loss of citizenship for those in favor of reelection, extend the presidential term to six years as of the next term, eliminate the second electoral round even without having an absolute majority of votes in the first round, and bring forward the end of the current presidential term to June 1, 2027.[1018] The Commission warned that altering the presidential term length, combined with enabling indefinite reelection, represents a serious setback for democracy and the Rule of Law in the country —not only due to the reform's content, but also due to the accelerated adoption of said reform without legislative debate or public consultation. In this regard, the State expressed that the possibility of reelection does not suppress power alternation, nor does it impose continuity, since it grants the Salvadoran people freedom to decide at the ballot box whether to continue or not with a particular political project.[1019] This constitutional reform followed ratification of another reform that enables approval and ratification of amendments to the Constitution within the same legislative period, whereas in the past said changes had to be processed within two different periods.[1020]

446. With regard to **human rights institutions**, the State of El Salvador reported several advances including the evaluation of the 2021–2025 National Equality Plan and the Action Plan for a Life Free of Violence,

[1016] Republic of El Salvador, Diplomatic Note No. MPOEA-OEA-104/2025, September 8, 2025, Annex: Report submitted by the State of El Salvador in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of Chapter IV of the *2025 Annual Report* (hereinafter, "*Report of the State of El Salvador*"), September 8, 2025. On IACHR´s files.

[1017] Republic of El Salvador, Report submitted by the State of El Salvador, September 8, 2025, pp. 1 and 2. On IACHR´s files.

[1018] Legislative Assembly, Legislative Decree No. 371, To ratify Constitutional Reform Agreement No. 3, dated July 31, 2025, published on the *Official Gazette No. 143*, Volume No. 448, of the same date, which includes amendments to Articles 75, 80, 152 and 154 of the Constitution of the Republic of El Salvador, July 31, 2025.

[1019] Republic of El Salvador, Diplomatic Note No. MPOEA-OEA-082/2025, August 6, 2025.

[1020] Amnesty International, El Salvador: Ratification of the constitutional reform deepens the risk of human rights abuses, February 6, 2025; Legislative Assembly, Legislative Decree No. 197, To ratify Constitutional Reform No. 1, dated April 29, 2024, January 29, 2025.

conducted in collaboration with several institutions and civil society organizations.[1021] It noted the implementation of public policies such as the 2022–2030 National Policy on the Co-responsibility for Care and MERCAMUJER (itinerant market to promote businesses created by Salvadoran women and contribute to their economic autonomy) as an economic empowerment strategy. In terms of training activities, the State held sessions for judges and magistrates to train them in evaluating evidence from a human rights perspective, as well as programs on the rights of women by the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women targeted at public officials and the general population. In addition, the State noted the holding of the First Global Summit on Human Rights in September 2025.

447. As for **citizen security**, the State indicated that it has achieved unprecedented progress, consolidating a structural transformation with a drastic reduction in criminality since 2019 and the strengthening of the justice system with a human rights approach.[1022] It highlighted that the homicide rate has dropped from 35.8 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2019 to 1.9 in 2024, and noted an investigative effectiveness rate of above 98 percent in case resolution. The State affirmed that this transformation relies on its Territorial Control Plan and the state of emergency, along with innovative tools such as the Homicide Resolution Protocol, which reportedly allow for case resolution in less than 72 hours. It indicated that these achievements also translate into tangible economic benefits for the population. The State further reported other measures such as strategic operations to capture those responsible for homicides and gang leaders, the seizure of tons of drugs, and cooperation with the United States for the deportation and detention of gang members. It also noted efforts related to prevention and victim care, such as those implemented by the Specialized Units for Women and Human Rights of the National Civil Police.

448. In addition, the Commission reiterated its concern over the excessive and indefinite prolongation of the state of emergency declared on March 27, 2022. According to the State, the measure continues to be justified to neutralize the persistence and reorganization of criminal structures, prevent recruitment of minors on social media, address transnational criminal networks and consolidate advances in security and the historic reduction in homicides.[1023] In this regard, the Commission recalled its recommendation to end the suspension of rights and guarantees restricted under the state of emergency and to develop and implement an evidenced-based, comprehensive, multisectoral citizen security policy addressing the causes and consequences of criminality with a human rights perspective. The Commission also noted that, as of August, more than 88,000 people[1024] had been detained in that context, with approximately 7,000 claims of human rights violations due to arbitrary detentions, torture and the deaths of more than 400[1025] persons deprived of liberty.[1026] It also voiced its concern over the application of provisions of the state of emergency and the fight against organized crime to situations unrelated to the grounds alleged by the State, including the detention of human rights defenders and their continued pretrial *incommunicado* detention.

[1021] Republic of El Salvador, Report submitted by the State of El Salvador, September 8, 2025, pp. 3–5. On IACHR's files.
[1022] *Ibid.*, pp. 11-12.
[1023] Legislative Assembly, Legislative Decree No. 439, To extend up to December 1, 2025 the provisions of Decree Law 333/22 by means of which the state of emergency was established, to continue with the restoration of order, citizen security, and territorial control, October 29, 2025; Legislative Assembly, Legislative Decree No. 372, To extend up to September 2, 2025 the provisions of Decree Law the provisions of Decree Law 333/22 by means of which the state of emergency was established, to continue with the restoration of order, citizen security, and territorial control, July 31, 2025.
[1024] According to public information, that figure had exceeded 89,000 people by November 2025. See: *SWI*, "Víctimas de la 'guerra' antipandillas piden el fin del régimen de excepción en El Salvador" (Victims of the anti-gang 'war' call for end to state of emergency in El Salvador), November 12, 2025; *Diario El Mundo*, "Villatoro dice tienen '89,000 registros de detenciones' en el régimen de excepción" (Villatoro says they have 89,000 detention records under the state of emergency), August 27, 2025.
[1025] As indicated below, according to information from the organization Socorro Jurídico Humanitario (SJH), as of October 31, a total of 450 people had reportedly died under state custody. See: *La Prensa Gráfica*, "148 privados de libertad tuvieron muerte violenta en el marco del régimen, según informe de SJH" (148 persons deprived of liberty suffered violent deaths under the regime, according to SJH report), November 4, 2025.
[1026] Human Rights Watch, "El Salvador: Police Officers Speak Out About Abuses," June 27, 2025; Passionist Social Service (SSPAS), Human Rights Institute of the Central American University José Simeón Cañas (IDHUCA), Center for the Study of Sexual and Gender Diversity (AMATE), Salvadoran Network of Women Human Rights Defenders, Foundation for Law Application (FESPAD), Azul Originario Association, Bilbao, Community Development Association (ADECO), *Tres años de régimen de excepción: tortura sistemática en las cárceles de El Salvador* (Three years of state of emergency: systematic torture in El Salvador's prisons), March 2025.

449. With regard to **access to justice and judicial independence**, the State listed the efforts made by several institutions.[1027] The CSJ created the Specialized Coordination Unit on Cases Involving Groups in Situations of Vulnerability and Hate Crimes in the Criminal Chamber to ensure a gender-sensitive analysis. It is also developing an artificial intelligence tool to systematize case-law, implementing a platform to help optimize procedural management. It is conducting multiple training sessions for justice operators on topics such as gender-based reparations and due diligence in forced disappearance cases. In addition, the CSJ developed a Protocol on the Care of Women and Children Victims of Violence to reduce secondary victimization, standardize services, and strengthen institutional coordination, with a focus on equality and trauma-informed care.

450. With regard to the investigation of crimes, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (FGR) reported that, to fight impunity and safeguard victims' rights, it had initiated 68,634 investigations as of August, out of which 19,078 had been brought to court.[1028] It noted that the Technical Working Group of the Office of the Deputy Prosecutor Office for Women, Children, Adolescents and Other Vulnerable Groups is a monthly coordination space targeted at heads of units and prosecutorial personnel to improve victims' care and investigative effectiveness. It also mentioned the implementation of specialized instruments with a gender and intersectional perspective, in addition to existing specialized units with multidisciplinary teams within the FGR.

451. Additionally, the Office of the Public Defender of the Republic reported the specialization of its services to provide differentiated assistance to historically excluded groups.[1029] It indicated that, as of June, 3,253 women had received services from the specialized units for women; that the specialized units for children and adolescents had provided direct assistance services in 6,593 cases and had offered legal advice in 10,139 legal cases; that the Integrated Center for Psychosocial Care for Children and Adolescents had carried out 174 legal representations and 36 visits to care homes; that it had supported families in cases involving irregular land parcels; and that, as of August, it had undertaken 498 administrative actions in support of victims of the massacre of El Mozote and surrounding areas. Additionally, it reported the use of technology to bring its services closer to the population, eliminating geographic and economic barriers,[1030] as well as the implementation of mediation and conciliation as key tools for conflict resolution.

452. In turn, during a hearing held in March 2025, the participant organizations reiterated to the Commission the deterioration of judicial independence taking place in the country, marked by arbitrary transfers, disciplinary sanctions, political pressures and the co-optation of key bodies such as the National Council of the Judiciary, which has had a direct impact on access to justice.[1031] They indicated that these interferences have led to the widespread use of pretrial detention in merely formal judicial hearings and the failure to execute release orders, particularly affecting people detained under the state of emergency and those reporting state abuses. According to the information presented, the lack of effective judicial oversight and the inability to challenge arbitrary actions have consolidated a system of selective impunity, in which cases against state agents fail to progress, whereas proceedings against human rights defenders, community leaders and government critics move forward rapidly and without guarantees.

453. There is also concern about the measures adopted to address the overload of the justice system in the country. According to public information, the Supreme Court of Justice has taken up to three years to resolve *habeas corpus* petitions filed during the state of emergency.[1032] In addition, the Attorney General of the Republic (FGR) has publicly stated that 291 employees of the FGR are responsible for investigating more

[1027] Republic of El Salvador, Report submitted by the State of El Salvador, September 8, 2025, pp. 12–16. On IACHR's files.
[1028] *Ibid.*, pp. 3–5.
[1029] *Ibid.*, pp. 12–16.
[1030] In particular, it listed the Virtual Care Center, which provides legal guidance and advice without requiring people moving; the nationwide free and specialized Public Criminal Defense Unit service, operating continuously; and the Mobile Services Unit, which brings legal and psychosocial assistance to rural and hard-to-reach communities, benefiting 1,045 people in 2025.
[1031] IACHR, thematic hearing "El Salvador: Status of judicial independence," 192nd regular period of sessions, March 4, 2025.
[1032] *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Corte Suprema de Justicia tarda tres años en responder habeas corpus en favor de capturados del régimen de excepción" (Supreme Court of Justice takes three years to respond to *habeas corpus* petitions for those detained under the state of emergency), September 28, 2025.

than 82,000 people, resulting in an average of 282 accused people per staff member.[1033] In that context, the Commission is alarmed by the adoption of Legislative Decree No. 383, which once again extends criminal investigation and pretrial detention periods, allowing the FGR to file charges against persons detained due to alleged organized crime-related offenses until 2027.[1034] Moreover, with respect to the criteria established on criminal prosecution that put together hundreds of persons in mass trials based on factors such as place of residence at the time of arrest, the Commission warns of the need to respect the presumption of innocence, due process and judicial guarantees of the accused.[1035]

454. According to official information, as of August 14, a total of 88,750 **persons were deprived of liberty** during the regime.[1036] Based on civil society estimates, which show a total of 100,812 persons deprived of liberty —accounting for nearly 2.6 percent of the total adult population deprived of liberty— El Salvador's incarceration rate stands at 1,824 detainees per 100,000 inhabitants.[1037] This positions it as the country with the highest incarceration rate in the world.[1038] Furthermore, according to the World Bank, of the total incarcerated population, only 23 percent have been convicted, while the remaining 77 percent are awaiting charges or trial.[1039]

455. In addition, the Commission reiterates its concern over the deplorable conditions of detention, characterized by a severe overcrowding rate of 269.5 percent —taking into account the actual number of detainees against the established capacity of 27,280 people.[1040] Testimonies from people who has been released gathered by the civil society and the press describe unsanitary conditions in prisons; exposed toilets in cells; poor or no ventilation or natural light; lack of beds or mattresses; shortage of water for consumption and hygiene; decomposed food; denial of medical care and systematic use of torture.[1041] Some of these conditions pose serious risks to the lives and integrity of those detained and have even caused deaths. In this

[1033] *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Hay 291 fiscales para 82,078 procesados durante régimen de excepción en El Salvador" (There are 291 prosecutors in charge of the cases of 82,078 people prosecuted during state of emergency in El Salvador), October 21, 2025.

[1034] Legislative Assembly, Legislative Decree No.° 383, Amendments to Law against Organized Crime, August 15, 2025; *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Asamblea aprueba reformas a la Ley contra el Crimen Organizado" (Assembly passes reforms to Law against Organized Crime), August 15, 2025; *SWI*, "Aprueban una reforma para ampliar el tiempo de la detención provisional en El Salvador" (A reform to extend the pretrial detention period in El Salvador was adopted), August 15, 2025; *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Capturados en régimen de excepción quedan en incertidumbre tras finalización del Decreto 803 y reforma a Ley de Crimen Organizado" (Detainees under state of emergency left in uncertainty after expiration of Decree 803 and amendment to Law against Organized Crime), August 25, 2025.

[1035] *La Prensa Gráfica*, "MOVIR muestra preocupación por juicios masivos que podrían durar meses en El Salvador" (Movement of Victims of the Regime (MOVIR) expresses concern over mass trials that could last months in El Salvador), October 3, 2025; *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Capturados en régimen de excepción comienzan a ser agrupados por ubicación geográfica" (Detainees under state of emergency begin to be grouped by geographic location), October 31, 2025.

[1036] Legislative Assembly, Government of El Salvador, "Pleno aprueba reformar Ley Contra Crimen Organizado para ampliar plazos de detención" (Plenary Assembly passes reform to Law against Organized Crime to extend detention periods), August 15, 2025; and "Reforma a la Ley Contra Crimen Organizado ampliaría plazos de detención" (Reform to the Law against Organized Crime to extend detention periods), August 14, 2025. According to public information, that figure had exceeded 89,000 people by November 2025. See: *SWI*, "Víctimas de la 'guerra' antipandillas piden el fin del régimen de excepción en El Salvador" (Victims of the anti-gang 'war' call for end to state of emergency in El Salvador), November 12, 2025; *Diario El Mundo*, "Villatoro dice tienen '89,000 registros de detenciones' en el régimen de excepción" (Villatoro says they have 89,000 detention records under the state of emergency) August 27, 2025.

[1037] Azul Originario, AMATE, FESPAD, IDHUCA, Salvadoran Network of Women Human Rights Defenders and SSPAS, *Tres años de régimen de excepción: Tortura sistemática en las cárceles de El Salvador* (Three years of state of emergency: systematic torture in El Salvador's prisons), March 2025, p. 35.

[1038] World Prison Brief, Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research, Birkbeck at University of London, Highest to Lowest - Prison Population Rate – Entire world, 2025.

[1039] Azul Originario, AMATE, FESPAD, IDHUCA, Salvadoran Network of Women Human Rights Defenders and SSPAS, *Tres años de régimen de excepción: Tortura sistemática en las cárceles de El Salvador* (Three years of state of emergency: systematic torture in El Salvador's prisons), March 2025, p. 35.

[1040] *Ibid*.

[1041] *Ibid*., pp. 57, 58, 59, 63, 64, 90; *La Prensa Gráfica*, "'Bienvenidos al cementerio de hombres vivos': la brutalidad en la megacárcel de Bukele que denuncian 8 de los venezolanos deportados por EUA a El Salvador" ("Welcome to the cemetery of living men": brutality in Bukele's megaprison reported by eight Venezuelans deported by the United States to El Salvador), August 18, 2025; *BBC*, "'We lived through hell,' say Venezuelans released from mega-prison in El Salvador," July 25, 2025; and *El salvador.com*, "Venezuelan prosecutor's office opens investigation against Bukele for possible torture of migrants at CECOT," July 21, 2025; see also: *El tiempo*, "'De aquí no van a salir nunca, solo en bolsas negras': venezolanos relatan cómo es la cárcel de máxima seguridad de El Salvador tras ser liberados" ("You will never get out of here, only in body bags": Venezuelans describe El Salvador's maximum security prison after being released), July 27, 2025.

scenario, as of October 31, 450 people had reportedly died under state custody since the beginning of the regime,[1042] including at least 25 women.[1043]

456. In relation to the allegations of torture, the Commission condemns the extremely violent practices documented by civil society organizations and the press, based on testimonies from survivors who had been detained at the CECOT. According to available information, practices at the CECOT included daily and constant beatings; asphyxiation using water tanks; sexual violence (rape, forced oral sex, forced nudity, and intrusive body searches), the use of pepper spray, rubber bullets, psychological abuse, placement in isolation and punishment cells without access to ventilation or natural light; and permanent exposure to intense artificial lighting.[1044]

457. For their part, women held in detention reportedly face several forms of abuse, exploitation, and sexual violence, including the extortion and rape by prison guards against those who had no assistance from their families. These women were forced to engage in sexual acts in exchange for sanitary towels, toilet paper, or other hygiene items.[1045] In addition, the civil society have reported burial pits in the Izalco and Apanteos prison facilities where fetuses from women who suffered miscarriages —allegedly due to inadequate conditions to sustain their pregnancies— are buried; some of those pregnancies reportedly resulted from rape.[1046]

458. In addition to the foregoing, the Commission is concerned about the fact that families of persons deprived of liberty under the state of emergency regime are not informed on their relative's detention, their place of confinement and the conditions of detention. This occurs in a context in which persons held at the CECOT face an absolute prohibition of contact with the outside world.[1047]

459. In addition, according to its Annual Report, between May 2024 and April 2025, the Office of the Prosecutor for the Defense of Human Rights (PDDH) conducted 419 inspections of prison facilities, centers for children and adolescents, detention centers, and hospitals holding persons deprived of liberty. It also recorded that 7,915 people requested its intervention to learn about the situation of persons deprived of

[1042] *La Prensa Gráfica*, "148 privados de libertad tuvieron muerte violenta en el marco del régimen, según informe de SJH" (148 persons deprived of liberty suffered violent deaths under the regime, according to SJH report), November 4, 2025.

[1043] *El Mundo*, "Al menos 25 mujeres han muerto en las cárceles durante el régimen de excepción, según organizaciones feministas" (At least 25 women have died in prisons during the state of emergency, according to feminist organizations), March 8, 2025.

[1044] Information provided to the IACHR by civil society organizations in the context of a meeting, August 27, 2025; Azul Originario, AMATE, FESPAD, IDHUCA, Salvadoran Network of Women Human Rights Defenders and SSPAS, *Tres años de régimen de excepción: Tortura sistemática en las cárceles de El Salvador* (Three years of state of emergency: systematic torture in El Salvador's prisons), March 2025, pp. 62, 63, 64, 90; Human Rights Watch, "'You Have Arrived in Hell' Torture and Other Abuses Against Venezuelans in El Salvador's Mega Prison," November 12, 2025; *La Prensa Gráfica*, "'Bienvenidos al cementerio de hombres vivos': la brutalidad en la megacárcel de Bukele que denuncian 8 de los venezolanos deportados por EUA a El Salvador" ("Welcome to the cemetery of living men": brutality in Bukele's mega-prison reported by eight Venezuelans deported by the United States to El Salvador), August 18, 2025; *BBC*, "'We lived through hell,' say Venezuelans released from mega-prison in El Salvador," July 25, 2025; *El salvador.com*, "Venezuelan Prosecutor's Office opens investigation against Bukele for possible torture of migrants in the CECOT," July 21, 2025; see also: *El tiempo*, "'De aquí no van a salir nunca, solo en bolsas negras': venezolanos relatan cómo es la cárcel de máxima seguridad de El Salvador tras ser liberados" ("You will never get out of here, only in body bags": Venezuelans describe El Salvador's maximum security prison after being released), July 27, 2025.

[1045] Azul Originario, AMATE, FESPAD, IDHUCA, Salvadoran Network of Women Human Rights Defenders and SSPAS, *Tres años de régimen de excepción: Tortura sistemática en las cárceles de El Salvador* (Three years of state of emergency: systematic torture in El Salvador's prisons), March 2025, p. 62; *Elementos*, "Juzgado liberó a militar que usaba régimen de excepción para chantajear sexualmente a mujeres" (Court frees soldier who used state of emergency to sexually extort women), September 24, 2025; Human Rights Watch, "El Salvador: Police officers speak out about abuses," June 27, 2025; *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Piden investigar agresiones sexuales contra mujeres privadas de libertad en El Salvador" (Calls made to investigate sexual assaults against women deprived of liberty in El Salvador), October 4, 2025; *El Salvador.com*, "Custodians demand sex in exchange for sanitary napkins, according to organizations," April 15, 2025; SSPAS, *Tres años de régimen de excepción: tortura sistemática en las cárceles de El Salvador* (Three years of state of emergency: systematic torture in El Salvador's prisons), March 2025.

[1046] Human Rights Observatory of the Central American University José Simeón Cañas, El Salvador's Press Archive, April 4, 2025; *El Diario de Hoy*, "Abogada denuncia que han enterrado fetos en fosas clandestinas en las prisiones" (A lawyer reports burial of fetuses in clandestine pits in prisons), April 4, 2025; *El Salvador.com*, "Lawyer reports that fetuses have been buried in clandestine graves in prisons," April 4, 2025; and *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Documentan abusos contra bebés y mujeres en prisión durante régimen de excepción" (Abuses against babies and women in prison were documented during the state of emergency), April 7, 2025.

[1047] Information provided to the IACHR by civil society organizations during a meeting, August 27, 2025.

liberty.[1048] According to the head of the office, in October no complaints of torture in places of deprivation of liberty had been received.[1049] Human rights organizations and families of detainees under the state of emergency reacted by pointing to previously filed complaints and by submitting new complaints regarding various violations of human rights, including cases of torture.[1050]

460. As for the rights of **children and adolescents**, the Commission voiced its concern over the legislative reforms affecting the rights of this population. In February 2025, legislation authorizing the transfer of people under 18 facing criminal charges to adult prison facilities, albeit in separate modules, was adopted. This law contravenes international juvenile justice standards.[1051] In this regard, in a joint statement, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, the OHCHR office in El Salvador and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) warned that the reforms violated international human rights instruments and standards, such as the Beijing Rules.[1052]

461. During 2025, there were alarming reports on the detention of **human rights defenders** and the passing of the Foreign Agents Law, which could restrict the legitimate operation of civil society organizations and the civic space in the country.

462. In this regard, the Commission expressed its concern over the detention of lawyer Enrique Anaya, which took place on June 17 in Santa Tecla, where he is reportedly being accused of money laundering.[1053] The Commission granted precautionary measures in his favor, considering that there is a serious risk to his rights to life, health, and personal integrity, given the impossibility of knowing about his health condition as a result of the fact that he has been detained *incommunicado* since his transfer to La Occidental Prison for Persons Deprived of Liberty, Foreigners and Officials.[1054]

463. In addition, the Commission voiced its deep concern over allegations of short-term forced disappearance of human rights defender Ruth López, a member of the CRISTOSAL organization, who was detained by state security forces on May 18 by means of an administrative order issued by the Office of the Attorney General.[1055] Subsequently, the Commission learned that on June 2, the Office of the Attorney General filed formal charges against her for the crime of illicit enrichment. On June 4, the human rights defender was

[1048] *Diario El Mundo*, "Casi 8,000 personas pidieron intervención de PDDH para conocer la condición de sus familiares en prisión" (Nearly 8,000 people requested intervention from the PDDH to know about the condition of their relatives in prison), September 3, 2025; *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos realizó 199 inspecciones menos en centros penales entre 2024 y 2025" (The PDDH conducted 199 fewer inspections of prison facilities between 2024 and 2025), August 28, 2025.

[1049] *El Diario de Hoy*, "MOVIR llama a recibir al nuevo titular de la PDDH con denuncias de violaciones a derechos" (MOVIR calls upon welcoming the new head of the PDDH with complaints of human rights violations), October 14, 2025; *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Procuradora de Derechos Humanos afirma no haber recibido denuncias de torturas en cárceles" (Prosecutor for the Defense of Human Rights claims not having received complaints of torture in prisons), October 6, 2025.

[1050] *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Organizaciones desmienten a procuradora de derechos humanos de El Salvador por denuncias en régimen de excepción" (Organizations refute El Salvador Prosecutor for the Defense of Human Rights' claims on state of emergency complaints), October 7, 2025; *La Prensa Gráfica*, "MOVIR presenta 150 denuncias ante PDDH por capturas arbitrarias, torturas y falta de atención médica durante régimen de excepción" (MOVIR files 150 complaints with the PDDH over arbitrary detentions, torture and lack of medical care during state of emergency), October 21, 2025; *Diario El Mundo*, "85 personas del Movir presentan denuncias ante la PDDH y piden verificaciones médicas a detenidos" (85 MOVIR members file complaints with the PDDH and request medical checks for detainees), October 24, 2025.

[1051] Legislative Assembly, Legislative Decree No. 225, Amendments to the Juvenile Criminal Law, February 12, 2025; Human Rights Watch, "El Salvador: Children to be moved to adult prisons," February 24, 2025; Amnesty International, "El Salvador: Criminal law reforms exacerbate human rights violations against children and adolescents," February 26, 2025.

[1052] UNICEF, "Joint Statement by CRC, OHCHR, UNICEF and UNFPA on reforms to the Juvenile Penal Law and Penitentiary Law in El Salvador," February 13, 2025.

[1053] *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Detienen al abogado Enrique Anaya" (Lawyer Enrique Anaya arrested), June 7, 2025; *La Prensa Gráfica*, "'Estamos peor que al inicio. No sabemos dónde está': Se desconoce paradero de Enrique Anaya" ("We are even worse than at the beginning: We don't know where he is." Enrique Anaya's whereabouts unknown), June 8, 2025.

[1054] IACHR, Resolution No. 67/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 929-25, Salvador Enrique Anaya Barraza regarding El Salvador, September 22, 2025.

[1055] *El Diario de Hoy*, "Capturan a Ruth López, abogada y directora área jurídica de Cristosal" (Ruth López, lawyer and Cristosal legal director arrested), May 18, 2025; *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Expertas de la ONU piden proteger a Ruth López, quien ya cumplió 12 días detenida" (UN experts call to protect Ruth López, detained for 12 days) May 30, 2025.

ordered provisional detention for six months and the case is under seal.[1056] In September 2025, the Commission granted precautionary measures in her favor in light of information received on possible irreparable risks to her life and personal integrity, as she is held in *incommunicado* detention, without certain and sufficient information about her conditions of detention or the possibility to verify her current situation after her transfer to the Granja de Izalco Women's Penitentiary.[1057]

464. Other cases include the detention of Fidel Zavala, which took place on February 25, and the issuance of arrest warrants against Ivania Cruz and Rudy Joya, defenders of the Human and Community Rights Defense Unit (UNIDEHC).[1058] In addition, the Commission learned of the detention of Félix Ángel López Cañas in February, without an administrative or judicial order, as an attempt to intimidate his father, Félix López, a labor defender of former public officials who had been dismissed.[1059] The Commission expressed concern over the application of state of emergency provisions and other measures to fight against organized crime to situations that bear no relation to the grounds alleged by the State, as in the cases noted above.[1060]

465. Moreover, at the public hearing "Consequences of the closure of civic space for human rights defenders in El Salvador," civil society organizations reported to the Commission on the State's continued use of social media to stigmatize human rights defenders, as well as the use of the state of emergency to criminalize them, with at least 34 cases recorded. They highlighted the impact that stigmatization, persecution and the risk of criminalization have had on human rights advocacy, noting that at least 130 people have left the country, out of which 33 are human rights defenders.[1061] Further attacks and threats against women human rights defenders and journalists were also reported.[1062]

466. In addition, the Commission also expressed its concern regarding the passing of the Foreign Agents Law, which sets forth obligations on natural or legal persons, whether national or foreign, whose activities in El Salvador are funded with funds coming from abroad, including their mandatory registration in a registry at the Ministry of Government and a 30 percent withholding tax on all funds received.[1063] Failure to comply may result in fines ranging from 100,000 to 250,000 US dollars, suspension or cancellation of their legal personality or their authorization to operate, as well as administrative or criminal liability. The Commission considers that the established taxation scheme may render organizations and alternative or community media outlets that defend human rights and depend on international cooperation funds financially unsustainable.

467. The Commission expressed its concern upon learning of the closure of CRISTOSAL's operations in El Salvador due to the criminalization of its members and the imposition of the Foreign Agents

[1056] Amnesty International, "El Salvador: Amnistía Internacional declara a Ruth Eleonora López, a Alejandro Henríquez y a José Ángel Pérez como personas presas de conciencia en un contexto de creciente represión" (El Salvador: Amnesty International declares Ruth Eleonora López, Alejandro Henríquez and José Ángel Pérez prisoners of conscience amid growing repression), June 30, 2025; *France 24*, "La abogada salvadoreña Ruth López continuará en prisión tras la audiencia inicial de su proceso penal" (Salvadoran lawyer Ruth López to remain in prison following initial hearing), June 5, 2025.

[1057] IACHR, Resolution No. 66/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 667-25, Ruth Eleonora López Alfaro regarding El Salvador, September 22, 2025.

[1058] Amnesty International, El Salvador: Fidel Zavala, human rights defender, at risk of torture and other ill-treatment, April 8, 2025; International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), "El Salvador: Intimidación y traslado de Fidel Zavala a Centro Penal La Esperanza (Mariona) y cargos judiciales contra miembros de UNIDEHC" (El Salvador: Intimidation and transfer of Fidel Zavala to La Esperanza Prison (Mariona) and judicial charges against UNIDEHC members), April 29, 2025.

[1059] *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Denuncian captura arbitraria de hijo de defensor de derechos laborales" (Arbitrary arrest of labor rights defender's son is reported), February 20, 2025; *El Salvador,* "Denuncian que hijo de defensor de DDHH fue detenido sin orden judicial" (Son of human rights defender detained without judicial order), February 20, 2025.

[1060] IACHR, Press Release No. 162/25, IACHR reiterates concern over prolonged and improper use of state of emergency in El Salvador, August 14, 2025.

[1061] IACHR, thematic hearing "El Salvador: Consequences of the closing of civic space for human rights defenders," 193rd regular period of sessions, July 23, 2025.

[1062] *YSUCA,* "Fiscalía modifica acusación contra periodistas y se niega a proporcionar información sobre el caso" (Office of the Attorney General modifies charges against journalists and refuses to provide information on the case), January 21, 2025; World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), "El Salvador: Expresamos preocupación ante la CIDH por la delicada situación que están enfrentando defensoras y defensores de derechos humanos" (The Organization expresses concern to IACHR over the serious situation faced by human rights defenders), July 23, 2025; *Revista la Brújula*, "Cuando la verdad se paga con la libertad: el relato de Mónica Rodríguez" (When truth is paid for with liberty: the story of Mónica Rodríguez), September 3, 2025.

[1063] Legislative Assembly, Legislative Decree No. 308, Foreign Agents Law, May 20, 2025.

Law, which would prevent them from continuing their work freely. It recalled that while States have the authority to regulate the registration, supervision and oversight of civil society organizations under their jurisdiction, the right to free association requires that legal requirements do not obstruct, delay or restrict the creation or operation of such organizations. Furthermore, States must promote and facilitate human rights organizations' access to national and foreign financial cooperation funds and refrain from restricting their sources of funding.[1064] In addition, and in connection with the enactment of the Foreign Agents Law, in September the Commission learned of the closure of Foundation for Law Application (FESPAD) after nearly 37 years of operation, as well as the announcement of the dissolution of the Foundation for the Development of Social Sciences (FUDECSO) after 33 years of work in the country.[1065]

468. With regard to **persons in the context of human mobility,** the Commission learned that El Salvador signed an agreement with the United States whereby El Salvador agreed to receive up to 300 people identified by U.S. authorities as members of the Tren de Aragua organization for a one-year period, with the possibility of extending such term.[1066] In exchange, El Salvador would receive a financial stipend. According to public information, on March 17, 2025, under this agreement, the U.S. government reportedly deported 261 Venezuelan and Salvadoran nationals to El Salvador.[1067]

469. In response to this situation, the Commission requested information from the State of El Salvador regarding the scope of the signed agreement, confirmation of the total number and the identity of the people deported to El Salvador, the legal basis for their detention at the CECOT, actions to ensure due process of law guarantees in detention procedures, as well as measures to guarantee access to healthcare, medication, humanitarian assistance, and communication with family members and legal representatives.[1068]

470. In its response, the State indicated that its role was limited to facilitating the use of prison infrastructure for the "reception, safeguarding, and custody" of these people. It added that jurisdiction and legal responsibility lay exclusively with the United States authorities, in line with international agreements and the principles of sovereignty and international cooperation in criminal matters. On that basis, it argued that it could not provide information or make observations with regard to: i) the decisions or actions of another State; ii) agreements with another State without that State's consent; iii) the application of specific legislation by third States; iv) the identification or registration by a State of people as belonging to groups classified as terrorist; v) the judicial proceedings by means of which a person's deprivation of liberty is ordered and which have been heard by or depend on decisions by authorities of another State; and vi) the information mechanisms that another State establishes for the relatives of detainees.[1069]

471. In July, the Commission learned of the Salvadoran government's decision to send back the detained Venezuelan nationals from the CECOT to Venezuela.[1070] The Commission has no information on

[1064] IACHR, *Segundo informe sobre la situación de las defensoras y defensores de derechos humanos en las Américas* (Second report on the situation of human rights defenders in the Americas), OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 66, December 31, 2011, paras. 163 and 179.

[1065] FESPAD, "Fespad cierra operaciones como fundación" (FESPAD closes operations as foundation), September 4, 2025; *Swissinfo.ch*, "La ONG Fudecso anuncia su disolución en El Salvador ante la actual situación política" (FUDECSO NGO announces dissolution in El Salvador amid current political situation), September 8, 2025.

[1066] U.S. Department of State, United States, Qualifying Non-binding instruments. Case Act Reporting, May 2025, n/d. IACHR, Press Release No. 065/25, IACHR concerned over United States' measures that impact the effective exercise of human rights, March 31, 2025.

[1067] The White House [@WhiteHouse], (March 17, 2025), Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt Briefs Members of the Media [X post], X, https://x.com/WhiteHouse/status/1901683343697072328.

[1068] IACHR, Letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights, CIDH/SE/ART.41/05-2025/544 regarding the situation of people deported to El Salvador, May 12, 2025. On IACHR´s files.

[1069] Republic of El Salvador, Diplomatic Note No. MPOEA-OEA-043/2025– Annex: Response by the State of El Salvador to the IACHR to communication CIDH/SE/ART.41/05-2025/544 regarding the situation of people deported to El Salvador, May 27, 2025, p. 2. On IACHR´s files.

[1070] *BBC News*, "Bukele devuelve a Caracas a los migrantes deportados por EE.UU. a El Salvador a cambio de la liberación de 10 estadounidenses y decenas de presos venezolanos" (Bukele returns to Caracas migrants deported by the U.S. to El Salvador in exchange for release of 10 Americans and dozens of Venezuelan prisoners), July 18, 2025. *El País*, "El Gobierno de Bukele devuelve a los venezolanos deportados a cambio de presos políticos y estadounidenses detenidos en Venezuela" (The Bukele administration returns Venezuelans who were deported in exchange for political prisoners and U.S. citizens detained in Venezuela), July 18, 2025. *DW*, "Bukele entrega 'todos' los venezolanos presos en El Salvador" (Bukele handed over "all" Venezuelan nationals detained in El Salvador), July 18, 2025.

compliance with due process guarantees in the procedures leading to their deportation to Venezuela. Moreover, it took note of allegations of possible acts of torture, as well as other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.[1071] Information from civil society organizations[1072] and media outlets[1073] indicates that these people had no contact with their families or access to legal representation during their detention in El Salvador. Nor were they reportedly notified of the reasons for their detention or of the possibility to resort to judicial remedies to review it.

472. With regard to **human trafficking**, the Commission takes note of actions carried out in February and March by the Office of the Attorney General[1074] and the Second Court against Organized Crime of San Salvador. These actions led to the dismantling of a human trafficking network for aggravated sexual exploitation, as well as the detention and initiation of an investigation against the members of said criminal structure, in accordance with the evidence presented by the Office of the Attorney General.[1075]

473. As for **internal displacement**, figures from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, published in May 2025, indicate that by the end of 2024, 39,000 displacements related to conflict and violence and 5,500 displacements related to disasters were recorded.[1076]

474. In relation to the **human rights of women**, the Women Peacebuilders Project was launched to develop the technical capacity of women leaders as community mediators, thereby helping prevent violence and conflict.[1077] Additionally, between June 2024 and May 2025, the FGR recorded 82 femicides and 8,038 cases of sexual violence, the leading form of gender-based violence reported, accounting for 42 percent of all the complaints.[1078] Civil society organizations registered 16 femicides between January and August 2025, nine of which were committed by the victim's partner.[1079] These figures align with the high number of comprehensive services provided by specialized units for women victims of violence. Between January and July 2025, the National Police's UNIMUJER (unit specialized on women care) offered comprehensive care to 2,139 victims, 2,625 legal consultations and 1,150 protection measures,[1080] while the Specialized Centers for Women reported it had provided assistance in 3,253 cases.[1081] Physical assaults, threats, harassment, stalking, and even extortion and sexual aggression against women sex workers were also reported.[1082]

[1071] Human Rights Watch, "'You Have Arrived in Hell' Torture and Other Abuses Against Venezuelans in El Salvador's Mega Prison," November 12, 2025.

[1072] *Ibid.*; Global Strategic Council Litigation, "Coalition Demands Action as New Evidence Reveals Abuses of Migrants in El Salvador's CECOT Prison," August 1, 2025.

[1073] *BBC*, "'Bienvenidos al cementerio de hombres vivos': la brutalidad en la megacárcel de Bukele que denuncian 8 de los venezolanos deportados por EE.UU. a El Salvador" ("Welcome to the cemetery of living men": brutality in Bukele's mega-prison reported by eight Venezuelans deported by the United States to El Salvador), August 18, 2025

[1074] Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, "Fiscalía desarticula red de trata de personas y lavado de dinero que operaba en zona aledaña al centro de San Salvador" (Office of the Attorney General dismantled a human trafficking and money laundering network operating in areas near downtown San Salvador), February 25, 2025.

[1075] Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, "Estructura dedicada a la trata de personas en modalidad de explotación sexual continuará en detención provisional" (Structure dedicated to human trafficking for sexual exploitation to remain in pretrial detention), March 14, 2025.

[1076] Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2025*, May 13, 2025, p. 110.

[1077] Office of the Public Defender of El Salvador, [@PGR_SV], (February 5, 2025), Con el objetivo de acreditar a #MediadorasComunitarias, el @ProcuradorGral de la República, René Escobar, inauguró el Proyecto Mujeres Constructoras de Paz (To accredit #CommunityMediators, the Public Defender of the Republic, René Escobar, launched the Women Peacebuilders Project) [X post], X, https://x.com/PGR_SV/status/1887194274870988821; Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Responses by El Salvador to the list of issues and questions on the 10th periodic report, March 25, 2025, para. 4.

[1078] Office of the Attorney General of the Republic El Salvador, *Informe de labores 2024-2025* (2024–2025 Report), July 31, 2025, p. 151.

[1079] Observatory of Violence against Women (ORMUSA), "16 feminicidios en El Salvador entre enero/agosto 2025" (16 femicides in El Salvador between January and August 2025), September 11, 2025.

[1080] Republic of El Salvador, Report submitted by the State of El Salvador, September 8, 2025, p. 12. On IACHR's files.

[1081] *Ibid.*, p. 15.

[1082] Asociación Las Guerreras Salvadoreñas, Network of Women Sex Workers of Latin America and the Caribbean (RedTraSex), *et al.*, Request for thematic hearing "Violence and rights of women sex workers in El Salvador," 193rd regular period of sessions, April 23, 2025, p. 3, on IACHR's files.

475. Additionally, adolescent pregnancies and early unions persist, mainly in rural and hard-to-reach areas. Data indicates that 3.5 percent of girls and adolescents aged 10 to 19 are mothers, and one in 10 adolescents aged 15 to 19 is in an early union.[1083] Moreover, the criminalization of women facing obstetric emergencies continued, with the Supreme Court of Justice recording proceedings against six women for abortion between 2023 and 2025.[1084] In that regard, the Commission voices concern that the Protocol for Women's Care during Prenatal, Childbirth, and Postpartum Periods and Newborn Care fails to include guidelines prioritizing hospital care in obstetric emergencies, unlike its previous version.[1085]

476. Concerning the rights of **LGBTI persons**, there is a widespread lack of data on violence, discrimination or the recognition of rights of this population in the country during 2025. In March, information became known about the case of Andry Hernández Romero, a gay man of Venezuelan origin and an asylum seeker in the United States, who was deported to El Salvador and held at the CECOT.[1086] In July, Hernández Romero was returned to Venezuela and reported having been the victim of sexual abuse by Salvadoran authorities.[1087] Likewise, the Commission learned that, in October, the Minister of Education issued instructions to prohibit the use of inclusive language in the country's schools.[1088]

477. In this context, LGBTI human rights defenders underscored the need to guarantee basic rights. Among their main demands are laws aimed at reducing discrimination and violence, including violence perpetrated by public officials.[1089] They also expressed concern that non-governmental organizations defending their rights may disappear as a result of the recently adopted Foreign Agents Law. In addition, they denounced the lack of action by the Legislative Assembly to allow for name changes and the recognition of the gender identity of trans persons, despite a 2022 ruling by the Constitutional Chamber.[1090]

478. With regard to the rights of **indigenous peoples**, the results of the Seventh Population Census and Sixth Housing Census were published, showing that the indigenous population accounts for 1.1 percent of

[1083] UNFPA, *Mapa de Embarazos en niñas y adolescentes El Salvador 2025* (2025 Map of pregnancies in girls and adolescents in El Salvador), June 24, 2025, pp. 7 and 28.

[1084] Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*, April 4, 2025, para. 124; *Focos*, "El régimen de excepción se usa para encarcelar a mujeres por emergencias obstétricas en El Salvador" (The state of emergency has been used to imprison women for obstetric emergencies in El Salvador), October 7, 2025.

[1085] Ministry of Health, *Protocolo para la atención de la mujer en los períodos prenatal, parto, puerperio y atención del recién nacido* (Protocol for Women's Care during Prenatal, Childbirth, Postpartum Periods and Newborn Care) July 7, 2025; Ministry of Health *Protocolo para el abordaje de atenciones en el periodo preconcepcional, prenatal, parto, puerperio y emergencias obstétricas desde una perspectiva de derechos humanos* (Protocol for the management of care during the preconception, prenatal, childbirth, postpartum periods, and obstetric emergencies with a human rights perspective), November 29, 2022.

[1086] *Democracy Now*, "Secuestrado: hablamos con la familia de Andry Hernández Romero, quien lleva más de cien días desaparecido en una megaprisión salvadoreña" (Kidnapped: We spoke with the family of Andry Hernández Romero, who has been missing for over one hundred days in a Salvadoran mega-prison), June 27, 2025; *El Diario*, "De EEUU a la cárcel en El Salvador: Andry Hernández, el maquillador al que Trump deportó por sus tatuajes de coronas" (From the US to jail in El Salvador: Andry Hernández, the makeup artist whom Trump deported for his crown tattoos), April 4, 2025.

[1087] *El País*, "La vida de Andry Hernández tras dejar la cárcel del terror de Bukele: 'Nuestros cuerpos están en libertad, pero nuestras mentes siguen allá'" (Andry Hernández's life after leaving Bukele's prison of terror: "Our bodies are free, but our minds are still there"), August 24, 2025; *CNN*, "'Bienvenidos al infierno del Cecot': el maquillador venezolano Andry Hernández relata el día a día preso en El Salvador" ("Welcome to the hell of Cecot": Venezuelan makeup artist Andry Hernández recounts his daily life as a prisoner in El Salvador), July 27, 2025; *Reuters*, "Venezuelan makeup artist returns home, describes torture during El Salvador detention" July 23, 2025; *NBC News*, "Venezuelans describe being beaten, sexually assaulted and told to 'commit suicide' during El Salvador detention" July 28, 2025; *Swissinfo*, "Venezuela denuncia golpizas y abusos a migrantes en la megacárcel salvadoreña" (Venezuela denounces beatings and abuses against migrants in El Salvador's megaprison), July 22, 2025.

[1088] *DW*, "El Salvador: Gobierno prohíbe lenguaje inclusivo en escuelas" (El Salvador: Government bans inclusive language in schools), October 3, 2025; *El País*, "Bukele prohíbe el lenguaje inclusivo en las escuelas de El Salvador," (Bukele bans inclusive language in Salvadoran schools) October 3, 2025; Nayib Bukele [@nayibbukele], (October 3, 2025), "Desde hoy queda prohibido el mal llamado 'lenguaje inclusivo' en todos los centros educativos públicos de nuestro país." (From today, the so-called "inclusive language" is prohibited in all public educational centers in our country) [X post], X, https://x.com/nayibbukele/status/1973908544065057000.

[1089] *La vanguardia*, "Con miedo pero en resistencia, la comunidad LGTBI salvadoreña marcha en el Día del Orgullo" (With fear but in resistance, the Salvadoran LGBTI community marches on Pride Day), June 29, 2025; *Infobae,* "La comunidad LGTBI de El Salvador reitera llamado a erradicar los tipos de discriminación" (The LGBTI community of El Salvador reiterates its call to eradicate all forms of discrimination), May 19, 2025.

[1090] *El Salvador.com*, "Población LGBTI denuncia que sigue desacato de Asamblea por ley de identidad" (LGBTI community denounces continued disregard by Assembly for identity law), May 17, 2025.

the country's total population.[1091] This figure indicates that the indigenous population recorded in the census increased fivefold compared to the last census conducted 17 years earlier. [1092] As a result, it was identified that indigenous women, particularly in rural areas, experience higher levels of illiteracy and lower levels of schooling than the national averages. Among women over 60 years of age, illiteracy reaches 60 percent, and 93 percent did not complete more than the sixth grade. Likewise, the persistence of early pregnancy among indigenous adolescents was observed, as 18 percent of those surveyed under 18 years of age reported having their first pregnancy at the age of 15.[1093]

479. The State reported progress in the recognition of the rights of **Afro-descendants** through institutional, regulatory and cultural initiatives. At the local level, the Municipality of La Unión Sur adopted an ordinance granting official recognition to the Afro-descendant population, while, at the regional level, El Salvador participated in the Project for the Safeguarding of Afro-descendant Intangible Cultural Heritage within the Central American Integration System and Cuba.[1094] The State also reported developments in the cultural sphere, including actions to document and promote Afro-descendant culture,[1095] and cultural organizations and entities reported an increase in initiatives aimed at promoting Afro-descendant recognition and memory, which contribute to combating racism and strengthening identity.[1096]

480. The Office of the Prosecutor for the Defense of Human Rights participated in regional initiatives to strengthen statistical production on Afro-descendants.[1097] However, gaps persist in official records and in indicators disaggregated by race/ethnicity in areas such as health, education, employment, housing, justice and prison population, which limits the design and evaluation of targeted public policies.[1098] Likewise, the Commission takes note of the recommendation made in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review to adopt a national strategy to combat discrimination against Afro-descendants.[1099]

481. With regard to the processes of **memory, truth and justice**, United Nations experts called on the State to implement the transitional justice agenda related to the armed conflict.[1100] Civil society organizations reported obstructions by the Legislative Assembly in processing the third transitional justice bill submitted in 2019 by victims of crimes against humanity and human rights organizations.[1101] In May 2025, one year had elapsed since both the shelving of the bill on this matter and the initiative proposing the creation of a system for the search for disappeared persons.[1102] Furthermore, the Commission values the extension, for an additional three years, of the validity of the law establishing the registry of victims and family members of the

[1091] Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador, "Censo de Población y Vivienda El Salvador 2024" (2024 Population and Housing Census El Salvador).

[1092] *El Mundo*, "Censo 2024: población indígena crece cinco veces y destaca el resurgir del pueblo Nahua Pipil" (2024 Census: Indigenous population grows fivefold and highlights the resurgence of the Nahua Pipil people), October 12, 2025.

[1093] Indigenous Women's Observatory Sijsihuat Mejtzaly, *Informe Anual. Situación de los Derechos de las Mujeres Indígenas* (Annual report. Human rights situation of indigenous women), National Indigenous Coordinating Council of El Salvador (CCNIS) and UN Women, 2025, pp. 16-19.

[1094] Republic of El Salvador, Note Verbale No. MPOEA-OEA-104/2025, in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (CADH) No. 349-25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, August 5, 2025, p.11. On IACHR's files.

[1095] Republic of El Salvador, Note Verbale No. MPOEA-OEA-104/2025, in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (CADH) No. 349-25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, August 5, 2025, p.11. On IACHR's files.

[1096] Spanish Cultural Center in El Salvador(CCE-ES), "Conversatorio Hacedoras de memorias" (Conversation: Memory makers), July 24, 2025; *La Prensa Gráfica*, "El Teatro Poma continúa su temporada con "Negra me dicen" esta semana en cartelera" (Teatro Poma continues its season with "Negra me dicen", a tribute to Afro-descendants), May 27, 2025.

[1097] Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas (RINDHCA), "La RINDHCA aprueba el plan de trabajo del grupo sobre derechos humanos y población afrodescendiente"(RINDHCA approves the work plan of the group on human rights and the Afro-descendant population), June 4, 2025.

[1098] *El Diario de Hoy*, "Promueven derechos y cultura de 25,690 afrodescendientes en el país" (Rights and culture of 25,690 Afro-descendants are promoted in the country) August 9, 2025; Office of the Attorney General, "Estadísticas" (Statistics), 2025; General Directorate of Penitentiary Centers, "Estadísticas Penitenciarias: 2020" (Prison Statistics: 2020), January 6, 2021.

[1099] Permanent Mission of the Bahamas in Geneva, "Bahamas Statement on the UPR of El Salvador," January 20, 2025.

[1100] United Nations, Multiple Mechanisms, "Press release: El Salvador: Experts call for implementation of transitional justice agenda related to armed conflict," January 14, 2025.

[1101] *SWI*, "ONG de DDHH acusan a Congreso salvadoreño de obstaculizar justicia para víctimas de guerra," (Human rights NGOs accuse Salvadoran Congress of obstructing justice for war victims) January 15, 2025.

[1102] *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Leyes para justicia transicional y búsqueda de desaparecidos llevan un año en archivo en El Salvador" (Laws for transitional justice and the search for the disappeared have been shelved in El Salvador for a year), May 12, 2025.

massacre of El Mozote and surrounding areas.[1103] The Commission also takes note of the judgment issued by the Trial Court of Dulce Nombre de María, in Chalatenango, which sentenced three retired members of the Salvadoran armed forces to up to 60 years of imprisonment for the murder of four Dutch journalists in 1982.[1104]

482. With regard to the rights of **older persons**, the State informed the Commission of general actions aimed at strengthening institutions and guaranteeing rights, including the implementation of accessibility measures and preferential attention for older persons at polling stations, as well as the application of criminal prosecution policies with a focus on vulnerable populations, including older persons. The State also highlighted the continuity of the 2022–2030 National Policy on the Co-responsibility for Care, aimed at guaranteeing the right to receive and provide care under conditions of equality and dignity.[1105]

483. In addition, media outlets reported delays in the payment of pensions under the program for older persons, a situation that reportedly affected thousands of pensioners.[1106] It was also reported that the solidarity pension program for older persons reduced its number of beneficiaries from nearly 38,000 to just over 30,000.[1107] In this regard, there have been debates concerning the sustainability of the system and the need for a new pension reform, requested by the International Monetary Fund for 2026, which would seek to guarantee the system's viability and improve retirement conditions.[1108]

484. With regard to the rights of **persons with disabilities**, the State incorporated disability as a priority axis in the 2022–2030 National Policy on the Co-responsibility for Care. Likewise, it promoted inclusion through preferential attention to persons with disabilities as a vulnerable group by the TSE. Inclusive voting measures were implemented, such as the use of braille and tactile envelopes, and the National Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities was strengthened, with the aim of guaranteeing accessibility and the adequacy of polling stations, thereby promoting more equitable electoral participation that respects the rights of this population.[1109]

485. With regard to challenges, civil society organizations reported human rights violations against persons with disabilities deprived of liberty in the context of the ongoing state of emergency. A total of 175 arbitrary detentions of persons with disabilities were recorded, of which 148 (84.6 percent) correspond to men and 27 (15.4 percent) to women. The most recurrent disabilities were physical (49 percent), cognitive (37 percent) and sensory (11 percent). Likewise, the lack of adequate medical care and the death of at least seven people in penitentiary centers were reported: three people with cognitive disabilities, two with physical disabilities and two with epilepsy, evidencing serious shortcomings in the protection of their rights and in the conditions of detention.[1110]

[1103] Legislative Assembly, "Buscan ampliar vigencia de ley para registro de víctimas y familiares de masacre de El Mozote" (Legislative Assembly seeks to extend the validity of the law for the registration of victims and relatives of the El Mozote massacre), June 23, 2025; *El Diario de Hoy*, "Asamblea prorroga vigencia de ley para registro de víctimas y familiares de masacre de El Mozote" (Assembly extends validity of law for registration of victims and relatives of the El Mozote massacre), June 24, 2025.

[1104] *AP News*, "Dan 60 años de prisión a 3 militares salvadoreños en retiro por asesinatos de periodistas holandeses" (Three retired Salvadoran military officers sentenced to 60 years in prison for the murders of Dutch journalists), July 3, 2025; *DW*, "El Salvador: condenan exmilitares por crimen de neerlandeses" (El Salvador: Former military officers sentenced for the murder of Dutch citizens), July 4, 2025.

[1105] Republic of El Salvador, Report of the State of El Salvador, September 8, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1106] *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Gobierno salvadoreño paga con retraso pensiones de adultos mayores" (The Salvadoran government is late in paying pensions to senior citizens), June 6, 2025.

[1107] *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Programa de pensión solidaria para el adulto mayor se redujo en 7.000 beneficiarios"(The solidarity pension program for the elderly was reduced by 7,000 beneficiaries), August 27, 2025.

[1108] *La Prensa Gráfica*, "Qué debe contener la próxima reforma de pensiones que pide el FMI para 2026" (What should be included in the next pension reform that the IMF is calling for in 2026?), July 2, 2025.

[1109] Republic of El Salvador, Report of the State of El Salvador, September 8, 2025, pp. 2 and 4. On IACHR's files.

[1110] *Cristosal*, *Invisibles, olvidadas y torturadas: la realidad de las personas con discapacidad en El Salvador* (Invisible, forgotten and tortured. The reality of persons with disabilities in El Salvador), December 2024, published on August 12, 2025, pp. 9-11; *SWI*, "ONG recibe 175 denuncias de personas con discapacidad detenidas en El Salvador por régimen" (NGO receives 175 complaints from persons with disabilities detained in El Salvador by the regime), August 13, 2025.

XVI. GRENADA

- **General considerations**

486. As it relates to **progress**, the IACHR notes efforts by the State to reform its Constitution. Moreover, the Commission welcomes the passage of legislation aimed at protecting the rights of children and adolescents. Additionally, the IACHR takes note of measures taken by the State to strengthen the legal framework for the protection women.

487. As it relates to **challenges**, the Commission notes some concerns on the use of force by the police service. Likewise, the IACHR also notes the continued high prison occupancy rates and the retention of laws which criminalize same-sex relationships between consenting adults.

488. The State did not respond to the request for information for the preparation of this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

489. With regards to **democratic institutionality**, the IACHR notes constitutional reform efforts by the State. In particular, the State enacted the Oath of Allegiance Acts No. 1 and No. 2 which amends the oath of allegiance prescribed in the Constitution, removing references to "His Majesty King Charles, the Third, His heirs and Successors" and replacing them with "Grenada." According to official information, this amendment represents a major step in its constitutional development and national identity and aims to ensure that public officials and high functionaries swear allegiance to Grenada and the people of Grenada on their assumption to high public office.[1111]

490. In relation to **human rights institutions**, the State has an Office of the Ombudsman, which is a member of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association and the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions.[1112] The functions of the Office include investigating complaints relating to administrative action of any public authority, however, its jurisdiction does not extend to the investigation of human rights violations.[1113] While the State has yet to establish a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), it has an expressed an intention of implementing a hybrid model of an NHRI by extending the jurisdiction of the Office of the Ombudsman.[1114]

491. Regarding **citizen security**, according to public information, the State recorded 7 homicides as of July.[1115] This represents a homicide rate of 5.97 per 100,000 inhabitants for that period in 2025.[1116]

492. Concerning the rights of **children**, in July, the State introduced several Bills to Parliament aimed at protecting the rights of children and adolescents. These Bills included the Status of Children Bill, the Age of Civil Legal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill and the Marriage (Amendment) Bill.[1117] The Status of Children Bill aims to remove discriminatory approaches to birth status by ensuring that all children, regardless of the marital status of their parents, are treated equal under the law.[1118] With regards to the Age of Civil Legal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill, the amendment seeks to vest full legal capacity in persons aged 16 years or older to consent to and access sexual or reproductive health treatment and care, without the need for parental

[1111] Government of Grenada, Government of Grenada introduces key legislation in Parliament, July 23, 2025; Now Grenada, Governor-General assents bill to change Oath/Affirmation of Allegiance, August 1, 2025.
[1112] Caribbean Ombudsman Association, Members, 2025; Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, Grenada, 2025.
[1113] Laws of Grenada, Ombudsman Act, 2007, section 20.
[1114] Human Rights Council, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21* Grenada, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GRD/1, February 18, 2025.
[1115] Now Grenada, 22-year-old man charged in fatal stabbing of Kimani, July 4, 2025.
[1116] The IACHR calculated the homicide rate based on the State's population of 117,207 according to data from The World Bank. The World Bank, Population total – Grenada, 2024.
[1117] Government of Grenada, Government of Grenada introduces key legislation in Parliament, July 23, 2025.
[1118] Parliament of Grenada, Status of Children Bill, 2025, July 18, 2025.

consent.[1119] Whereas, the amendments to the Marriage Act will increase the minimum age from 16 to 18 years for marriage, in an effort to protect children and adolescents from early marriages.[1120] Subsequently, after its passage in Parliament in November, the Commission welcomed the approval of the amendment to the Marriage Act. The IACHR noted that its amendment strengthened protection for children and aligned national legislation with international human rights standards and called on States to adopt measures to end child, early and forced marriages and unions.[1121]

493. Moreover, in May, the Criminal Justice Reform Committee in Grenada published a brochure to raise awareness of sex-related crimes, notably those involving children, with the aim of preventing persons from becoming victims or perpetrators.[1122]

494. Regarding the **rights of women**, the Commission notes measures taken by the State to strengthen the legal framework for the protection women. In July, two Bills were introduced in Parliament for first reading: the Marriage Amendment Bill, which raises the minimum age for valid marriages to 18 years, and the Age of Civil Legal Responsibility Amendment Bill, which grants minors aged 16 years and older full legal capacity to consent to any sexual or reproductive health treatment without parental or guardian authorization.[1123] In addition, in June, the Cabinet approved the development of legislation addressing gender gaps in the care of children and the elderly, including provisions of maternity and parental leave, child benefits for low-income families, and legal protections for domestic and care workers, among others.[1124]

495. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, Grenadian authorities participated in regional and international forums demanding reparatory justice for descendants of enslaved persons.[1125] Grenada's Prime Minister urged the President of the European Commission to apologize and advance reparations, framing slavery as a crime against humanity and linking reparatory justice to non-repetition.[1126] Additionally, the IACHR takes note of cultural-rights practices that preserve Afro-descendant heritage, safeguarding traditions and the intergenerational transmission of Afro-Caribbean knowledge.[1127]

496. Relating to challenges, the Royal Grenada Police Force reported an investigation into a shooting incident in Victoria, St. Mark in which four men were injured, raising concerns about compliance with international standards on the use of force and the need to prevent racial profiling.[1128]

497. Regarding the rights of **LGBTI persons,** the Commission underscores the persistence of laws which criminalize same-sex relationships between consenting adults. Grenada remains as 5 out of 13 countries in the English-Speaking Caribbean which continue to maintain these laws.[1129]

498. As for **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission takes note of the announcement of measures aimed at improving the prison system, including the strengthening of human resources in the police

[1119] Parliament of Grenada, Age of Civil Legal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill, 2025, July 18, 2025.
[1120] Parliament of Grenada, Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2025, July 18, 2025.
[1121] IACHR [@CIDH], (November 13, 2025), IACHR welcomes the approval of amendments to the 1966 Marriage Act, which raise the legal marriage age to 18 and remove provisions allowing parental or guardian consent for children to marry. This reform, approved on November 4, strengthens protection for children and aligns national legislation with international human rights standards, [X post], X, https://x.com/CIDH/status/1989096824896942109.
[1122] The New Today, Move afoot to deal with sex-related offences against minors, May 17, 2025.
[1123] Grenada Parliament, Age of Civil Legal Responsibility (amendment) Bill, 2025, accessed on October 7, 2025; Marriage (amendment) Bill, 2025, accessed on October 7, 2025; Now Grenada, Government introduces key legislation in Parliament, July 23, 2025.
[1124] UN Women Caribbean, UN Women to Assist Grenada Government in Revising Legislation and Benefits for Child and Elder Care, June 24, 2025.
[1125] WLRN, Descendants of slave owners and enslaved people in the Caribbean call for reparations at the UN, April 21, 2025.
[1126] Reuters, Caribbean leader tells EU chief: Apologise and pay reparations for slavery, February 20, 2025.
[1127] Government Information Service (GIS Grenada), The community of River Sallee celebrates Saraka 2025, April 24, 2025; OurCarriacou.com, Maroon & String Band Music Festival, April 25, 2025.
[1128] NOW Grenada, 4 men sustained injuries in police shooting in St Mark, April 28, 2025; NOW Grenada, Police investigate shooting incident at Victoria, St Mark, April 28, 2025.
[1129] Grenada Parliament, Criminal Code 1987, section 431.

and prison services and reforms to address deficiencies in the correctional system.[1130] However, it expresses its concern on the overcrowding of His Majesty´s Prison where, according to official data, as of January 2025, there were 377 inmates while its capacity only allows for 185–200 inmates.[1131]

499. In relation to the **death penalty**, the IACHR takes note of the State's statement before the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, in which it announced its intention to repeal the death penalty from its domestic legislation, subject to a process of public consultation.[1132] In addition, it values the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the highest Appellate Court of Grenada, which held that the mandatory death penalty is unconstitutional. However, Grenada maintains a *de facto* moratorium since the last execution that was carried out in 1978.[1133] The Commission reiterates its concern about the only one prisoner on death row.[1134]

XVII. GUATEMALA

- **General considerations**

500. With regard to **progress,** the Commission values the willingness of the Republic of Guatemala (hereinafter, "Guatemala") to remain open to international scrutiny and, in particular, highlights the announcement of the establishment of a Special Mission for the Strengthening of Democratic Institutions of the Organization of American States to monitor the electoral processes scheduled for 2026. The Commission also welcomes the adoption of the 2025–2035 Public Policy for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

501. With regard to **challenges**, the Commission observes the persistent use of criminal law for political purposes, as well as for the criminalization of human rights defenders, journalists and justice operators, some of whom remain arbitrarily deprived of liberty. The Commission is also concerned about regressive decisions in emblematic cases of the internal armed conflict and the continuation of patterns of harassment, transfers and unfounded complaints by the Office of the Public Prosecutor and other actors, directed against those who promote accountability or access to justice in Guatemala.

502. On October 10, 2025, the State submitted its response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.[1135]

- **Specific issues**

503. In the area of **democratic institutionality**, the State of Guatemala reported that, in 2025, it promoted actions to strengthen institutions through the implementation of the 2024–2028 General Government Policy. It also noted that the Congress of the Republic passed decrees on budgetary, criminal, penitentiary and intercultural recognition matters;[1136] however, it acknowledged that parliamentary work

[1130] Ministry of Finance, Government of Grenada, Budget Statement 2025, March 7, 2025.
[1131] Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Human Rights Council, United Nations, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GRD/1, February 18, 2025, par. 89.
[1132] Now Grenada, Grenada tells UPR Working Group it intends to repeal death penalty, May 14, 2025.
[1133] Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Human Rights Council, United Nations, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GRD/1, February 18, 2025, par. 128.
[1134] World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Grenada, May 23, 2023; last visited: September 2025.
[1135] Government of the Republic of Guatemala, Note Verbale OEA-M4-NV-260-2025, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), *Annual Report of the State of Guatemala to the IACHR,* October 10, 2025.
[1136] In particular, the State highlighted the approval of Decree No. 1-2025, related to the Expansion of the General Budget of Income and Expenditures of the State for Fiscal Year 2025; in the area of criminal justice, Decree No. 2-2025 introduced reforms to the Criminal Code (Decree 17-73) related to: misuse of personal data, cloning and fraudulent use of debit and credit cards, illegal use of telecommunications networks; in penitentiary matters, Decree No. 3-2025 reformed both the Penitentiary Regime Law (Decree 33-2006) and the Criminal Code (Decree 17-73); finally, Decree No. 4-2025 amended the Law that declares May 19 as the "National Day of the

continued to face structural challenges due to the lack of articulation between legislative agendas and international human rights commitments. With regard to the fight against corruption, the State reported on the work of the National Commission against Corruption and on reforms aimed at preventing illicit practices, strengthening public integrity and promoting transparency.[1137] For its part, the Office of the Public Prosecutor reported on the development of investigations into corruption in public administration.[1138] Nevertheless, the executive branch reiterated that concerns persist regarding the improper use of criminal law that may limit democratic exercise and political participation, "which requires strengthening oversight, accountability and cooperation with international bodies to guarantee transparent processes that respect human rights."[1139]

504. During 2025, the Commission received information on the persistent instrumentalization of criminal law to challenge the results of the 2023 elections and prosecute people linked to the incumbent party.[1140] In this context, on October 24, Judge Freddy Orellana, at the request of the Office of the Special Prosecutor against Impunity, promoted new actions against the Movimiento Semilla party and ordered the Congress of the Republic and the Registry of Citizens of the Electoral Tribunal to enforce the annulment of the political party, as a way to call into question the popularly elected positions obtained in 2023.[1141] In the face of these threats to the constitutional order, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) reaffirmed the importance of preserving the functioning of democratic institutions in accordance with the Constitution and the Rule of Law, as well as of respecting the will of the Guatemalan people, who elected Bernardo Arévalo as constitutional president.[1142] On November 5, 2025, the Permanent Council of the OAS adopted the resolution entitled "Support for Democracy and the Constitutional Order in Guatemala," in which it reiterated the importance of respecting the sovereign will of the people, expressed through free, fair and transparent elections, and welcomed the General Secretariat's designation of a Special Mission for the Strengthening of Democratic Institutions in Guatemala.[1143]

505. As for **human rights institutions,** the State highlighted that, through the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), it maintains an open-door policy with international human rights mechanisms.[1144] In this context, in 2025, Guatemala hosted the 176th regular period of sessions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Likewise, it received the visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, as well as the visit of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living.[1145] The State also indicated that the Inter-American Commission carried out a visit to strengthen the capacities of members of civil society organizations and of COPADEH officials in relation to the mechanism of precautionary and provisional measures of the inter-American system, as well as to hold bilateral and working meetings on the follow-up to such measures. [1146] On December 1, 2025, the Commission presented in Guatemala the report on the *in loco*

Guatemalan Midwife" (Decree 22-2022), increasing the economic stipend for registered midwives to Q4,000 annually, payable in two installments per year. Government of the Republic of Guatemala, Note Verbale OEA-M4-NV-260-2025, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), *Annual Report of the State of Guatemala to the IACHR*, October 10, 2025, pp. 7-11.

[1137] Government of the Republic of Guatemala, Note Verbale OEA-M4-NV-260-2025, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), *Annual Report of the State of Guatemala to the IACHR*, October 10, 2025, p. 6.

[1138] Government of the Republic of Guatemala, Note Verbale OEA-M4-NV-260-2025, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), *Annual Report of the State of Guatemala to the IACHR*, October 10, 2025. Annex SAIC/G 2025-000856/mfrc/mica from the Secretariat of International Affairs of the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

[1139] Government of the Republic of Guatemala, Note Verbale OEA-M4-NV-260-2025, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), *Annual Report of the State of Guatemala to the IACHR,* October 10, 2025, p. 6.

[1140] OAS, "Statement from the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States on the Situation in Guatemala," October 26, 2025.

[1141] *Prensa Libre*, "Juez Fredy Orellana ordena la nulidad de Movimiento Semilla y emplaza al Registro de Ciudadanos para que cumpla" (Judge Fredy Orellana orders the annulment of the Movimiento Semilla political party and summons the Citizens Registry to comply with it), October 24, 2025.

[1142] OAS, "Statement from the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States on the Situation in Guatemala," October 26, 2025.

[1143] OAS, Permanent Council, Resolution CP/DEC. 87 (2569/25), Support for democracy and the constitutional order in Guatemala, approved in the regular meeting held on November 5, 2025.

[1144] Government of the Republic of Guatemala, Note Verbale OEA-M4-NV-260-2025, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), *Annual Report of the State of Guatemala to the IACHR*, October 10, 2025, p. 28.

[1145] *Ibid.*

[1146] *Ibid.*

visit it had conducted in 2024 and highlighted the government's openness to comply with the report's recommendations.[1147] In particular, the signing of the agreement that will allow for the holding of the 195th Period of Sessions of the IACHR in Guatemala in March 2026 is highlighted.

506. With regard to **citizen security**, the State reported that the Ministry of the Interior and the National Civil Police continue to implement actions aimed at strengthening crime prevention, improving the operational capacity of security forces and guaranteeing an effective response to emergency situations.[1148] In 2025, these efforts focused on reducing crime rates and restoring public trust in public security institutions.[1149] The State highlighted preventive actions carried out by the National Civil Police, through the General Under-directorate for Crime Prevention, within the framework of the Institutional Crime Prevention Strategy, structured around three axes: school prevention, community prevention, and ongoing training and capacity-building. This strategy is aligned with the National Policy on the Prevention of Violence and Crime, Citizen Security and Peaceful Coexistence, which allows for the coordination of actions at the national level.[1150] Finally, the State provided information on police operations, arrests and strategies to combat organized crime, indicating that the National Civil Police, through the General Under-directorate for Criminal Investigation and its specialized divisions, conducted investigations and case follow-ups that resulted in the apprehension of individuals, the execution of investigative measures and the dismantling of criminal structures.[1151]

507. With regard to **judicial independence and access to justice**, the State informed the Commission that the criminal justice system has been used for purposes of political persecution and retaliation in three areas: i) the weakening of judicial independence, through criminal charges brought against former prosecutors and former judges who promoted cases against corruption or against parallel power structures; ii) restrictions on freedom of expression and of the press; and iii) the repression of community leaders and human rights defenders, through charges related to offenses such as usurpation, coercion, incitement to commit crimes or criminal association, used to curb social protest and the defense of land and territory.[1152] COPADEH reported that, in 2025, it learnt of cases of criminalization against human rights defenders, journalists and justice operators, including José Rubén Zamora Marroquín; Eduardo Masaya, a lawyer prosecuted in the context of the elections to the Board of Directors of the Guatemalan Bar Association; Héctor Chaclán, a community leader of the 48 Cantons of Totonicapán, and Luis Pacheco, also a member of that organization and Vice Minister of Energy and Mines, both prosecuted for their participation in the 2023 electoral process; Leocadio Juracán, a human rights defender prosecuted for the offense of usurpation; Claudia González, a former prosecutor of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala, facing criminal charges for her work in the investigation of cases of corruption and organized crime; and Stuardo Campo, a former anti-corruption prosecutor.[1153]

508. The State of Guatemala indicated to the Commission that these cases reflect the instrumentalization of the criminal justice system, institutional fragility and the persistence of practices contrary to international human rights standards.[1154] It further warned that the improper use of criminal law generates negative impacts on the country's political and democratic context, particularly due to its potential influence on the electoral processes scheduled for 2026, including the election of justices to the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, as well as the appointment of the heads of the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Prosecutor.[1155] Finally, the State indicated that the government of President Bernardo Arévalo has expressed its rejection of any form of political persecution or undue criminalization and

[1147] *Guatemalan News Agency (AGN),* "Presidente Arévalo recibe informe sobre derechos humanos de la CIDH" (President Arévalo receives IACHR report on human rights), December 2, 2025.
[1148] Government of the Republic of Guatemala, Note Verbale OEA-M4-NV-260-2025, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), *Annual Report of the State of Guatemala to the IACHR*, October 10, 2025, p. 92.
[1149] *Ibid.*
[1150] I*bid.*, p. 94 and sqq.
[1151] *Ibid.*
[1152] *Ibid.*, p. 105.
[1153] *Ibid.*, p. 106.
[1154] *Ibid.*, p. 107.
[1155] *Ibid.*

recognizes that the continuation of these practices represents a threat to democratic consolidation and the respect for human rights.[1156]

509. In this context, following her visit to Guatemala in 2025, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers confirmed the existence of an alarming pattern of criminalization in the country.[1157] Accordingly, she urged the State to adopt all necessary measures to put an end to this practice and emphasized that judges must identify cases that evidence criminalization, assess them independently and impartially, and resolve them in accordance with the law, the Constitution and human rights standards.[1158] She also underscored the growing perception of the urgent need to reform the system for appointing high-level judicial authorities, highlighting the relevance of 2026, when Guatemala is required to appoint new members to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, the Constitutional Court and the position of Attorney General and the head of the Office of the Public Prosecutor.[1159]

510. In the report *Situation of Human Rights in Guatemala*, published in 2025, the Commission concluded that criminalization has become a widespread practice. In particular, it warned that, since 2017, it has been used as retaliation against justice operators and former officials of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala whose actions affected the interests of groups and elites seeking to promote impunity. However, this practice has extended to lawyers providing legal defense to criminalized people, indigenous and peasant communities, trade union leaders, journalists, students and academic staff, public officials, including justice operators, the former Human Rights Ombudsperson, and even the President and Vice President of the Republic. The Commission further noted that the instrumentalization of criminal law has been possible due to the collusion of particular interests with the Office of the Public Prosecutor and sectors of the judiciary. Finally, the Commission issued a set of 43 recommendations to the State and reiterated its commitment to supporting Guatemala in the restoration of democratic institutions.[1160]

511. With regard to the situation of **human rights defenders,** the State reported that one of the most significant advances promoted by COPADEH is the joint formulation, together with the Ministry of the Interior, of the 2025–2035 Public Policy for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Guatemala, which seeks to comply with the judgment of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the case *Human Rights Defender* et al *v. Guatemala*.[1161] In November 2025, the Commission welcomed the official presentation of this policy and recognized that its development included the active participation of civil society organizations and of the petitioning parties in the case before the Court, as well as the technical assistance of the OHCHR in Guatemala.[1162]

512. For its part, the Commission observed that the defense of human rights took place in a hostile environment, stemming from the continued instrumentalization of the criminal justice system against human rights defenders. In this regard, civil society organizations informed the Commission of the criminalization of indigenous peoples, community leaders and social movements through charges allegedly based on weak evidence, dubious testimonies or police reports riddled with inconsistencies, with the aim of silencing and demobilizing communities that demand the protection of their legitimate rights.[1163]

[1156] Ibid.

[1157] Special Rapporteur on the Independence of judges and lawyers, Visit to Guatemala, 12 to 23 May 2025 - Preliminary Observations, March 23, 2025.

[1158] Special Rapporteur on the Independence of judges and lawyers, Visit to Guatemala, 12 to 23 May 2025 - Preliminary Observations, March 23, 2025.

[1159] Special Rapporteur on the Independence of judges and lawyers, Visit to Guatemala, 12 to 23 May 2025 - Preliminary Observations, March 23, 2025.

[1160] IACHR, Situación de los derechos humanos en Guatemala (Situation of human rights in Guatemala), OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 227/25, November 2, 2025, para. 611 and sqq.

[1161] Government of the Republic of Guatemala, Note Verbale OEA-M4-NV-260-2025, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), Annual Report of the State of Guatemala to the IACHR, October 10, 2025, p. 28.

[1162] Ministry of Government, "Política Pública de Protección de Personas Defensoras de los Derechos Humanos en Guatemala 2025-2035" (Public Policy for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Guatemala 2025-2035), November 13, 2025.

[1163] IACHR, thematic hearing, "Guatemala: Situation of human rights defenders and justice operators," 193rd regular period of sessions, July 22, 2025.

513. The Commission learned of the detention of Leocadio Juracán, a former member of Congress and Maya Kaqchikel peasant leader of the Committee of Highland Peasant Unity, on August 13. He was subsequently brought to trial on the alleged offense of aggravated usurpation at the initial hearing before the Plural Criminal Trial Court of Puerto Barrios, Izabal, and was granted alternative measures to detention.[1164] Since its 2017 country report, the Commission has warned of a sustained practice by Guatemalan authorities of bringing criminal charges against community leaders, accusing them of crimes such as usurpation and aggravated usurpation.[1165]

514. In addition, the Commission warned of the criminalization of indigenous authorities who led the 2023 social protests in defense of the presidential elections. In particular, it learned of the detention of Luis Haroldo Pacheco—former President of the Board of Directors of the 48 Cantons of Totonicapán and current Vice Minister of Energy and Mines—and Héctor Manuel Chaclán—former Treasurer of that Board of Directors—on April 23, who were charged with the crimes of criminal association, sedition, terrorism, obstruction of criminal prosecution and obstruction of justice.[1166] As of August 2025, these indigenous leaders remained in pretrial detention, with the proceedings against them under seal.[1167]

515. Subsequently, on August 28, Esteban Toc Tzay, former Deputy Mayor of Sololá, was arrested and charged with the offenses of sedition, terrorism, criminal association and obstruction of criminal prosecution and justice by the Office of the Special Prosecutor against Impunity.[1168] According to public information, on September 6, he was formally charged with the aforementioned crimes and was granted alternative measures to detention.[1169]

516. On November 10, 2025, lawyer Ramón Cadena, a beneficiary of precautionary measures granted by the Commission, was arrested and placed in pretrial detention after voluntarily appearing before the Tenth Criminal Trial Court in compliance with an arrest warrant issued against him in 2023. The lawyer is accused of the crimes of sedition, criminal association and damage to cultural heritage in the context of the investigation known as "USAC Takeover: Political Spoils." His detention would constitute a reprisal for his work in the defense and legal counsel of students and academic staff of the University of San Carlos.[1170]

517. Additionally, the Commission learned of the murder of two environmental human rights defenders. On May 9, 2025, environmental defender Marco Antonio Zuleta was murdered in Usumatlán,

[1164] *Resumen Lationamericano*, "Guatemala. Un finquero y la PGN detrás de la criminalización de Leocadio Juracán" (Guatemala. A landowner and the Office of the Attorney General are behind the criminalization of Leocadio Juracán), August 20, 2025; *Prensa Libre*, "Juez liga a proceso al exdiputado Leocadio Juracán por usurpación agravada y le otorga arresto domiciliario" (Judge formally charges former congressman Leocadio Juracán with aggravated usurpation and grants him house arrest), August 18, 2025; *PBI Guatemala*, "Paquete de Información Mensual de Guatemala, Número 263" (Guatemala Monthly Information Package No. 263), August 2025.

[1165] IACHR, *Situación de los derechos humanos en Guatemala* (Situation of human rights in Guatemala), OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 208/17, December 31, 2017, para. 218.

[1166] IACHR, Press Release No. 80/25, IACHR condemns criminalization of Indigenous leaders who defended democracy in Guatemala, April 26, 2025.

[1167] *La Hora Gt*, "«Han pasado cuatro meses y seguimos privados de libertad»: Luis Pacheco y Héctor Chaclán se pronuncian desde prisión" ("Four months have passed and we are still deprived of our freedom": Luis Pacheco and Héctor Chaclán speak out from prison), August 26, 2025; Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), "Exigimos la libertad de Luis Pacheco y Héctor Chaclán" (We demand freedom for Luis Pacheco and Héctor Chaclán), August 25, 2025; *Resumen Lationamericano*, "Guatemala. Organizaciones sociales e indígenas exigen la libertad de Luis Pacheco y Héctor Chaá" (Guatemala. Social and indigenous organizations demand the release of Luis Pacheco and Héctor Chaán), August 26, 2025.

[1168] *PBI Guatemala*, "Paquete de Información Mensual de Guatemala, Número 263" (Guatemala Monthly Information Package No. 263) August 2025; *Prensa Libre*, "Alcaldía Indígena de Sololá manifiesta por captura de Esteban Toc y denuncia persecución contra líderes" (The Indigenous Mayor's Office of Sololá speaks out against the capture of Esteban Toc and denounces the persecution of its leaders), September 5, 2025

[1169] Committee for Human Rights in Latin America (CDHAL), "Jueza liga a proceso a Esteban Toc por cinco delitos y le otorga libertad condicional" (Judge formally charges Esteban Toc with five crimes and grants him conditional release), September 9, 2025; *Prensa Comunitaria*, "Jueza liga a proceso a Esteban Toc por cinco delitos y le otorga libertad condicional" (Judge formally charges Esteban Toc with five crimes and grants him conditional release), September 6, 2025.

[1170] *OMCT*, "Guatemala: Detención arbitraria del abogado Ramón Cadena" (Guatemala: Arbitrary detention of lawyer Ramón Cadena), November 12, 2025; *Prensa Comunitaria*, "Detención de Ramón Cadena incurre en graves violaciones al debido proceso, denuncian organizaciones internacionales" (International organizations denounce the detention of Ramón Cadena, which involves serious violations of due process), November 12, 2025.

department of Zacapa. According to the information available, he had filed a complaint with the Office of the Public Prosecutor after receiving death threats by telephone. On May 14, Misael Mata Asencio was murdered in Livingston, Izabal. He defended his territory and participated in the anti-mining resistance formed by 54 communities of the Sierra de Santa Cruz, where the mining company Río Nickel S.A. seeks to operate.[1171]

518. The State of Guatemala highlighted the actions implemented by COPADEH as the coordinating entity for public policies on **memory, truth and justice**.[1172] It reported the implementation of 790 training activities on human rights, a culture of peace and the promotion of dialogue, reaching 59,953 people, of whom 39 percent were public officials. This constituted a strategy to strengthen democratic institutions and promote a state culture based on respect, equality and social justice. In the area of reparations, the State reported that the National Plan for the Dignification and Reparation of Victims is structured around three axes: i) comprehensive reparation for civilian victims of the internal armed conflict; ii) the search for disappeared people, including the creation of a national registry and a program to locate graves and burial sites; and iii) democratic memory, aimed at recognizing the diversity of memories and promoting historical reflection. With regard to the search for disappeared persons, the State reported on the formulation of the National Search Plan, which included eight consultations with family members and organizations, the signing of international cooperation agreements with Colombia and Chile, as well as of a letter of understanding with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the holding of technical meetings with the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation to advance on specific cases.

519. Nevertheless, at a public hearing held in March 2025, civil society organizations reported to the Commission regressive decisions in emblematic cases related to the armed conflict.[1173] They also reiterated the existence of systematic patterns of transfers, harassment and criminalization used by the Office of the Public Prosecutor and private entities against justice operators, victims and organizations. These consisted of mainly unfounded complaints, threats and barriers of access to relevant archives aimed at promoting impunity for the violations committed during the armed conflict. In this regard, the Commission is concerned about the decision issued *ex officio* by the current composition of the First Chamber of Appeals on April 11, 2025, which granted an alternative measure to imprisonment to a former military officer convicted in 2018 after having been responsible for the forced disappearance of Marco Antonio Molina Theissen.[1174] This measure was denounced by the victims' representatives in the aforementioned case as an infringement of their right of access to justice and was brought to the attention of the Inter-American Court.[1175] Likewise, in the case concerning the "Diario Militar", the Office of the Public Prosecutor requested the provisional dismissal of the case, reversing its previous position in favor of proceeding to trial, which led to strong criticism among the victims and complainants.[1176]

520. With regard to the **human rights of women**, the Commission highlights that measures were adopted to strengthen the normative and institutional framework on the protection against gender-based violence and on the promotion of gender equality. At the legislative level, the Penitentiary Regime Law and the

[1171] *PBI Guatemala*, Paquete de Información Mensual de Guatemala Número 260 (Guatemala Monthly Information Package No. 260) May 2025; *Mongabay*, "Guardianes de los bosques y el agua están siendo asesinados en Guatemala: estas son las historias de Marco Zuleta y Misael Mata" (Guardians of the forests and water are being murdered in Guatemala: these are the stories of Marco Zuleta and Misael Mata), June 20, 2025; *Telesur*, "Denuncian asesinato de defensores ambientales en Guatemala" (Environmental defenders murdered in Guatemala), May 21, 2025.

[1172] Government of the Republic of Guatemala, Diplomatic Note OEA-M4-NV-260-2025, October 10, 2025, Attachment: Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights, *Annual Report of the State of Guatemala to the IACHR,* October, pp. 28-29. On IACHR's files.

[1173] IACHR, thematic hearing, "Guatemala: Impunity and obstacles to the search for memory, truth and justice," 192nd regular period of sessions, online, March 4, 2025.

[1174] Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Molina Theissen v. Guatemala, Request for Provisional Measures and Monitoring Compliance with Judgment. Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of July 1, 2025, para. 6.

[1175] Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Molina Theissen v. Guatemala, Request for Provisional Measures and Monitoring Compliance with Judgment, Order of the President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of May 16, 2025.

[1176] *Prensa Comunitaria*, "Querellantes del caso del Diario Militar dicen que el MP busca garantizar impunidad de militares" (Complainants in the "Diario Militar" case say the Office of the Public Prosecutor is seeking to guarantee impunity for military personnel), October 7, 2025; *Prensa Comunitaria*, "Representantes de las víctimas piden apartar a los fiscales del caso Diario Militar" (Representatives of the victims are asking for the prosecutors to be removed from the "Diario Militar" case), October 14, 2025.

Criminal Code were amended to prevent and punish the trafficking of girls and adolescents within the penitentiary system.[1177] The guidelines for the implementation of the normative and policy framework for the prevention, care, punishment and dignified reparation of victims and survivors of violence against women were adopted,[1178] and an increase in the economic incentive for midwives across the country was approved, thus establishing it as a permanent and annual expenditure in the budget.[1179]

521. At the institutional level, the coverage of the Comprehensive Support Centers for Women Survivors of Violence (CAIMUS) was expanded in Sacatepéquez, Zacapa, San Juan Alotenango and Alta Verapaz.[1180] In the department of Guatemala, the opening of five new offices of the Office for the Defense of Indigenous Women was announced.[1181] Likewise, the National Policy for the Promotion and Comprehensive Development of Women (PNPDIM)[1182] is in the process of being updated, as is the creation of the Multisectoral Roundtable for the Rights of Domestic Workers, Household Workers and Private Household Workers.[1183]

522. Despite these efforts, the alarming rates of violence against women, girls and adolescents persist. In this regard, the National Civil Police recorded 266 violent deaths of women between January and August.[1184] As of October 2, 2025, the National Institute of Forensic Sciences had conducted 5,610 medical examinations for sexual offenses, 3,214 for injuries compatible with abuse, and 223 assessments within the framework of the "Isabel Claudina" alert system, aimed at the search for women reported as missing.[1185] Similarly, the rates of pregnancy among girls and adolescents remain high.[1186] Between January and August alone, 36,126 pregnancies were recorded among adolescents between 15 and 19 years of age, and 1,439 among girls between 10 and 14 years of age.[1187] This situation occurs within a generalized context of sexual violence

[1177] Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, Decreto 3-2025 (Decree 3-2025), March 3, 2025.

[1178] Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM), "Lineamientos para la implementación del marco normativo y político de víctimas y sobrevivientes de VCM" (Guidelines for the implementation of the regulatory and political framework for victims and survivors of gender-based violence), March 31, 2025; SEPREM, "Lineamientos para la implementación del marco normativo y político de víctimas y sobrevivientes de VCM, sector salud" (Guidelines for the implementation of the regulatory and political framework for victims and survivors of gender-based violence, health sector), April 1, 2025; SEPREM, "Seprem impulsa lineamientos para fortalecer la prevención y atención de la violencia contra las mujeres en el ámbito local" (SEPREM promotes guidelines to strengthen the prevention and care of violence against women at the local level), July 30, 2025.

[1179] Congress of the Republic, Apoyo económico para las comadronas, Decreto 4-2025 (Financial support for midwives, Decree No. 4-2025), issued on March 10, 2025

[1180] Ministry of Government, "Apertura de centro integral para fortalecer atención a mujeres sobrevivientes de violencia" (Opening of a comprehensive center to strengthen care for women survivors of violence), August 22, 2025; *AGN*, "Inauguran Caimus como un brazo de apoyo para mujeres zacapanecas" (Comprehensive Support Center for Women Survivors of Violence (Caimus) opens to support women from Zacapa), March 10, 2025; Office of the Public Prosecutor of Guatemala, "Ministerio Público inaugura Centro de Apoyo Integral para Mujeres Sobrevivientes de Violencia en San Juan Alotenango" (Office of the Public Prosecutor opens Comprehensive Support Center for women survivors of violence in San Juan Alotenango), June 19, 2025; Municipality of Tactic, "Municipalidad de Tactic inaugura oficina de atención integral para mujeres sobrevivientes de violencia" (Municipality of Tactic opens comprehensive care office for women survivors of violence), September 23, 2025.

[1181] *AGN*, "Defensoría de la Mujer Indígena inaugurará cinco nuevas sedes regionales" (Office of the Indigenous Women's Ombudsman to open five new regional headquarters), September 5, 2025.

[1182] SEPREM, "SEPREM impulsa en Santa Rosa la participación de organizaciones de mujeres en la actualización de la PNPDIM" (SEPREM promotes the participation of women's organizations in the updating of the National Policy for the Promotion and Comprehensive Development of Women in Santa Rosa), October 3, 2025; SEPREM, "En El Progreso, SEPREM escucha las voces de las mujeres en la actualización de la PNPDIM 2026-2041" (In El Progreso, SEPREM listens to the voices of women in the updating of the PNPDIM 2026-2041), October 2, 2025.

[1183] SEPREM, "Firma del Convenio para la Mesa Multisectorial de Derechos de las Mujeres Trabajadoras Domésticas, del Hogar y de Casa Particular" (Signing of the Agreement for the Multisectoral Roundtable on the Rights of Domestic Workers, Household Workers and Private Household Workers), March 25, 2025.

[1184] *Diálogos*, *Informe sobre violencia homicida* (Report on homicidal violence), August 2025, p. 4.

[1185] National Institute of Forensic Sciences of Guatemala, "Evaluaciones Médico Legales" (Medicolegal Assessments), consulted on October 6, 2025.

[1186] IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IVa, March 26, 2025, para. 479.

[1187] Observatory of Reproductive Health, "Registros de nacimientos de madres entre 10-19 años – Año 2025" (Birth record of mothers aged 10-19 – Year 2025), October 6, 2025.

against this population and limited access to sexual and reproductive health services, including therapeutic abortion.[1188]

523. With regard to the rights of **children and adolescents**, the Commission takes note of actions aimed at addressing chronic child malnutrition, which affects more than 46.5 percent of children under five years of age in Guatemala. In particular, the Commission highlights the implementation of the project Crecer Sano (Growing Healthy) through which, as of May 2025, 90 health posts had been built or renovated, expanding access to basic health services for nearly 300,000 people, with an emphasis on primary care and prevention in early childhood. These health posts help monitor children's weight and height, detect diseases and provide guidance to mothers on nutrition, breastfeeding, early stimulation and family planning.[1189]

524. Nevertheless, the Commission notes with concern the persistence of cases of sexual violence affecting girls and adolescents in the country. Information from the civil society published in February documented challenges in registration systems and institutional coordination, as well as obstacles preventing girl survivors from accessing essential services in the areas of health, education, social protection and justice. According to that report, between January 2018 and June 2024 the National Institute of Forensic Sciences conducted 27,660 forensic examinations related to sexual violence or pregnancy involving children up to 14 years of age, of which 24,441 involved girls. Records from the National Registry of Persons indicate that, between 2018 and 2024, a total of 14,696 girls up to 14 years of age gave birth.[1190]

525. Likewise, the Commission takes note of the judgment issued in August 2025 by the Seventh Criminal Court in relation to the fire that occurred at the Virgen de la Asunción Safe Home in March 2017, in which 41 girls died and another 15 were seriously injured. In that ruling, six former officials were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 6 to 25 years for the crimes of abuse against minors, breach of duties, abuse of authority and negligent homicide.[1191]

526. With regard to the rights of **LGBTI persons**, progress was reported in the investigations and proceedings concerning the deaths of Eldin Choc and Milton Santamaría, who were allegedly victims of torture and prejudice-motivated extrajudicial executions while deprived of their liberty in San Andrés Itzapa, Chimaltenango, in April 2024.[1192]

527. Between January and May, the civil society recorded 39 incidents of violence against trans persons, five of which were murders.[1193] In June, the Constitutional Court admitted a provisional writ of *amparo* filed against the Pride march in Guatemala City.[1194] Although the writ of *amparo* allowed for the exercise of the rights of peaceful assembly and association, it called on the authorities to ensure both the rights of those participating in the march and the rights of those who wished to express their views regarding the freedoms

[1188] Human Rights Committee, Views adopted by the Committee under article 5 (4) of the Optional Protocol, concerning communication No. 3629/2019, July 11, 2025; Human Rights Watch, "Guatemala: Failed Response to Sexual Violence Against Girls," February 18, 2025; Human Rights Watch, ""Forced to Give Up on Their Dreams". Sexual Violence against Girls in Guatemala," February 18, 2025.

[1189] World Bank, "When Health Arrived: Hope for the Guatemalan Highlands," July 2, 2025.

[1190] Human Rights Watch, ""Forced to Give Up on Their Dreams". Sexual Violence against Girls in Guatemala," February 18, 2025.

[1191] *Casa Centroamerica*, "Condena histórica en el caso Hogar Seguro" (Historic sentence in the "Hogar Seguro" case), August 12, 2025.

[1192] Plaza Pública (@PlazaPublicaGT), (June 19, 2025), "#Ahora El exjefe policial Edy Vásquez Rabanales enfrentará juicio (…)" (Former police chief Edy Vásquez Rabanales to face trial...) [X post], X, https://x.com/PlazaPublicaGT/status/1935771061162828078; *La Hora*, "Caso Itzapa: Los gritos de Eldin Choc, su llamado de auxilio y dos policías que podrían enfrentar juicio" (Itzapa Case: The cries of Eldin Choc, his call for help, and two police officers who may face trial), June 13, 2025; *Plaza Pública*, "El último crimen de la subestación 73-15" (The latest crime at substation 73-15), March 6, 2025.

[1193] *Agencia Ocote*, "Orgullo LGBTIQ+ 2025 en Guatemala" (2025 LGBTIQ+ Pride in Guatemala), June 28, 2025; *Chapin TV*, "Organizaciones trans exigen acceso a salud y anticonceptivos en Guatemala" (Trans organizations demand access to healthcare and contraceptives in Guatemala), June 19, 2025.

[1194] *TN23*, "CC emite resolución respecto a desfile de la diversidad sexual" (Constitutional Court issues ruling regarding the sexual diversity parade), June 27, 2025.

promoted or the ideas expressed during the parade. It also urged that "the spiritual and moral values of society be protected, especially those of children and adolescents (…)".[1195]

528. Regarding advances in the rights of **indigenous peoples**, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources revoked ten mining exploitation licenses in Sierra Santa Cruz, Izábal, following the identification of irregularities and the protests carried out by 54 indigenous communities, affecting 64,320 hectares.[1196]

529. The Inter-American Commission took note of the judgment against three former Guatemalan paramilitaries, who were sentenced in May 2025 to 40 years of imprisonment for sexual violence acts committed in 1983 against six indigenous Achí women during the internal armed conflict. The court found them guilty of crimes against the duties of humanity for sexual violence, based on witness testimony, expert reports and historical documentation. The judgment recognized the systematic use of sexual violence as a war weapon against indigenous women within a context of structural racism and persistent impunity in the country.[1197]

530. At the community level, Kaqchikel authorities in Chimaltenango reported new detentions and attacks against community leaders and mobilized to resist state criminalization, reaffirming their autonomy and reporting the structural racism that restricts their political participation.[1198]

531. As for the situation of **Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination**, the State reported on awareness-raising and training actions addressing racial discrimination against Garífuna people,[1199] as well as measures reflecting governmental commitment to the Garífuna and Creole peoples, including a diagnostic assessment to implement recognition and safeguarding actions in Izábal, encompassing both the Creole and the Garífuna communities.[1200] It also reported progress in incorporating the variables "Afro-descendant/Creole/Afro-mestizo" into policy instruments and into the 2024 National Report on the Montevideo Consensus, including guidelines for ethnic disaggregation and the provision of services.[1201]

532. Similarly, local authorities and public entities reported affirmative actions in Izábal, a department with a significant Garífuna population, incorporating a gender perspective and promoting the economic inclusion of Garífuna women. Among these actions were dialogue sessions on economic

[1195] Republic of Guatemala, Constitutional Court of Guatemala, Case File No. 4505-2025, June 26, 2025.

[1196] *Mongabay*, "En Guatemala, las comunidades indígenas que luchan por liberar a sus ríos de la minería obtuvieron una victoria en Izabal" (In Guatemala, indigenous communities fighting to free their rivers from mining secure a victory in Izábal), August 28, 2025.

[1197] *El País*, "Tres exparamilitares, condenados a 40 años de cárcel en Guatemala por violar a mujeres indígenas" (Three former paramilitaries sentenced to 40 years in prison in Guatemala for raping indigenous women), May 30, 2025.

[1198] Observatory on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (DESCA) and Public Policies, Rafael Landívar University, *Informe sobre el Monitoreo de Medios sobre las Incidencias 'DESCA' en Guatemala de junio a julio de 2025* (Media monitoring report on ESCER incidents in Guatemala, June to July 2025), 2025.

[1199] State of Guatemala, Ministry of Economy, Taller "Respeto a la Dignidad y Derechos Humanos" en conmemoración del Día Internacional de la Eliminación de la Discriminación Racial y la Semana de Solidaridad (Workshop "Respect for Dignity and Human Rights," held in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Solidarity Week), March 27, 2025; State of Guatemala, Ministry of Culture and Sports, 21 de febrero: Día Nacional de los Idiomas Indígenas (February 21: National Day of Indigenous Languages), February 21, 2025; *AGN*, "Codisra realiza taller sobre los derechos de los pueblos indígenas en Izabal" (CODISRA holds workshop on the rights of indigenous peoples in Izábal), April 7, 2025.

[1200] *AGN*, "Gobierno del presidente Arévalo reafirma compromiso con los pueblos indígenas" (Government of President Bernardo Arévalo reaffirms its commitment to indigenous peoples), April 23, 2025; State of Guatemala, Ministry of Culture and Sports (MCD), "Diagnóstico situacional como ruta para implementar acciones de reconocimiento" (Situational diagnosis as a pathway for implementing recognition actions), July 25, 2025.

[1201] State of Guatemala, Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN), *National Report on the Montevideo Consensus 2024*, June 6, 2025.

development[1202] and a technical roundtable aimed at strengthening technical and vocational training.[1203] In addition, multisectoral initiatives were reported to mitigate pollution affecting Caribbean livelihoods, including improvements to basic services and infrastructure,[1204] as well as sanitation actions targeting the Motagua river.[1205]

533. Nevertheless, the Inter-American Commission was informed of persistent challenges. The absence of statistical data continues to affect access to rights and the development of differentiated policies targeted at Garífuna and Xinka peoples.[1206] At the legislative level, the Commission on Indigenous Peoples kept the Bill on the Recognition of the Afro-descendant Creole People on its agenda, which has not been adopted yet.[1207] Civil society organizations reported that mining activities in Izabal are conducted with "lack of transparency and corruption," lack of prior consultation, and environmental risks to water sources.[1208] For its part, the State announced the revocation of ten mining licenses.[1209] National and international media highlighted the chronic pollution of the Las Vacas and Motagua rivers, as well as cultural extinction risks, and pressures affecting migration and food security.[1210] The OHCHR reported on missions to Livingston and Puerto Barrios that identified negative impacts on the rights of Garífuna women, including gender-based violence,[1211] who continue to experience political invisibilization.[1212]

534. With regard to **persons in the context of human mobility**, the Inter-American Commission learnt of the launch of the Plan Retorno al Hogar (Return Home Plan) in February 2025, aimed at the sustainable reintegration of returned Guatemalan nationals. This plan consists of three phases: consular assistance, humanitarian assistance, and intermediation and referral to state programs.[1213] In addition, the Commission also took note of the Protocol for the Care of Persons in Mixed Migration Flows, adopted in June, with the aim of strengthening the State's capacity to effectively and humanely address the challenges of human mobility. This protocol includes differentiated procedures to assist persons in situations of vulnerability, such as asylum

[1202] Municipality of Livingston, "Mujeres Garífunas reciben capacitación sobre derechos humanos en Livingston" (Garífuna women receive human rights training in Livingston), July 11, 2025; Municipality of Livingston, "Conversatorio con Mujeres Garífunas aborda avances y retos del desarrollo económico" (Dialogue with Garífuna women addresses progress and challenges in economic development), July14, 2025; *AGN*, "Guatemala celebra el Día Nacional de la Mujer Garífuna", (Guatemala celebrates the National Day of Garífuna Women) July 25, 2025.

[1203] State of Guatemala, Office oi the Prosecutor for Human Rights (PDH), "Mesa técnica en Puerto Barrios busca fortalecer la formación técnica y ocupacional para pueblos indígenas y afrodescendientes" (Technical roundtable in Puerto Barrios seeks to strengthen technical and vocational training for indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples), July 16, 2025.

[1204] Municipality of Livingston, "Municipalidad entrega 89 pilas a familias de aldea La Pintada" (Municipality delivers 89 water tanks to families in La Pintada village), August 1, 2025; Municipality of Livingston, "¡Importante jornada de limpieza en las playas de Livingston!" (Major beach clean-up day in Livingston), April 1, 2025.

[1205] *El País CR*, "Guatemala anuncia que frenó contaminación arrastrada por río Motagua hacia el mar Caribe" (Guatemala announces it has halted pollution flowing from the Motagua river into the Caribbean Sea), July 21, 2025; World Economic Forum (WEF), "Latin America's plastic pollution problem: How innovations are tackling waste from the Motagua River to the Galápagos Islands", September 18, 2025.

[1206] International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), "The Indigenous World 2025: Guatemala, April 25, 2025.

[1207] State of Guatemala, Congress of the Republic, Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Iniciativa 5133 "Ley de Reconocimiento del Pueblo Afrodescendiente Creole en Guatemala" (Bill No. 5133, "Law on the Recognition of the Afro-descendant Creole People in Guatemala"), n/d.

[1208] *Prensa Comunitaria*, "Actividad minera en Livingston, Izabal evidenció opacidad y corrupción" (Mining activity in Livingston, Izabal, shows lack of transparency and corruption), August 1, 2025; *Prensa Comunitaria*, "Más sectores se suman a las comunidades de Livingston para detener minería en Sierra Santa Cruz" (Additional sectors join Livingston communities in efforts to stop mining in Sierra Santa Cruz), May 24, 2025.

[1209] Municipality of Livingston, "Comunidades de Livingston celebran cancelación de 10 licencias mineras con acto de agradecimiento a Dios" (Livingston communities celebrate the revocation of ten mining licenses with a thanksgiving ceremony to God), August 4, 2025.

[1210] *El País*, "Los garífunas de Guatemala luchan por preservar su lengua frente a la migración y el abandono: 'Nuestros libros son las canciones'" (Garífuna people in Guatemala struggle to preserve their language amid migration and neglect: "Our books are songs"), February 24, 2025; *El País*, "La pesadilla del río Las Vacas, uno de los más contaminados por plásticos del mundo" (The nightmare of the Las Vacas river, one of the world's most plastic-polluted rivers), August 10, 2025; Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA), Motagua River: A Story of Contamination and a Call for Justice, June 2, 2025.

[1211] OHCHR, *Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, A/HRC/58/22, January 21, 2025.

[1212] *Prensa Comunitaria*, "Iveth Morales: 'Las mujeres negras tenemos que hacer un doble esfuerzo para estar en todos los espacios'" (Iveth Morales: "Black women have to make a double effort to fit in across all spaces," July 25, 2025.

[1213] Government of Guatemala, Plan Retorno al Hogar (Return Home Plan), February 26, 2025.

seekers, refugees, and regional and extra-regional migrants, with clear operational mechanisms, early warning systems, and inter-institutional response mechanisms.[1214]

535. Data from the Guatemalan Migration Institute shows that, between January 1 and August 25, 2025, Guatemala received a total of 29,951 deported persons from the United States and Mexico.[1215] This figure reflects a decrease of approximately 52 percent compared to 2024, when, as of September 30, 2024, the return of 61,892 people had been recorded.[1216]

536. Additionally, the Inter-American Commission warned that the Guatemalan State entered into an agreement with the United States to "transfer nationals of Central American countries to Guatemala." According to official information,[1217] both States agreed that each would comply with its international obligations, national constitutions, laws, regulations, and immigration and visa policies, including Guatemala's consideration of asylum or equivalent temporary protection applications submitted by nationals of Central American countries. The Inter-American Commission does not have information on the implementation of this agreement.

537. With regard to **internal displacement**, information from the National Statistics Institute (INE) released in September 2025 indicates that the 2023 National Survey of Living Conditions (ENCOVI) revealed that Guatemala reportedly has around 1,200,000 internally displaced people, accounting for 7 percent of the country's total population. Of those displaced, 47 percent are men and 53 percent are women. ENCOVI data indicates that women face greater exposure to internal displacement and are displaced more often than men.[1218] Figures from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC), published in May 2025, allegedly place Guatemala among the countries with the highest numbers of internally displaced persons by the end of 2024. According to the IDMC, 550 conflict- and violence-related displacements and 81,000 disaster-related displacements occurred in 2024.[1219]

538. With regard to **persons deprived of liberty**, the Inter-American Commission welcomes the implementation of the General Intimate Visit Protocol in detention centers under the responsibility of the General Directorate of the Penitentiary System (DGSP), and it also values the announcement of infrastructure improvements to be carried out in three centers.[1220] The Inter-American Commission also takes note of the opening of the Coatepeque Pretrial Detention Center in Quetzaltenango, together with the transfer of its administration from the National Civil Police (PNC) to the DGSP.[1221] In addition, the Commission acknowledges an 18-point reduction in the rate of pretrial detention, which, according to official data compiled by *Colectivo Artesana*, stood at 29 percent as of August 29. However, the Commission reiterates its concern over the

[1214] *AGN*, "Protocolo de Atención a Personas en Flujos Migratorios Mixtos fortalecerá los desafíos de la movilidad humana" (Protocol for the Care of Persons in Mixed Migration Flows to Strengthen Responses to Human Mobility Challenges), July 24, 2025. IMO Guatemala, "Guatemala presenta Protocolo de Atención a Personas en Flujos Migratorios Mixtos" (Guatemala launches Protocol for the Care of Persons in Mixed Migration Flows), June 23, 2025.

[1215] Guatemalan Migration Institute, Guatemala, *Informe de guatemaltecos retornados 2025* (2025 Report on Guatemalan returnees),n/d., p. 2. Accessed on August 26, 2025.

[1216] IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A. Situation of Human Rights in the Region, May 8, 2025, para. 489.

[1217] National Archives, Federal Register, United States, *Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Guatemala Relating to the Transfer of Nationals of Central American Countries to Guatemala*, July 7, 2025.

[1218] INE, Guatemala, Internal Displacement in Guatemala, n/d. On IACHR´s files. Vice Presidency of Guatemala [@ViceGuatemala], (September 1, 2025), Guatemala cuenta ahora con evidencia sólida sobre el desplazamiento interno (Guatemala now has solid evidence on internal displacement) [X post], X. https://x.com/ViceGuatemala/status/1962682621558677999.

[1219] Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024*, May 13, 2025, pp. 73 and 110.

[1220] Government of Guatemala, Diplomatic Note No. OEA-M4-NV-260-2025 – Annex: *Annual Report of the State of Guatemala to the IACHR*, October 10, 2025, pp. 117 and 119.

[1221] Ministry of the Interior, Government of Guatemala, "Centro de Detención Preventiva fortalece gestión penitenciaria" (Pretrial detention center strengthens penitentiary management), July 1, 2025.

persistence of severe overcrowding in centers of deprivation of liberty. According to the same data, overcrowding reached 23 percent as of the indicated date.[1222]

539. In addition, the Inter-American Commission took note of reports of repeated incidents of violence in various Guatemalan prisons. Through a statement issued on May 30, it expressed deep concern over the death of four people deprived of liberty at the Pavoncito Prison on May 23, and recalled the State's duty to protect the life and security of people under its custody.[1223] In addition, the Inter-American Commission condemned the violence that occurred on July 17 at the Puerto Barrios Rehabilitation Center, which resulted in the death of two persons deprived of liberty.[1224]

540. In addition, alarm has been raised over riots recorded over the year in various detention centers, led by organized crime groups in response to the transfer of five members of the Pandilla 18 / Barrio 18 street gang and five members of the *Mara Salvatrucha*, who were relocated to the Renovación I Detention Center on July 31, 2025.[1225] In addition, the Commission took note of the escape of 20 detainees allegedly belonging to the Pandilla 18 / Barrio 18 street gang, as announced by the government of Guatemala on October 12.[1226]

541. Lastly, according to information received during its 193rd regular period of sessions, the Commission condemns the alleged practices of sexual violence and trafficking of girls which have reportedly been taking place in Guatemalan prisons for nearly two decades. Additionally, the Commission is concerned that, according to information received on that occasion, detention centers in the country reportedly prohibit visits as a punitive measure and, moreover, they lack adequate conditions to allow visits, for example, due to the absence of emergency exits, unsanitary conditions, and visitor restrooms without doors.[1227]

542. Regarding **human trafficking**, the Inter-American Commission welcomes the adoption of Decree No. 3-2025, of February 18, 2025, which amends Decree No. 33-2006 of the Penitentiary Regime Law and Decree No. 1773 of the Criminal Code. The decree seeks to: i) protect Guatemalan children from human trafficking within the penitentiary system; ii) establish a system for the registration and monitoring of children and adolescents who enter detention centers as family visitors; and iii) dismantle criminal networks with

[1222] Information provided to the IACHR by the organization *Colectivo Artesana* of Guatemala by electronic means, August 29, 2025; see also: IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A."Situation of Human Rights in the Region", para. 491; and Congress of the Republic, Government of Guatemala, "MESA DISCUTE SOBRE HACINAMIENTO EN LAS CÁRCELES" (Roundtable discusses prison overcrowding), August 19, 2025.

[1223] IACHR [@CIDH], (May 30, 2025), #CIDH expresa su preocupación por la muerte de cuatro personas privadas de libertad en la cárcel de Pavoncito, el 23 de mayo (#IACHR expresses concern over the death of four persons deprived of liberty at the Pavoncito Prison on May 23) [X post], X, https://x.com/CIDH/status/1928526497842868502.

[1224] Guatemalan Penitentiary System [@_SPGuatemala], (July 18, 2025), #ComunicadoOficial (#OfficialStatement) [X post], X, https://x.com/_SPGuatemala/status/1946233907990397106.

[1225] In particular, the riots that occurred on August 12 at the Zone 18 Pretrial Detention Center and at the Fraijanes 2 Detention Center, during which 11 penitentiary guards were taken hostage; on August 22 at the Restauración Constitucional Pretrial Detention Center for Men and the El Boquerón Pretrial Detention Center, during which 13 people, including penitentiary officers and civilians, were taken hostage; and on August 24 at the El Boquerón Pretrial Detention Center, during which its director and warden were taken hostage. Jiménez, Francisco [@FJimenezmingob], (August 12, 2025), Al pueblo de Guatemala le informo: Hoy, las pandillas han dado un paso más en su desesperación. Coordinaron motines en... (To the people of Guatemala, I inform you: Today, gangs have taken a further step amid their desperation. They orchestrated riots in...) [X post], X, https://x.com/FJimenezmingob/status/1955266243482497164; and Guatemalan Penitentiary System [@_SPGuatemala], (August 23, 2025), #ComunicadoOficial #SPenAcción (#OfficialStatement, #SPinAction) [X post], X, https://x.com/_SPGuatemala/status/1959434172918825250; see also: *Swissinfo*, "Las autoridades liberan a los rehenes tomados por pandilleros en cárceles de Guatemala" (Authorities free hostages taken by gang members in prisons in Guatemala), August 25, 2025; and *El Mundo*, Liberan a los 11 guardias penitenciarios tomados como rehenes por las pandillas tras amotinarse en dos cárceles de Guatemala (Authorities release 11 penitentiary guards taken hostage by gangs after riots in two prisons in Guatemala), August 13, 2025.

[1226] *La Nación*, "Recapturan a dos pandilleros fugados de cárcel en Guatemala" (Authorities recapture two gang members who escaped from prison in Guatemala), October 18, 2025; *DW*, "Guatemala: fuga de pandilleros presos genera crisis política" (Guatemala: Prison escape of gang members sparks political crisis), October 15, 2025; and *The New York Times*, "Una fuga masiva de reclusos desata crisis de seguridad en Guatemala" (Mass prison escape triggers security crisis in Guatemala), October 14, 2025.

[1227] IACHR, public hearing "Impact of penitentiary policies on children and adolescents with imprisoned relatives," 193° regular period of sessions, July 21, 2025.

access to deprivation of liberty centers.[1228] This decree establishes that visits by children and adolescents may only take place when they are first- or second-degree blood relatives. In addition, the Commission took note of the launch, in the same month, of the National Plan for the Prevention of Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Human Trafficking, as well as the Mobile Units Mechanism for the prevention of this crime.[1229] Both initiatives seek to carry out training and awareness-raising activities to fight against human trafficking and to promote crime prevention through community-based interventions aimed at persons in vulnerable situations.

543. With respect to the rights of **persons with disabilities**, the INE is conducting a survey aimed at collecting key data on the connection between migration and disability.[1230] In addition, the Office of the Public Defender (PGN) strengthened legal assistance for this population, promoting greater access to justice.[1231] For its part, the State submitted a framework bill on persons with disabilities, which provides for the creation of a specialized presidential secretariat tasked with implementing the model and the national policy for the care and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, with the aim of ensuring a more comprehensive and coordinated institutional response.[1232] In this regard, the civil society reports a lack of regulations for the provision of differentiated care for persons with disabilities, which would facilitate the issuance of certificates confirming the status of persons with disabilities in the workplace and other sectors.[1233]

XVIII. GUYANA

- **General considerations**

544. As it relates to **progress**, the Commission highlights the passage of legislation to increase access and improve the delivery of justice. In addition, the IACHR highlights the passage of child protection legislation, the establishment of a new children's Court and continued efforts to promote equal opportunity and participation of women in economic life. Moreover, the Commission welcomes efforts to address gender-based violence against women.

545. As it relates to **challenges**, the Commission takes note of the continued delay in the establishment of a Human Rights Commission. Moreover, the IACHR notes with concern that domestic violence–related killings of women remained alarmingly high. Additionally, the Commission notes with concern multiple cases of violence and excessive use of force impacting Afro-descendant communities.

546. On September 3, 2025, the State submitted its response to the request for information for the preparation of this chapter.[1234]

[1228] Government of Guatemala, "Ley Protege a Menores de la Explotación y Trata de Personas" (Law protects minors from exploitation and human trafficking), February 18, 2025.

[1229] Government of Guatemala, "Aumentan las unidades móviles para el interior del país, iniciativa clave para la prevención de la Violencia Sexual, Explotación y Trata de Personas" (Increase in mobile units nationwide, a key initiative to prevent sexual violence, exploitation and human trafficking), February 13, 2025.

[1230] *La Red*, "INE lanzará encuesta nacional en noviembre y diciembre para medir el impacto de la migración y la discapacidad en Guatemala" (INE to launch national survey in November and December to assess the impact of migration and disability in Guatemala), October 2, 2025

[1231] *AGN*, "PGN refuerza acciones en defensa de personas con discapacidad" (PNG strengthens actions to defend the rights of persons with disabilities), September 19, 2025.

[1232] Congress of the Republic, "Política de atención y protección a personas con discapacidad" (Policy for the Care and Protection of Persons with Disabilities), April 30, 2025; "Presentan iniciativa de ley marco para personas con discapacidad" (Lawmakers introduce a framework bill on persons with disabilities), August 19, 2025.

[1233] *Canal Antigua*, Desafíos y avances en materia de discapacidad en Guatemala (Challenges and progress on disability in Guatemala), June 27, 2025.

[1234] The Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Responses by the Government of Guyana to the IACHR Request for Information IACHR Annual Report 2025, September 3, 2025. On file at the IACHR.

- **Specific issues**

547. With regards to **democratic institutionality**, the IACHR notes that the State held general and regional elections on September 1. According to the official results of the Guyana Elections Commission, the ruling party, the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPC), won 36 seats in the National Assembly to form a majority government. While We Invest in Nationhood (WIN) gained 16 seats, the A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) gained 12 seats, and Forward Guyana Movement (FGM) gained 1 seat.[1235] The Commission highlights the OAS Electoral Observation Mission Preliminary Report which noted that the election process was conducted efficiently. In addition, the Report recommended restructuring the electoral authority for greater impartiality, ensuring accessible voting for persons with disabilities and establishing measures to prevent and address political violence, particularly against women in politics.[1236]

548. In relation to **human rights institutions**, the Commission notes with concern public statements made by the government in March which criticized certain civil society organizations. While the government indicated a willingness to support CSOs that contribute "positively to society", it noted that organizations critical of the ruling government would not receive financial support.[1237] The Commission is also concerned about the persistent ineffectiveness of the Office of the Information Commissioner, which, according to civil society, has been under-resourced and has not been operational for long periods. In this context, the IACHR has emphasized that access to information is essential for democratic participation and requires a legal regime in which transparency and the right of access are the general rule.[1238]

549. Moreover, there has been a continued delay in the establishment of a Human Rights Commission. Although the Constitution of Guyana provides for the establishment of a Human Rights Commission to promote respect for and investigate violations of fundamental rights, the State has yet to establish this Commission. Concerning the appointment of a chairperson for the Commission, under the Fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the State reported that the Constitution mandates the President to appoint the Commission's chairperson from a list submitted by the Leader of the Opposition. It was noted that the appointment process will potentially be reviewed during the constitutional reform process.[1239]

550. Harsh criticism of civil society speaking out against State action, the non-functioning Information Commissioner and the delay in establishing a Human Rights Commission are worrying signs of intolerance towards dissent.

551. With regards to **access to justice**, the Commission highlights the passage of the amendment to the Court of Appeal Act which expanded the Court of Appeal bench with the aim of improving the delivery of justice. According to information provided by the State, seven judges were promoted to the Appeal Court by the Judicial Services Commission in May. The State informed that the Appeal Court is now better resourced to continue reviewing appeals and is better positioned to review appeals efficiently, uphold the rule of law and protect and ensure fundamental human rights.[1240]

552. Concerning the rights of **children**, the Commission highlights the passage of child protection legislation, the establishment of a children's Court and the State's zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse and harassment. Regarding the passage of child protection legislation, in August the IACHR congratulated the State on the passage of the International Measures for the Protection of Children (Hague Convention) Act 2025. It was noted that this new law aimed to incorporate into domestic law the 1996 Hague Convention on Jurisdiction,

[1235] Department of Public Information, People's Progressive Party/Civic Wins 2025 General and Regional Elections, September 6, 2025.
[1236] OAS, Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Guyana for the 2025 General and Regional Elections, September 5, 2025.
[1237] Kaieteur News, No State funding for NGOs critical of Govt. —Jagdeo tells supporters, March 26, 2025.
[1238] IACHR, Thematic Hearing, Guyana: Impacts of the Freedom of Information Act, 194º Period of Sessions, November 19, 2025.
[1239] Human Rights Council, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21* Guyana, February 17, 2025.
[1240] The Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Responses by the Government of Guyana to IACHR Request for Information IACHR Annual Report 2025, September 3, 2025. On file at the IACHR.

Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children. The Commission noted that the passage of this legislation reflected the State's commitment to strengthening international legal cooperation and ensuring effective protection for children in cross-border contexts, such as in situations of custody, visitation, intercountry adoptions and other protection measures.[1241]

553. In addition, according to information provided by the State, in collaboration with UNICEF, it opened a children's Court at the Charity Magistrate's Court in Region Two. This is the third specialized children's Court in the country and is in direct alignment with Juvenile Justice Act of 2018. This Act outlines comprehensive guidelines for the handling of juveniles who come into contact with the law, from arrest and custody to court proceedings and sentencing.[1242]

554. Moreover, within the context of its Fourth UPR, the State informed that it maintained a zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse and harassment in schools, ensuring prompt investigations into bullying and violence. It further noted that its stance will be strengthened by the Protection from Harassment Bill which is currently under public consultation.[1243] According to the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security there were 4,038 cases of child abuse recorded in 2024 ranging from physical, emotional, sexual, verbal as well as neglect.[1244] In contrast, according to public information there were 275 cases of child abuse recorded as of February 16.[1245]

555. Regarding the **human rights of women**, the budget allocated to the Women and Gender Equality Commission in 2025 increased by 10.5% compared to the previous year's budget, and by 42.3% compared to 2020.[1246] The State also continued efforts to promote equal opportunity and participation of women in economic life by expanding their access to higher education,[1247] new markets and entrepreneurial training.[1248] There is also a growing level of women's participation across both the public and private sectors. As of July, women represent over 60% of the judiciary,[1249] 39% of the National Assembly[1250]– of whom 39% are indigenous women[1251]-, and at least one-third of party candidates which contested the 2025 General and

[1241] IACHR, Press Release No. 161/25, IACHR Welcomes Guyana's Legislative Progress in Protecting Children's Rights, August 14, 2025.

[1242] The Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Responses by the Government of Guyana to the IACHR Request for Information IACHR Annual Report 2025, September 3, 2025. On file at the IACHR.

[1243] Human Rights Council, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21* Guyana, February 17, 2025.

[1244] Department of Public Information, CPA working overtime to tackle child abuse reports, February 18, 2025.

[1245] Kaieteur News, 275 cases of child abuse recorded in 2025 – Min. Persaud, February 16, 2025.

[1246] Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the Organization of American States, Note No. 115/2025 – Annex: Responses by the Government of Guyana to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Annual Report 2025, September 3, 2025, p. 6, on IACHR files; HRC Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21* Guyana, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GUY/1, February 17, 2025, p. 208.

[1247] Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the Organization of American States, Note No. 115/2025 – Annex: Responses by the Government of Guyana to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Annual Report 2025, September 3, 2025, pp. 9-10, on IACHR files; Guyana Times, Over 70% of GOAL scholarship beneficiaries are women – Ali, January 29, 2025; Stabroek News, Seventy percent of GOAL's latest graduates are women, June 10, 2025.

[1248] Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the Organization of American States, Note No. 115/2025 – Annex: Responses by the Government of Guyana to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Annual Report 2025, September 3, 2025, pp. 8-10, on IACHR files; Department of Public Information, Fifth edition of WE LIFT Expo a success, April 14, 2025; HRC Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21* Guyana, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GUY/1, February 17, 2025, p. 126-128.

[1249] Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the Organization of American States, Note No. 115/2025 – Annex: Responses by the Government of Guyana to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Annual Report 2025, September 3, 2025, pp. 6 and 13, on IACHR files; HRC Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21* Guyana, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GUY/1, February 17, 2025, p. 206.

[1250] Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the Organization of American States, Note No. 115/2025 – Annex: Responses by the Government of Guyana to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Annual Report 2025, September 3, 2025, p. 6, on IACHR files; HRC Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21* Guyana, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GUY/1, February 17, 2025, p. 205.

[1251] Prensa Latina, Destaca Guyana avances en derechos de mujeres indígenas, April 22, 2025.

Regional elections.[1252] Women also hold leadership positions in the private sector,[1253] and dominate the teaching and health sectors at high levels.[1254]

556. Concerning efforts to address gender-based violence, the Commission highlights the "Bridging the Gap Policy", a positive initiative that acknowledges men and boys as essential partners in prevention, and emphasizes accountability while supporting healing, self-awareness and positive masculinity.[1255] Survivor's access to support services was also strengthened through the expansion of Hope and Justice Centers and mobile gender-based violence services to remote regions, and the upgrading of the iMatter mobile app.[1256] Additionally, the State informed that the Protection from Harassment Bill and the amendments to the Sexual offences Act will enhance protections for women;[1257] however, both pieces of legislation remain pending since at least last year.[1258]

557. Moreover, domestic violence–related killings of women remain alarmingly high. Civil society organizations have called for an evaluation of the judicial system, particularly the Guyana Police Force, citing numerous cases where authorities failed to act on domestic violence reports, resulting in the murder of victims.[1259] The continued absence of legislation criminalizing femicide[1260] and the lack of systematic data collection on violence against women further hinder the State's ability to prevent such crimes effectively.[1261]

558. In relation to **trafficking in persons**, the IACHR observes that in July, the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Unit (C-TIP) of the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security launched a series of new tools aimed at enhancing victim protection, increasing public awareness, and encouraging greater community involvement in the fight against human trafficking. These new tools include: comprehensive standard operating procedures for trafficking in persons protection; a child-friendly trafficking in persons storybook for readers seven to 16; four QR codes to allow the public to report trafficking concerns quickly and easily; and a simplified reader-friendly version of the C-TIP Act of 2023, titled "A victim's Guide."[1262]

559. In addition, the IACHR takes note that in April, interagency governmental offices gathered to review progress and align strategic priorities for the comprehensive New Action Plan which outlines targeted

[1252] Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the Organization of American States, Note No. 115/2025 – Annex: Responses by the Government of Guyana to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Annual Report 2025, September 3, 2025, p. 7, on IACHR files.

[1253] Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the Organization of American States, Note No. 115/2025 – Annex: Responses by the Government of Guyana to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Annual Report 2025, September 3, 2025, p. 7, on IACHR files.

[1254] HRC Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21* Guyana, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GUY/1, February 17, 2025, p. 207.

[1255] Permanent Mission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the Organization of American States, Note No. 115/2025 – Annex: Responses by the Government of Guyana to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Annual Report 2025, September 3, 2025, p. 9, on IACHR files.

[1256] HRC Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21* Guyana, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GUY/1, February 17, 2025, p. 210; dpi.gov.gy, Guyana consults on key reforms to Sexual Offences Act, April 9, 2025.

[1257] HRC Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21* Guyana, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GUY/1, February 17, 2025, p. 195 and 203.

[1258] IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter IV.a, March 26, 2025, p. 496.

[1259] Stabroek News, Cummings Lodge woman slain after frequent physical abuse, September 4, 2025; Stabroek News, Maline LaCruz videos for help from domestic violence didn't prevent her murder, May 6, 2025; Stabroek News, We are outraged at the continued lack of accountability and failure of the justice system to protect women and girls from violence, May 3, 2025; Stabroek News, Ministry should listen and learn as survivors of gender-based violence and their families explain their problems, February 21, 2025; Stabroek News, Failure to systematically collect and disseminate data is hampering fight against sexual and gender-based violence, February 9, 2025.

[1260] IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter IV.a, March 26, 2025, p. 496.

[1261] HRC Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Guyana*, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GUY/3, January 17, 2025, p. 48; Stabroek News, Failure to systematically collect and disseminate data is hampering fight against sexual and gender-based violence, February 9, 2025.

[1262] Government of Guyana, C-TIP Unit launches vital anti-trafficking tools to strengthen victim support, raise awareness, July 30, 2025.

interventions for the prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership pillars of Guyana's anti-trafficking efforts. The Action Plan ensures alignment with the best international practices to combat trafficking.[1263]

560. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, the State reported that, in 2025, the Ethnic Relations Commission, together with other national human rights institutions, received a 51% increase in its budget allocation compared to 2020, which strengthened its institutional capacity to fulfill their respective mandates.[1264]

561. Likewise, the IACHR received information about multiple incidents of violence and excessive use of force impacting Afro-descendant communities. Media reported that, in April, a man was shot dead by police in Linden,[1265] and during subsequent protests another man died from police gunfire.[1266] Further, the death in custody of another man was recorded,[1267] as well as a person seriously wounded by police gunfire in Wismar.[1268] In Georgetown, police shot and killed another man while responding to a robbery,[1269] and in July, two people were killed in Buxton by unknown assailants.[1270] The Commission also notes that, in response to the Linden incident, authorities reported that regional police-oversight agencies arrived in the country and completed investigations into the lethal events, resulting in the criminal charging of a sergeant.[1271] It also recorded investigative progress in other cases.[1272] Also, in July, a High Court judge sentenced a former SWAT officer to 25 years in prison for the 2021 death of Orin Boston, in a fatal police incident in a majority Afro-Guyanese community.[1273] The Commission observes a pattern of racial profiling practices in the country.[1274]

562. With respect to the rights of **LGBTI persons**, civil society hosted a town hall with political leaders, ahead of the 2025 elections, addressing LGBTI issues such as workplace discrimination, anti-bullying in schools, and legal reform. Some representatives stated that their party does not support LGBTI discrimination with one party even promising to establish a state funded LGBTI commission if elected.[1275] In this context, the IACHR notes that Guyana continues to have laws which criminalize same-sex relationships between consenting adults.

563. With respect to the rights of **indigenous peoples**, the Government shared with the Kapohn community the economic benefits derived from the sale of carbon credits. Nonetheless, the way this measure was implemented did not adhere to the community's own practices, timelines, and customary decision-making processes, leading to rushed and insufficiently informed choices regarding the use of the funds.[1276]

564. On the matter of **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission welcomes the introduction of the Prison Bill 2025, which seeks to modernize the legal framework by emphasizing rehabilitation and

[1263] Government of Guyana, Ministerial Taskforce Advances New Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons, April 25, 2025.
[1264] State of Guyana, Note No. 115/2025 in response to the Request for Information letter pursuant to Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR) No. 368-25/IACHR/SE/MPCT-IA, August 5, 2025, pp. 5–6, IACHR archives.
[1265] Stabroek News, Linden wanted man fatally shot by cop, April 8, 2025.
[1266] Stabroek News, Protester shot dead in Linden, President appeals for calm, April 8, 2025; Guyana News, No update on probe into Keon Fogenay's shooting death – family members, August 3, 2025.
[1267] News Room Guyana, After beaten and left unattended, block maker dies in Police custody, April 16, 2025.
[1268] Stabroek News, Family seeks help for emergency surgery overseas for Linden father of two shot in eye by police, May 5, 2025.
[1269] Stabroek News, Man fatally shot by cop on Camp and Quamina during robbery, April 29, 2025.
[1270] Stabroek News, Two shot dead in Buxton, five injured, July 16, 2025.
[1271] News Room Guyana, RSS team in Guyana to investigate Linden fatal shootings, April 12, 2025; Stabroek News, Probe into police fatal shooting of Ronaldo Peters has concluded, April 22, 2025; Stabroek News, Police sergeant charged with murder of Linden man, April 26, 2025.
[1272] Stabroek News, DPP to receive file on death of Delon Lawrence in police custody, June 15, 2025.
[1273] Stabroek News, Police constable gets 25 years for killing Dartmouth businessman, 10 de julio de 2025; News Room Guyana, SWAT officer gets 25 years for killing Orin Boston during unlawful raid, July 10, 2025.
[1274] IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter IV-A, OAS/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 39 rev. 2, March 26 2025, para. 503; UN, Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Guyana, CCPR/C/GUY/CO/3, May 3, 2024, para. 14.
[1275] Newsroom Guyana, Elections 2025: Political parties oppose LGBTQ+ discrimination at town hall, July 30, 2025; HGPTV, Political Parties Face Questions On LGBTQ+ Rights At 2025 Elections Town Hall, July 30, 2025.
[1276] *Agencia Publica*, A new mall for the village: How carbon credit dollars affect Indigenous people in Guyana, January 13, 2025.

reintegration.[1277] Additionally, the IACHR values that, according to the State information presented before the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review in 2025, since 2021, Guyana has undertaken 39 major reconstruction and expansion project at prison facilities to combat overcrowding and improve conditions, ensuring they are more humane, accessible and accommodating for persons with disabilities.[1278]

565. On the other hand, it also observes the initiatives to reduce recidivism to 14%, the lowest rate within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), through vocational training, labor market integration, and community-based support programs.[1279] In addition, the IACHR notes the commissioning of new headquarters for the Guyana Prison Service in Lusignan, East Coast Demerara, intended to improve prison management, rehabilitation, and the environment for inmates and staff.[1280]

566. In relation to the **death penalty**, the IACHR observes that Guyana is the only country in South America that retains the death penalty as a punishment, although it maintains a *de facto* moratorium on this penalty, with no executions since 1997.[1281]

XIX. HAITI

- **General considerations**

567. As it relates to **progress**, the Commission highlights the Conseil Électoral Provisoire's (CEP) submission of a full calendar regarding upcoming elections. In addition, it notes the role played by Haitian authorities in the creation of a new Multinational Gang Suppression Force (GSF) and the United Nations Support Office for Haiti (UNSOH). Also, significant institutional and legislative measures were taken this year to address gender-based violence and discrimination, notably with the creation of two specialized judicial units against mass crimes and sexual violence. The Commission further notes Haiti's commitment to reducing insecurity which led to the adoption of the Roadmap for Stability and Peace in Haiti by the OAS General Secretariat. Lastly, the Commission takes note of the establishment of the National Security Council (CNS).

568. Regarding **challenges**, the Commission reiterates once again its concern regarding the upsurge in violent attacks and persistent gender-based violence. Additionally, the IACHR notes with concern the rise of armed citizen brigades participating in violent confrontations. The Commission further reiterates its concern about the persistent increase in the number of internally displaced persons in the framework of the Haitian multidimensional crisis.

569. The State did not respond to the request for information to draft this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

570. Regarding **democratic institutionality**, the Commission highlights the submission by the CEP to the Transitional Presidential Council (CPT) of a full electoral calendar, setting the date of August 30, 2026, for the first round of elections. The proposed timeline outlines a 41-step plan through February 2027. The Commission values that the CEP, the organ responsible for upcoming elections, has already taken several actions with regards to preparing the electoral vote, such as registering more than 200 political parties,

[1277] Ministry of Legal Affairs, Government of Guyana, Guyana moves to replace 1957 Prison Act with modern rehabilitation-focused law, 10 September 2025.
[1278] Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Human Rights Council, United Nations, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GUY/1, February 17, 2025, para. 100.
[1279] Department of Public Information, Government of Guyana, Guyana leads recidivism efforts within CARICOM, July 14, 2025.
[1280] Department of Public Information, Government of Guyana, $447M Prison Headquarters Commissioned at Lusignan, August 25, 2025.
[1281] Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Human Rights Council, United Nations, National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GUY/1, February 17, 2025, para. 8.

assessing voting centers and recruiting members of the Departmental Electoral Offices.[1282] However, at the time of drafting this Report, there was no public information regarding electoral candidates lists, campaign guidelines, observers' accreditations or measures to include vulnerable populations.[1283]

571. Likewise, the Commission takes note of the replacement of Fritz Alphonse Jean by businessmen Laurent Saint-Cyr at the rotating presidency of the CPT in August. This rotation is part of a built-in mechanism changing the presidency every five months. The CPT is a temporary body established by the March 11, 2024 political agreement brokered by CARICOM to assume interim presidency over Haiti until a new President may be sworn in or until February 7, 2026, whichever comes first.[1284]

572. On the other hand, the Commission notes that the CPT proposed a referendum for a new Constitution to be held in 2025 in order to address governance challenges, even as Haiti's 1987 Constitution explicitly prohibits referendums as a means of amendment. In light of this situation, there were concerns regarding the legitimacy of such an operation as well as the level of security needed to ensure a reliable voting process.[1285] Also, in response to the CEP President's request for opinion, the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe stated in June 2025 that a climate of security is essential if elections are to comply with international standards and commented that recent developments were not reassuring in this aspect.[1286] Finally, on October 9, 2025, the CPT terminated the mandate of the steering committee in charge of the referendum, effectively abandoning the initiative.[1287]

573. Regarding **human rights institutionality,** the Commission notes Haiti's contribution in the adoption and implementation of the OAS' Roadmap for Stability and Peace, which offers a "political and operational framework to coordinate concrete solutions with the Haitian authorities and align efforts among multilateral and regional partners". This initiative is focused on: i) immediate measures to secure key corridors and infrastructure, rebuilding the Haitian National Police, reforming the justice system, and dismantling transnational criminal economies; ii) addressing the need for political legitimacy alongside security; iii) supporting the CEP and the National Identification Office (ONI) to guarantee free, fair, and transparent elections; iv) delivering life-saving aid in food, water, health, education, and shelter; and v) restoring basic services, promoting climate-resilient agriculture, strengthening micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), expanding infrastructure, and fostering social protection systems. [1288]

574. However, as Haiti faces a worsening humanitarian crisis, its capacity to guarantee the effective enjoyment of basic human rights is hindered by funding insufficiency, as it was operating with only 9% of the 908$ million required for its humanitarian needs as of July 2025, according to OCHA.[1289] Thus, the effective enjoyment of human rights remains challenged by the context of generalized violence.

575. Regarding **citizen security**, the Commission notes the instauration of the National Security Council (CNS) in December 2024, aimed at addressing security needs and fulfilling Haiti's obligations following the ratification of the "Accord Politique for a peaceful and organized transition" of April 3, 2024.[1290] The

[1282] The Haitian Times, Inside Haiti's road to the 2026 elections: CEP sets Aug. 30 as tentative voting date, November 17, 2025; and The Haitian Times, Security Council warns Haiti's leaders: Time running out to restore security and hold elections, October 23, 2025; and L'actualité, L'ONU presse les dirigeants haïtiens d'organiser des élections avant la date limite, October 23, 2025.

[1283] The Haitian Times, Dans un contexte de méfiance croissante, le conseil électoral d'Haïti bloque le référendum et les plans électoraux, July 22, 2025.

[1284] OAS, Special report on the situation of press freedom in Haiti, May 2025, p. 11.

[1285] United Nations, Security Council, United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti - Report of the Secretary-General, S/2025/641, October 14, 2025; and The Haitian Times, Haiti's upcoming constitutional referendum: A controversial process amid political and security crisis, April 1, 2025; and United Nations, ASG Jenča warns of deepening crisis in Haiti, urges urgent international action to prevent collapse of state authority, July 2, 2025.

[1286] European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Haiti opinion on the draft referendum decree, June 6, 2025.

[1287] Miami Herald, Haiti's transitional leaders end controversial effort to rewrite 1987 constitution, October 10, 2025; and Haitian Times, Security Council warns Haiti's leaders: Time running out to restore security and hold elections, October 23, 2025.

[1288] OAS, Press release No. E-047/25, OAS Secretary General Presents Roadmap for Stability and Peace in Haiti, August 30, 2025.

[1289] OCHA, Haïti : Aperçu de la réponse humanitaire à l'échelle nationale - Rapport de situation No. 19, July 22, 2025.

[1290] Le Nouvelliste, Le CPT publie le cadre légal du Conseil national de sécurité, December 27, 2024.

Commission however notes that, as of November 2025, no members had formally been appointed to the CNS. It further notes the appointment, in August 2025, of a new director-general of the Haitian National Police forces, following the previous director's failure to contain armed gang violence.[1291]

576. However, as it has been expressed in its press releases published in January[1292], March[1293], April[1294] and May[1295], and December [1296]the Commission reiterates its concern regarding the context of insecurity and generalized violence that has deteriorated throughout the year over the country. According to the data published by the Bureau Intégré des Nations Unies à Haiti's (BINUH), the number of people killed in Haiti in the first nine months of the year amounts to 4,384 people.[1297]

577. The BINUH reports indicate that armed gangs expanded their territorial influence in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and its surroundings during the first quarter, particularly in the communes of Kenscoff and Delmas. However, gang territory progression in the capital stalled in the second and third quarters.[1298] Additionally, large-scale attacks in the Centre department were carried out, aiming to gain control of the roads leading to the Dominican Republic.[1299] In this context, through the first three quarters of 2025, the proportion of killings attributable to armed gangs attacks fluctuated from 35 to 24 to 30%, those happening during security operations increased from 56 to 64 before decreasing to 61%, and those attributed to self-defence groups rose from 9 to 12 before returning to 9%.[1300]

578. In December, the IACHR expressed its extreme concern regarding the persistence and worsening of sexual violence against women, girls, and adolescents. Although sexual violence continues to go unreported due to fear of reprisals, at least 1,000 sexual violence cases—including gang rapes and cases of sexual slavery—were documented between January and June 2025, particularly in areas controlled by armed groups. As reported during a thematic hearing on impunity for sexual violence against women and girls in Haiti, these acts occur in contexts characterized by the absence or limited presence of the State; they are deliberately directed against women and girls as an expression of gender discrimination and as a means of territorial and population control, with rape also being used to humiliate the victims.[1301]

579. Also, according to official data published by the BINUH, 20% of the 802 people that were killed during security force operations in the first quarter of the year were struck by stray bullets while on the streets or in their homes. The Commission notes with concern the 124 cases of alleged summary or arbitrary executions committed by police officers, and 28 cases of extrajudicial killings allegedly committed by the government Commissioner of Miragoâne between January and September 2025.[1302] Also noted is the growing use of explosive drone strikes in 2025 by a private military company following the establishment of a Task Force operating under the command of the Prime Minister on March 1st 2025, which killed more than 300 people in the second quarter, accounting for roughly a third of all casualties recorded during security force operations[1303]. Considering this, the IACHR expresses its concerns regarding the risks for the security of the

[1291] Radio-Canada Info, Haïti déclare un état d'urgence de trois mois en raison de la violence des gangs, August 9, 2025.
[1292] IACHR, Press release No. 022/25, IACHR urges the State of Haiti to take measures to prevent massacres, forced displacement and impunity, January 24, 2025.
[1293] IACHR, Press release No. 052/25 - IACHR condemns deteriorating security situation in Haiti, March 12, 2025.
[1294] IACHR, Press release No. 075/25 - IACHR concerned over escalating violence and humanitarian crisis in Haiti, April 17, 2025.
[1295] IACHR, Press release No. R096/25 - The Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression publishes a special report on the situation of press freedom in Haiti, May 9, 2025.
[1296] IACHR, Press release No. 277/25 - Haiti: IACHR expresses concern over persistent sexual violence against women, girls, and adolescents, December 19, 2025.
[1297] BINUH, Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti July - September 2025, November 12, 2025.
[1298] BINUH, Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti July - September 2025, November 12, 2025, p. 6.
[1299] BINUH: Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti January-March 2025, May 1, 2025, p.6
[1300] BINUH, Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti July - September 2025, November 12, 2025, p. 4.
[1301] IACHR, Press Release No. 277/25, Haiti: IACHR expresses concern over persistent sexual violence against women, girls, and adolescents, December 19, 2025.
[1302] BINUH, Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti July - September 2025, November 12, 2025, p. 3.
[1303] BINUH, Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti April - June 2025, August 1, 2025 ; and The Guardian, 'The ground shook': drone attacks help Haitian government wrest control of capital from criminal gangs, July 2, 2025.

general population, highlighting the deaths of 39 civilians resulting from drone strikes in the third quarter alone, including 20 children.[1304]

580. Likewise, during the first three quarters of 2025, the IACHR followed up the consolidation of a trend that emerged in late 2024 of self-defence groups within the framework of the movement commonly known as "Bwa Kalé", whose actions resulted in the deaths of at least 239 people accused of belonging to gangs or committing ordinary crimes.[1305] Notably, one of those brigades perpetrated a massacre on May 20, 2025, in Préval, in the Artibonite Department, executing at least 55 unarmed civilians.[1306] These groups were first formed in order to resist gangs but they operate outside legal frameworks and fuel illicit arms markets while raising the risk of licit weapons being diverted to criminal groups and further complicate Haiti's security already challenging security situation as the involvement of these groups and joint operations with police personnel blur the line between vigilante and official security forces.[1307]

581. The second and third quarters were marked by a slowdown of criminal gang territorial progression in the capital, where they control an estimated 85-90% of the capital,[1308] but an increase in the Centre and Artibonite departments, leading the Government to declare, in August 2025, a three-month long state of emergency in these regions.[1309]

582. In addition, the Commission expresses its concern regarding the Haitian National Police and Kenya-led MSS mission's struggles with significantly reducing insecurity in the framework of funding uncertainty and lack of adequate equipment. Deployed personnel were far below the 2,500 officers first envisaged, with 1,000 officers on the ground as of July 2025.[1310]According to an Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report published in March, the lack of law enforcement personnel is exploited by criminal networks as they take advantage of poorly guarded ports, airports and land borders to smuggle illegal firearms into the country, further fuelling the crisis. [1311]

583. Before this situation, the Commission welcomes the adoption of Resolution N. 2793 by the UN Security Council on September 30, which creates the new Multinational Gang Suppression Force (GSF) that will replace the current Kenya-led MSS, as well as the United Nations Support Office for Haiti (UNSOH), which will provide logistical and operational support for the GSF, Haitian National Police (HNP) and the army. The 5,550-strong Force will operate under an initial 12-month mandate and will work with the Haitian National Police (HNP) and the Haitian armed forces to conduct intelligence-led operations to neutralise gangs, provide security for critical infrastructure, and support humanitarian access. [1312]

584. As it relates to **access to justice**, the Commission notes with interest the adoption, in April, of a decree creating two specialized judicial units against mass crimes and sexual violence, as well as against financial crimes, which were expected to begin operating respectively in September and October 2025. The Commission further notes that 10 Public Prosecutors have been assigned to these units as of this writing, however these prosecutors still await their appointment as the building intended to host them has not yet been acquired.[1313]

[1304] BINUH, Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti July - September 2025, November 12, 2025, p.12
[1305] BINUH, Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti July - September 2025, November 12, 2025, p. 10.
[1306] BINUH, Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti April - June 2025, August 1, 2025, p. 12; BINUH, Intensification of criminal violence in lower Artibonite, the Centre department, and regions located east of the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, July 2025; Le Nouvelliste, , May 21, 2025 Préval, May 21, 2025.
[1307] Le Nouvelliste, Understanding Vigilance Brigades in the Fight Against Armed Attacks, June 26, 2025.
[1308] BINUH: Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti April-June 2025, August 1, 2025, p. 2.
[1309] United Nations, Security Council, United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti - Report of the Secretary-General. S/2025/641, October 14, 2025, p. 5; and Al Jazeera, Haiti declares three-month state of emergency as gang violence spikes, August 9, 2025.
[1310] United Nations, Security Council, July 2025 Monthly Forecast , June 30, 2025.
[1311] OHCHR, Situation of human rights in Haiti, March 28, 2025, p.6.
[1312] UN news, UN Security Council approves new 'suppression force' for Haiti amid spiralling gang violence, September 30, 2025.
[1313] BINUH, Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti July - September 2025, November 12, 2025, p. 15; and Haiti Libre, Vers la mise en place des pôles judiciaires spécialisés, July 20, 2025.

585. On the other hand, the Commission notes the absence of progress regarding the cases of the massacres at Grand Ravine (2017), La Saline (2018) and Bel Air (2019), as well as the murder of Monferrier Dorval (2020), the former head of the Port-au-Prince Bar Association. It was also observed that the investigation into the murder of former President Jovenel Moise will have to begin anew as the Government Commissioner at the Court of Appeal requested the appointment of a new investigating magistrate to restart the judicial process.[1314] Furthermore, the investigation into the massacre in Wharf Jérémie (Port-au-Prince), where at least 207 people were killed on December 11 and 12 of 2024, continued with the hearing of approximately 30 victims and 66 witnesses and relatives of the victims by the investigating judge in charge of the case. Furthermore, investigations were opened into 22 incidents resulting in the death and injury of 29 people involving possible unlawful use of force by the police. As of 30 June, no investigation into these cases had been closed.[1315]

586. However, the Commission notes that access to justice continues to face important challenges as the Port-au-Prince Court of First Instance, which closed in February 2023, reopened in April in a new space in Puits-Blain but, according the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), it remains virtually nonoperational because the new location lacks the space, security, and equipment for effective court function. In addition, it is a matter of concern that three of the country's 18 courts of first instance did not hold any criminal hearings in 2024 while severe staffing shortages across the country further strain judicial function, with several courts at risk of having to close entirely and frequent strikes by court personnel exacerbating these shortcomings.[1316]

587. The IACHR further express its concern about the CPT's proposed constitutional amendments that would eliminate term limits for certain judges and limit the power of the judiciary's oversight body, threatening undermine the judicial sector's integrity even further.[1317]

588. Finally, the Commission is concerned about the situation caused by the identity document crisis. Thousands of citizens have fled their homes without identity documents or have lost theirs in fires and access to Government services in charge of delivering said documents has dramatically decreased. Certain citizens have been intercepted without documents by the HNP and self-defence groups and treated as gang members, with public executions by self-defence groups recorded following failure to identify.[1318]

589. Regarding the **rights of children**, the Commission expresses its deep concern about the impact that the context of generalized violence in the country has had on this population. According to the UNICEF, violence in Haiti pushed more than 680,000 children into displacement and put more than 3.3 million children in need of humanitarian assistance in 2025. About 25% of the children's population experience consistently high levels of food insecurity, with one million children at a crisis level, which requires urgent action.[1319]

590. In addition, it is a matter of concern that children continue to be killed and injured in in gang attacks, police operations and actions carried out by vigilante groups. Through the first half of the year, at least 68 children have been killed or injured, and at least seven children were kidnapped for ransom.[1320] In particular, an explosive drone attack on September 20, 2025, killed at least eight children and injured six others in Cité-Soleil.[1321] Likewise, the IACHR expresses its concern regarding the recruitment and abuse of children

[1314] BINUH, Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti July - September 2025, November 12, 2025, p. 16.
[1315] BINUH: Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti April-June 2025, August 1, 2025, pp. 17-18.
[1316] Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Haiti: Key Recent Developments December 2024 through June 2025, July 2025, p.6.
[1317] Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Haiti: Key Recent Developments December 2024 through June 2025, July 2025, p. 7.
[1318] The New Humanitarian, Haiti in-depth: Why the Kenya-led security mission is floundering, January 13, 2025.
[1319] UNICEF, The polycrisis for children in Haiti, October, 2025, p. 6.
[1320] BINUH: Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti January-March 2025, May 1, 2025; and BINUH: Quarterly report on the human rights situation in Haiti April-June 2025, August 1, 2025.
[1321] AP news, Drone attack in gang-controlled slum in Haiti kills at least 8 children, injures 6 others, September 23, 2025.

by criminal gangs, with UN-verified cases of grave violations against children multiplying by five[1322] and cases of children being recruited, often as young as 10, nearly doubling to 302 between 2023 and 2024[1323], although the real figures are probably much higher.

591. In relation to the right to education, UNICEF reported that, during the school year 2024–2025, more than 1,600 schools were closed as a direct result of violence and 25 were occupied by armed groups, affecting 243,410 students and 7,548 teachers.[1324] The Commission notes with concern that displacement has disrupted education for nearly 500,000 school-aged children, putting at least one in four Haitian children out of school.[1325]

592. Regarding **the rights of women**, significant institutional and legislative measures were taken this year to address gender-based violence and discrimination. These include: i) the creation of a specialized judicial unit for the prosecution of mass crimes and sexual violence;[1326] ii) the decriminalization of abortion in the new Penal Code up to the twelfth week of pregnancy, and at any time in cases of rape, incest or danger to the woman's physical or mental health;[1327] iii) the establishment of support mechanisms for survivors of sexual violence, such as legal assistance, psychosocial support and medical care, and; iv) the implementation of safe post-abortion care and training for healthcare providers in accordance with WHO standards.[1328] The State also reported ongoing efforts to draft a bill on the prevention, punishment, and elimination of violence against women, and to review the National Reproductive Health Strategic Plan 2019-2023 to develop a new 2025-2030 plan addressing identified gaps.[1329]

593. However, several UN entities have documented a sharp rise in sexual violence against women this year, mainly rape, gang rape and sexual slavery.[1330] In gang-controlled areas, women, girls, and adolescents are subjected to sexual assault in both public and private spaces, often in broad daylight, as well as to kidnappings and killings during gang attacks. Many are also coerced into "relationships" with gang members, subjecting them to sexual exploitation.[1331] Widespread impunity in cases of sexual violence persists, along with limited access to comprehensive support services, including legal, psychosocial, and health services.[1332] Furthermore, cultural and social barriers, resource constraints, and insecurity continue to hinder women's access to reproductive healthcare services.[1333]

594. In relation to the **situation of human mobility**, the Commission continued to observe the persistent increase in the number of internally displaced persons as a result of the context of generalized

[1322] UNICEF, The polycrisis for children in Haiti, October, 2025, p. 7.
[1323] United Nations, Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, June 17, 2025.
[1324] UNICEF, The polycrisis for children in Haiti, October, 2025, p. 11.
[1325] UNICEF, The polycrisis for children in Haiti, October, 2025, p. 11.
[1326] République d'Haïti, Pacte International Relatif aux Droits Civils et Politiques Deuxième examen, Réponses actualisées d'Haïti à la liste de points concernant son deuxième rapport périodique, Juin 2025, CCPR/C/HTI/RQ/2/Add.1., p. 27
[1327] République d'Haïti, Pacte International Relatif aux Droits Civils et Politiques Deuxième examen, Réponses actualisées d'Haïti à la liste de points concernant son deuxième rapport périodique, Juin 2025, CCPR/C/HTI/RQ/2/Add.1., p. 62.
[1328] République d'Haïti, Pacte International Relatif aux Droits Civils et Politiques Deuxième examen, Réponses actualisées d'Haïti à la liste de points concernant son deuxième rapport périodique, Juin 2025, CCPR/C/HTI/RQ/2/Add.1., p. 63
[1329] République d'Haïti, Pacte International Relatif aux Droits Civils et Politiques Deuxième examen, Réponses actualisées d'Haïti à la liste de points concernant son deuxième rapport périodique, Juin 2025, CCPR/C/HTI/RQ/2/Add.1., pp. 51 and 64.
[1330] ONU News, Haití, al borde del colapso total del Estado frente a la violencia de las pandillas (Haiti on the brink of total state collapse in the face of gang violence), July 2, 2025; Relief Web, Haiti Crisis in Numbers (as of 25 June 2025), July 1st, 2025; Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, UN Special Representative Patten urges for immediate action as sexual violence surges amid gang violence in Haiti, June 4, 2025.
[1331] Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Haiti, CCPR/C/HTI/CO/2*, July 29, 2025, p. 20; Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, UN Special Representative Patten urges for immediate action as sexual violence surges amid gang violence in Haiti, June 4, 2025; United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Report of the situation of human rights in Haiti, A/HRC/58/76, March 28, 2025, p. 10 and 17.
[1332] Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Haiti, CCPR/C/HTI/CO/2*, July 29, 2025, p. 20; IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter IV.a, March 26, 2025, p. 526.
[1333] République d'Haïti, Pacte International Relatif aux Droits Civils et Politiques Deuxième examen, Réponses actualisées d'Haïti à la liste de points concernant son deuxième rapport périodique, Juin 2025, CCPR/C/HTI/RQ/2/Add.1., p. 64; Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Haiti, CCPR/C/HTI/CO/2*, July 29, 2025, p. 22.

violence and multidimensional crisis that Haiti is experiencing.[1334] Data from the IDMC, published in May 2025, indicate that criminal violence in Haiti continued to escalate in 2024, leading to a record 889,000 displacements and leaving over one million people internally displaced by the end of 2024. According to the IDMC, this figure is three times higher than the number reported at the end of 2023 and represents a sixfold increase since 2022.[1335] A shift in displacement patterns was also reported compared to previous years, as many people fled from the capital to other provinces in search of safety.[1336] Assessments conducted by IOM suggest that, following the spread of violence in the Central region and its intensification in the Artibonite region, most internally displaced persons in the provinces are no longer those who fled the capital, but rather from other areas within the provinces.[1337]

595. Additionally, the most recent figures from the IOM indicate that, as of June 2025, there were a total of 1,287,593 displaced persons in Haiti, representing 11% of the population in a situation of displacement. This figure reflects a 24% increase compared to the last displacement report[1338] recorded by the IOM in December 2024,[1339] mainly due to the intensification of armed attacks in various parts of the country.[1340] According to civil society organizations, Haiti has emerged as the epicenter of a growing internal displacement crisis and is a clear example of how organized crime can systematically drive displacement and turn it into a mechanism of territorial and social control.[1341]

596. The Commission also observed the effects of internal displacement on the Haitian population. According to the World Food Programme, the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report projects that 5.7 million people (more than half of all Haitians) will experience acute food insecurity through June 2025. Of that total, just over two million are projected to face emergency-level hunger, while around 8,400 people will face catastrophe, the most critical level of food insecurity, where people experience an extreme lack of food, severe acute malnutrition, and risk of starvation.[1342]

597. The IDMC also highlighted that the situation of children and adolescents, who represent more than half of the country's internally displaced persons, was particularly alarming. Not only are they being deprived of education, but many are also subjected to forced recruitment, a trend that increased by 70% in 2024. Some estimates indicate that this group represents approximately half of gang members. Families have also been separated in order to protect children and adolescents from criminal violence, even sending them unaccompanied to other provinces.[1343] Within the same context, gender-based violence remained a major concern since most of the identified victims were internally displaced persons, who also faced a heightened risk of intimate partner violence in overcrowded displacement camps and host families.[1344]

598. This adverse context extends to Haitians who have been returned to the country. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), deportees —mostly, though not exclusively, from the Dominican Republic— experience high levels of insecurity and violence, with very low perceptions of safety and trust in state and non-state institutions. They face severe economic hardship, marked by high unemployment, limited assets, and weak labor market integration. Deportees also report lower levels of dignity, social and political integration, and mental health, with around half showing symptoms consistent with

[1334] IACHR, Annual Report. Chapter IV.A. Situation of human rights in the region, May 8, 2025, para. 527.
[1335] IDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024, May 13, 2025, p. 83.
[1336] IDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024, May 13, 2025, p. 83.
[1337] IOM, Displacement situation in Haiti – Round 10, June 10, 2025, p. 4.
[1338] IOM, Displacement situation in Haiti – Round 10, June 10, 2025, p. 3.
[1339] IOM, Displacement situation in Haiti – Round 9, January 15, 2025, p. 3.
[1340] IOM, Displacement situation in Haiti – Round 10, June 10, 2025, p. 9.
[1341] Global Initiative against transnational organized crime, A strategic tool in criminal hands. The weaponization of displacement by gangs in Haiti should be a warning flare to the international community, 16 de julio de 2025.
[1342] World Food Programme, Persistent violence and displacement lead to record hunger in Haiti as needs skyrocket, April 17, 2025.
[1343] IDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024, May 13, 2025, p. 83.
[1344] Global Initiative against transnational organized crime, A strategic tool in criminal hands. The weaponization of displacement by gangs in Haiti should be a warning flare to the international community, July 16, 2025. See also: IDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024, May 13, 2025, p. 83.

depression or anxiety. Those who experienced greater harm during deportation are more likely to feel unsafe and to rely on negative coping mechanisms.[1345]

599. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, at the regional level, CARICOM reiterated that reparations for Haiti remain central to its reparatory-justice agenda given the economic retaliation that followed the Haitian Revolution and Haiti's history of economic exploitation.[1346]

600. With regard to **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission reiterates its concern over the severe overcrowding, the excessive use of pretrial detention, and the deplorable conditions of detention. In particular, according to information from the BINUH, as of April 2, 2025, when there were 7,045 individuals detained, the prison occupancy rate stood at 281%.[1347] The IACHR notes that, as of June 30, this percentage was even higher, considering that the same source recorded 7,163 persons deprived of liberty, 82% of whom were being held in pretrial detention.[1348] In this context, Haiti continues to be the country in the region with the highest percentage of persons held under this measure, and the third highest in the world.[1349]

601. With respect to detention conditions, according to various sources, including BINUH, Haitian detention centers are characterized not only by overcrowding but also by the lack of drinking water, food, medical care, and hygiene, which facilitates the transmission of contagious diseases.[1350] These conditions were the cause of death in most of the 62 deaths of incarcerated persons recorded during the first half of 2025.[1351] Such deplorable conditions reportedly also prevail in police stations, where persons remain detained for extended periods due to the overcrowding in detention centers.[1352] In addition, according to civil society organizations, women and adolescents continue to be held in the same facilities as adult men, and, in some cases, even in the same spaces as men detained for sexual violence. This places the lives and integrity of women and adolescents at serious risk.[1353]

602. The IACHR also expresses concern regarding the repeated attacks on prisons in the country by organized crime. On March 31, criminal structures carried out a major attack on the commune of Mirebalais, including its hospital, police station, and prison, during which several cells and offices were set on fire. In this context, 516 persons escaped from the prison.[1354] In light of this situation, the IACHR takes note of the plan of

[1345] International Organization for Migration (IOM), Study on the reintegration of deported migrants in Haiti. Insights from the first round of panel surveys, August 2025, p. 3.

[1346] Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Secretary-General, Reparations for Haiti continue to be central to CARICOM's reparations claim, April 14, 2025.

[1347] Security Council, United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti - Report of the Secretary-General, S/2025/226, April 14, 2025, par. 32.

[1348] BINUH, Quarterly Report on the Human Rights Situation in Haiti, April – June 2025, 2025, p. 18.

[1349] World Prison Brief, Highest to Lowest - Pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners, 2025.

[1350] BINUH, Quarterly Report on the Human Rights Situation in Haiti, April – June 2025, 2025, p. 18; Provincial Human Rights Forum, Haitian League for Human Rights, LHDH and the Organization of Academics for the Defense of Human Rights, Report on Illegal and arbitrary detention (prolonged pre-trial detention) in civilian prisons: Cap-Haïtien, Grande Rivière du Nord, Fort-Liberté, Gonaïves, Hinche, Mirebalais, Jérémie and Jacmel, March 7, 2025, On IACHR's archive; Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti, Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Haiti: Key Recent Developments - December 2024 through June 2025, July 2025; y *Prensa Latina*, Denuncian horror en las cárceles de Haití (Horror Exposed in Haiti's Prisons), June 2, 2025.

[1351] BINUH, Quarterly Report on the Human Rights Situation in Haiti, April – June 2025, 2025, p. 18.

[1352] Réseau National de Défense des Droits Humains, Promiscuité, insalubrité, propagation de maladies contagieuses : le rnddh exige le respect de la dignité humaine des personnes gardées dans les postes de police, May 30, 2025; Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti, cited, July 2025; *Telesur*, Haití: Denuncian malas condiciones y violaciones de derechos en comisarías convertidas en prisiones, June 3, 2025.

[1353] Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti, Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Haiti: Key Recent Developments - December 2024 through June 2025, July 2025, p. 7.

[1354] Security Council, United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti - Report of the Secretary-General, S/2025/226, April 14, 2025, par. 35; UNICEF, Une nouvelle crise se développe dans le département du Centre en Haïti, May 16, 2025; OANUDH, Haiti: UN Human Rights Chief alarmed by widening violence as gangs expand reach, June 13, 2025; IACHR, Press release No. 055/24 - IACHR welcomes the international community's support and calls on Haiti to ensure a peaceful transition, March 21, 2024; y BINUH, Quarterly Report on the Human Rights Situation in Haiti, August 3, 2024.

the Ministry of Justice and Public Security to construct three new detention centers to improve detention conditions, as well as to strengthen prison security in response to the attacks on prisons across the country.[1355]

603. Regarding **trafficking in persons**, based on information available to the Commission, in the first semester of 2025, there were allegations of children disappearances for child smuggling and organ trafficking.[1356]

604. With respect to the rights of **LGBTI persons**, Haiti has adopted a new penal code, that according to activists, strips LGBTI persons of protections against discrimination that they would have enjoyed under the previous draft of the law.[1357]

605. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, at the regional level, CARICOM reiterated that reparations for Haiti remain central to its reparatory-justice agenda in favor of Afro-descendants.[1358]

XX. HONDURAS

- **General considerations**

606. In terms of the **progress** recorded in the Republic of Honduras (hereinafter, "Honduras") in 2025, the Inter-American Commission welcomed the fact that the electoral process held on November 30 was conducted without any significant incidents of violence. In addition, it also observed that the downward trend in the homicide rate in Honduras continues. Similarly, it took note of the first judgment to include economic compensation in favor of victims of human trafficking.

607. With regard to the **challenges**, during 2025, the Inter-American Commission observed that the State has maintained the state of emergency as part of its citizen security policy. Additionally, high levels of violence against women and LGBTI persons continued to be reported, especially in the Bajo Aguán region, which resulted in murders and the forced displacement of families.

608. On September 5, 2025, the State submitted its response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.[1359]

- **Specific issues**

609. Regarding **democratic institutionality**, 2025 was an electoral year in the country, during which the authorities of the executive and legislative branches, as well as municipal authorities, were elected. The State reported on various measures adopted by the National Electoral Council (CNE) during the electoral process in preparation for the primary and internal elections, as well as the general elections. These measures included the adoption of a series of regulations to ensure these processes were conducted effectively and properly, together with amendments to the terms of reference aimed at implementing the Preliminary Electoral Results Transmission System (TREP), the general vote count, the dissemination of the results, and the

[1355] BINUH, Quarterly Report on the Human Rights Situation in Haiti, April – June 2025, 2025, p. 18.

[1356] Haitian Times, Haiti's unexplained disappearances: Missing children raise alarm in Ouanaminthe, Abril 10, 2025; Haitian Times, Haiti-Investigation: Child disappearance near border reignites fears of organ trafficking in Haiti ..., July 24, 2025; and *Prensa Latina*, Investigation underway into possible organ trafficking in Haiti, May 29, 2025.

[1357] Erasing 76 crimes, Erasing 76 crimes, Haiti: Setback for LGBT+ rights in the Caribbean, July 10th, 2025.

[1358] Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Secretary-General, Reparations for Haiti continue to be central to CARICOM's reparations claim, April 14, 2025.

[1359] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025.

procurement of polling equipment. It further noted that on March 8, 2025, primary and internal elections were held to select candidates for the various elective offices of the three political parties that were to participate in the general elections on November 30.[1360]

610. For its part, the Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (EOM/OAS) in Honduras called on the State to guarantee adequate conditions for the work of electoral authorities and expressed concern over actions initiated by the Office of the Public Prosecutor aimed at undermining the autonomy of the electoral authorities.[1361] In this regard, the Inter-American Commission took note of the Office of the Public Prosecutor's request for the removal of the immunity provisions of two judges of the Electoral Justice Tribunal for the alleged offense of misconduct in public office.[1362] According to public information, on November 10, the Supreme Court of Justice declared the request inadmissible.[1363] Nevertheless, on that same day, the Office of the Public Prosecutor filed a criminal complaint against the two judges, which would be heard by a natural judge.[1364]

611. On November 30, general elections were held to elect the new head of the executive branch, members of the legislative branch and municipal authorities. The Commission has positively noted that elections were held peacefully and without incidents of violence, as well as with high citizen participation.[1365] According to public information, the electoral process was marked by an extremely close race between the candidate of the National Party and the candidate of the Liberal Party, as well as a series of irregularities and delays in the vote count that created significant uncertainty. In this regard, information was received regarding failures in the Preliminary Electoral Results Transmission System operated by a private company contracted for that purpose. This led to the vote count suspension from Friday, December 5, until its resumption on Monday, December 8.[1366] For its part, the EOM/OAS called for expediting the vote-counting process, ensuring traceability measures that provide certainty regarding the results. In addition, it urged electoral authorities to ensure that the subsequent stages of the process were carried out with full transparency and maximum efficiency. These stages included the counting process of the high volume of tally sheets still uncounted, the special count, and the challenge phase, all of which needed to be conducted without delay.[1367]

612. Prior to the general elections, the Inter-American Commission took note of several challenges identified in the context of the primary elections held in March 2025. Various sources, including the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH) and the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), identified unjustified delays in the delivery of electoral materials, polling stations that remained closed, and errors in the distribution of electoral kits.[1368] Reports from national election observer missions indicate that

[1360] *Ibid*, pp. 5–7.

[1361] Organization of American States (OAS), "OAS Electoral Mission in Honduras Calls for Ensuring Adequate Conditions for the Work of Electoral Authorities," November 4, 2025.

[1362] *Once Noticias*, "Magistrado Mario Flores denuncia 'golpe político' del MP contra el TJE" (Mario Flores denounces a "political coup" by the Office of the Public Prosecutor against the Electoral Justice Tribunal), November 4, 2025; *La Prensa*, "Magistrado del TJE advierte que se busca asaltar instituciones electorales" (Electoral Justice Tribunal magistrate warns of attempts to attack electoral institutions), November 4, 2025.

[1363] *La Prensa*, "Poder Judicial notifica inadmisión del antejuicio contra magistrados del TJE" (The judiciary notifies inadmissibility of the request for the removal of the immunity provisions of Electoral Justice Tribunal magistrates), November 10, 2025.

[1364] *Proceso Digital*, "MP presenta acusación contra dos magistrados del TJE" (Office of the Public Prosecutor files charges against two Electoral Justice Tribunal magistrates), November 10, 2025.

[1365] OAS, Press Release No. C-080/25, OAS Electoral Mission in Honduras Praises Democratic Participation and Will Continue to Observe the Process, December 1, 2025.

[1366] *EFE*, "Elecciones Honduras: Asfura, el candidato apoyado por Trump, sigue adelante con más del 90 % de las actas escrutadas" (Elections in Honduras: Asfura, the candidate backed by Trump, maintains the lead with more than 90 percent of tally sheets counted), December 8, 2025; *Infobae*, "Por qué el conteo de votos en Honduras quedó paralizado y cómo se llegó al escenario más tenso desde 2017" (Why Honduras' vote count stalled and how the country reached its most tense moment since 2017), December 8, 2025.

[1367] OAS, Press Release No. C-084-58 OAS Electoral Mission in Honduras Calls to Expedite Tallying and Await Completion of the Vote Count, December 6, 2025.

[1368] *El Heraldo*, "Observadores demandan al MP deducir responsabilidad por irregularidades en los comicios" (Observers call on the Office of the Public Prosecutor to establish accountability for irregularities in the elections), March 11, 2025; *Proceso Hn*, Rector de la UNAH advierte irregularidades en proceso electoral y exige explicaciones al CNE (Rector of the National Autonomous University of Honduras warns of irregularities in the electoral process and demands explanations from the National Electoral Council), March 9, 2025;

delays in the arrival of ballot boxes and other electoral materials were recorded at approximately 67 percent of the polling stations, while logistical problems were reported at 33 percent of them, including damaged ballots, opened electoral kits, and, in some cases, missing credentials.[1369] On April 8, 2025, the CNE, by unanimous vote, officially proclaimed the results of the primary elections, in compliance with the deadline established in Honduras' Electoral Law.[1370]

613. Additionally, the Inter-American Commission received information regarding incidents of violence recorded in the context of the electoral process. According to public information, between September 8, 2024, and June 2025, 109 cases of political violence were reported, encompassing a range of aggressions: symbolic violence (17.4 percent), defamation and slander (16.5 percent), physical injuries (12.8 percent), coercion and intimidation (11 percent), attacks (8.3 percent) and homicides (6.4 percent).[1371] At least four people aspiring to or running for office were killed during this process.[1372]

614. In terms of the fight against corruption, the State referred to the launch of the Sistema-130 in December 2024, which allows citizens to report irregularities in public administration, with complaints being handled by the Citizen Complaints Management Unit of the Secretariat of Transparency and Fight against Corruption. In addition, the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Transparency and Fight against Public Corruption of the Office of the Public Prosecutor has filed prosecutorial actions in various cases against people who caused harm to the State of Honduras. The Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Prosecution of Public Officials and Judicial Officers filed seven prosecutorial actions and one request for the removal of immunity provisions in 2025.[1373]

615. With respect to **human rights institutions**, the State highlighted the submission of a report by the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH) to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the United Nations system. The State also underscored an increase of more than 70 percent in the budget of the Secretariat of Human Rights (SEDH), which rose from 96,130,113.00 Honduran lempiras (approximately 3,664,600.32 US dollars) in 2022 to 165,218,057.00 Honduran lempiras (approximately 6,300,000 US dollars) in 2025. It also noted that the SEDH has a staff of 205 officials. With regard to the implementation of protection measures, it highlighted that the Directorate of the Protection System has received a budget increase of 20 million Honduran lempiras (approximately 760,000 US dollars).[1374]

616. The State reported that, through the SEDH, it continued to strengthen the capacity of its institutions by means of training activities targeted at 1,743 public officials; 3,756 law enforcement officers; and 1,801 members of the general population. Training was provided to 491 members of the School for Training of the Military Police of Public Order; and 225 candidates of the National Penitentiary Academy. For

EFE Noticias, "Honduras celebra elecciones primarias entre el descontento y denuncias de irregularidades" (Honduras holds primary elections amid discontent and allegations of irregularities), March 9, 2025; *CNN Español*, "Las elecciones primarias en Honduras quedan marcadas por denuncias de irregularidades y retrasos" (Primary elections in Honduras marked by allegations of irregularities and delays), March 10, 2025; *Swissinfo*, "Honduras celebra elecciones primarias entre el descontento y denuncias de irregularidades" (Honduras holds primary elections amid discontent and allegations of irregularities), March 10, 2025.

[1369] *El Heraldo*, "Observadores demandan al MP deducir responsabilidad por irregularidades en los comicios" (Observers call on the Office of the Public Prosecutor to establish accountability for irregularities in the elections), March 11, 2025.

[1370] *La Prensa*, CNE oficializa candidaturas de Rixi Moncada, Nasry Asfura y Salvador Nasralla (National Electoral Council officially confirms the candidacies of Rixi Moncada, Nasry Asfura, and Salvador Nasralla), April 8, 2025.

[1371] National Autonomous University of Honduras, "A pocos meses de las Elecciones Generales, UNAH alerta sobre aumento de violencia política y conflictividad electoral", (Few months ahead of the general elections, the National Autonomous University of Honduras warns of an increase in political violence and electoral conflict in Honduras), July 10, 2025; *Criterio Hn*, "Violencia política marca el camino hacia las elecciones en Honduras" (Political violence marks the path to elections in Honduras), July 10, 2025.

[1372] *Criterio Hn*, "Cuatro candidatos asesinados en 2025: violencia política golpea a todos los partidos en Honduras" (Four candidates killed in 2025: political violence hits all parties in Honduras), September 12, 2025; *Diálogo Político*, "Elecciones en Honduras: entre el desinterés y la desconfianza" (Elections in Honduras: between disinterest and mistrust), September 24, 2025; *Human Rights Watch*, "Protect Hondurans' Right to Free, Fair Elections", September 2, 2025.

[1373] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025, p. 8.

[1374] *Ibid*, pp. 7 and 8.

its part, the National Defense Secretariat reported that 8,791 individuals received training during the first quarter of 2025.[1375]

617. Regarding **citizen security**, the downward trend in homicides continues in Honduras. According to information provided by the State, as of August 24, 2025, a total of 1,491 homicides were recorded in Honduras, with a rate of 15.3 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants.[1376] As reported by the State, this constitutes a 13 percent reduction in homicides nationwide, with 220 fewer cases than in the same period in 2024.[1377] Nevertheless, Honduras remains the country with the highest homicide rate in Central America.[1378] In addition, a high perception of insecurity persists among the population. According to a survey conducted by civil society organizations, 7 out of 10 Hondurans (69.9 percent) perceive that killings have increased. Sixteen percent think that the situation remains unchanged, while 13.6 percent perceive that it has decreased. This means that 9 out of 10 Hondurans consider that the extreme violence affecting people's lives has increased or has remained the same.[1379]

618. In 2025, the state of emergency implemented in December 2022 remained in force in Honduras. Since then, the State has repeatedly extended this measure and expanded its territorial scope to 226 municipalities,[1380] whereas in 2024 it covered 158 municipalities across the country.[1381] Its most recent extension was carried out by means of Executive Decree No. PCM-37-2025, which extended this measure until December 26, 2025.[1382] The Commission notes that several of these extensions have not been ratified by the National Congress.[1383] For its part, the CONADEH indicated that, in the context of the state of emergency, between December 2022 and November 2025, it handled more than 1,000 complaints, within which it identified serious human rights violations, including potential enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions.[1384] In this regard, it allegedly has ten complaint investigation proceedings concerning possible cases of disappeared persons, allegedly occurring in the context of the state of emergency. One of them is about the alleged disappearance of a trans person, in which agents of the Anti-Gang and Organized Crime Police Directorate (DIPAMPCO), a unit of the National Police of Honduras, were allegedly involved.[1385]

619. Moreover, the Commission also observed an increase in violence in the Bajo Aguán region. According to information from the United Nations, since December 2024, the Quebrada de Arena, Panamá, and Corocito sectors in the Bajo Aguán region have experienced a surge in violence that has affected at least five

[1375] *Ibid*, pp. 10–12.
[1376] *Ibid*, pp. 10–12.
[1377] *Ibid.* pp. 17 and 18.
[1378] CESPAD, *Situación de la violencia e inseguridad en Honduras: retos y desafíos en el contexto electoral 2025* (Situation of violence and insecurity in Honduras: challenges of the 2025 electoral context), October 2025, pp. 9 and 10.
[1379] *Ibid.*; Reflection, Research and Communication Team (ERIC-SJ), Sondeo de Opinión Pública, Edición Número 14, Boletín 2025 (Public Opinion Survey, Issue No. 14, 2025 Report), March 2025.
[1380] *La Gaceta, Official Gazette of the Republic of Honduras*, Executive Decree No. PCM 258-2025, September 26, 2025.
[1381] *La Gaceta, Official Gazette of the Republic of Honduras*, Executive Decree No. PCM 18-2024, June 21, 2024.
[1382] *La Tribuna*, "Honduras extiende el estado de excepción hasta el 26 de diciembre" (Honduras extends the state of emergency until December 26), November12, 2025; *Canal 8 Honduras*, "Gobierno amplía por 45 días el estado de excepción para combatir el crimen organizado" (Government of Honduras extends the state of emergency for 45 days to fight organized crime), November 12, 2025.
[1383] Amnesty International, "Honduras: progreso insuficiente en derechos humanos: Información para el 50 periodo de sesiones del grupo de trabajo sobre el Examen Periódico Universal, noviembre de 2025" (Honduras: insufficient progress in terms of human rights – Information for the 50th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, November 2025), April 7, 2025, p. 3; *Confidencial Hn*, "Gobierno de Xiomara Castro extiende por vigésima cuarta vez el estado de excepción sin aval del Congreso" (Xiomara Castro's government extends the state of emergency for the twenty-fourth time without congressional approval), September 27, 2025; *Hondudiario*, "Estado de excepción es 'totalmente ilegal' por falta de aprobación del Congreso" (The state of emergency is "totally illegal" due to lack of congressional approval), August 18, 2025.
[1384] *Canal 6*, "Comunicado urgente del CONADEH sobre el estado de excepción sobre el proceso electoral" (Urgent statement by the CONADEH on the state of emergency and the electoral process), November 13, 2024; National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH), "Within the framework of the state of emergency: CONADEH registered more than 800 complaints against agents of the State security forces," May 9, 2025; *Proceso Hondudiario*, "Conadeh registra más de mil quejas contra cuerpos de seguridad entre 2022 y 2025" (CONADEH records over 1,000 complaints against security forces between 2022 and 2025), August 18, 2025.
[1385] *Proceso hn*, "CONADEH investiga 10 quejas de posibles casos de personas desaparecidas" (CONADEH investigates ten complaints of possible cases of disappeared persons), September 18, 2025; *La Tribuna*, "CONADEH investiga posible desaparición de diez personas" (CONADEH investigates possible disappearance of ten people), September 19, 2025; *El Heraldo*, "Conadeh investiga 10 posibles desapariciones durante el estado de excepción" (CONADEH investigates ten possible disappearances during the state of emergency), September 19, 2025.

agricultural cooperatives and nearby communities, and has resulted in the forced displacement of at least 150 families, as well as threats, unlawful detentions, and robberies.[1386] In this regard, the OHCHR in Honduras expressed its deep concern over the violence that occurred in January 2025 against the Camarones, Tranvío, and El Chile peasant cooperatives in the Bajo Aguán region. According to public information, the perpetrators were reportedly organized crime structures, which further exacerbates the risk for these communities.[1387] Among these acts of violence, the murder of several land defenders stands out; these cases are described in greater detail in the relevant section below.

620. Regarding **access to justice and judicial independence**, the State reported a 38 percent increase in the budget of the judiciary, from 2.996 billion Honduran lempira (approximately 114.1 million US dollars) in 2022 to 4.146 billion Honduran lempira (approximately 157.9 million US dollars) in 2025.[1388] With regard to the budget of the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the State reported a 19.7 percent increase compared to the budget allocated in 2022, rising from 2,240,683,987.00 Honduran lempira (approximately 85,355,249.84 US dollars) to 2,679,283,987.00 Honduran lempira (approximately 102,035,351.78US dollars) in 2025.[1389] Likewise, it highlighted the advances made by the judiciary of Honduras in the digitalization of case files, particularly with regard to criminal matters.[1390]

621. The State indicated that the Bajo Aguán Violent Deaths Unit (UMVIBA) filed criminal charges against 15 members of a criminal gang for their alleged involvement in a series of violent acts that occurred between December 2024 and February 2025, which forced the displacement of 468 peasant families in the Bajo Aguán region who are members of the Agrarian Platform and the Coordinator of Peasant Organizations of Aguán (COPA).[1391]

622. In terms of **memory, truth and justice**, approval remains pending for the initiative submitted by the Committee of Relatives of the Disappeared and Detained Persons in Honduras (COFADEH) concerning the Bill on Compliance with International Human Rights Obligations towards Victims of the National Security Doctrine (1980–1993).[1392] In this regard, within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review, various United Nations bodies recommended that Honduras should strengthen its mechanisms for the reconstruction of historical memory, particularly by adopting and implementing this legislative initiative.[1393]

623. With regard to the situation of **human rights defenders**, the State reported that the draft "Carlos Escaleras Mejía" protocol for the investigation of crimes against human rights defenders is currently

[1386] OCHA, "Honduras: Situación de violencia en el Bajo Aguán, Flash Update No. 1" (Honduras: Situation of violence in the Bajo Aguán region. Flash update no. 1), February 13, 2025; *IM Defensoras*, "HONDURAS / Más de 60 organizaciones regionales e internacionales nos solidarizamos con las comunidades campesinas del Bajo Aguán" (Honduras / Over 60 regional and international organizations express solidarity towards the peasant communities of the Bajo Aguán region), February 18, 2025.

[1387] OHCHR Honduras, "OACNUDH manifiesta preocupación por los hechos de violencia ocurridos en contra de cooperativas campesinas del Bajo Aguán" (OHCHR Honduras expresses concern over violence against peasant cooperatives in the Bajo Aguán region), January 27, 2025.

[1388] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025, p. 22.

[1389] *Ibid*, p. 26.

[1390] *Ibid*, pp. 22 and 23.

[1391] *Ibid*, p. 28.

[1392] OHCHR Honduras [@OACNUDHHN], (August 29, 2025), En el Día Internacional de las Víctimas de Desapariciones Forzadas, #OACNUDH y COFADEH realizaron la Jornada de Memoria en el Museo contra el... (On the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras (OHCHR Honduras) and Committee of Relatives of the Disappeared and Detained Persons in Honduras (COFADEH) held a Memorial Day at the Museum Against…) [X post], X, https://x.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1961539352598626453; United Nations, Human Rights Council, Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, *National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*, Honduras, A/HRC/WG.6/50/HND/1, August 28, 2025, para. 30.

[1393] United Nations, Human Rights Council, Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, *Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – Honduras*, A/HRC/WG.6/50/HND/2, August 29, 2025, para. 32.

under review by state authorities, the National Police, the Office of the Solicitor General (PGR), OHCHR Honduras and representatives of the victims in the Carlos Escaleras case.[1394]

624. During 2025, at least six human rights defenders were killed in the Bajo Aguán region.[1395] In this context, the Commission followed up on the precautionary measures granted in favor of members of the organizations Comité Municipal de Defensa de los Bienes Comunes y Públicos de Tocoa and Bufete Justicia para los Pueblos, and determined that the beneficiaries continued to be subjected to threats, surveillance, monitoring, intimidation and violence because of their environmental defense work, and that armed groups were actively operating in the Bajo Aguán area. Moreover, the Commission decided to extend the precautionary measures issued in favor of 13 family members or close associates of human rights defender Juan López, who was murdered in September 2024, given the heightened risk they faced following his killing.[1396] As for the progress achieved in the investigation into the murder of environmental defender Juan López, the State reported that criminal charges had been filed against three individuals alleged to be the material perpetrators of the crime and that, in San Pedro Sula, the Pretrial Court with national jurisdiction over cases involving organized crime had ordered the addition of a charge and the opening of oral and public trial proceedings against the three accused.[1397]

625. Furthermore, the Commission notes incidents of violence against members of the Garífuna communities of Triunfo de la Cruz, Punta Piedra and San Juan, as well as against authorities of the Honduran Black Fraternal Organization (OFRANEH). On April 12, the enforced disappearance of Max Gil Castillo was reported in San Pedro Sula, along with death threats against members and leaders of these communities. According to the information received, Max Gil Castillo, the brother of Tomás Castillo, president of the Punta Piedra Community Council and a recognized leader in the struggle for the restitution of ancestral lands, was

[1394] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025, p. 29.

[1395] On July 26, Héctor Otoniel Hernández Castro was murdered in the municipality of Trujillo, Colón. He was a member of the Gregorio Chávez Peasant Enterprise, affiliated with the Agrarian Platform and the Coordinator of Peasant Organizations of Aguán (COPA). For additional information on this case, see: *C-Libre*, "Asesinato de campesino en el Aguán obedece a una escalada de violencia" (The murder of a peasant in the Aguán is the result of an escalation of violence), July 29, 2025; *Reportar sin Miedo*, "¿Estado cómplice?: impunidad y asesinatos arrasan al Bajo Aguán" (A complicit State? Impunity and killings devastate the Bajo Aguán), August 6, 2025; InterReligious Task Force on Central America (IRTF), Letter addressed to the National Commissioner for Human Rights, August 28, 2025. On July 17, land defenders Ramón and Carlos Rivas, father and son, were murdered in an ambush while traveling to their workplace in the municipality of Tocoa, department of Colón. Ramón was a member of the La Aurora Peasant Production Association, while Carlos was affiliated with the Gregorio Chávez Peasant Production Enterprise. For additional information on this case, see: *C-Libre*, "Asesinan a defensores de la tierra tras emboscada en el Bajo Aguán" (Land defenders killed following an ambush in the Bajo Aguán), July 17, 2025; *Criterio Hn*, "'Seguimos poniendo los muertos': manifiestan campesinos en el Bajo Aguán" ("Our people are still the ones dying," state peasants in the Bajo Aguán), July 17, 2025; CDHAL, "Honduras. Asesinan a Ramón Rivas y su hijo Carlos Rivas, defensores de la tierra del Aguán" (Honduras. Ramón Rivas and his son Carlos Rivas, land defenders from the Aguán region, were murdered), August 7, 2025. On February 2, 2025, José Luis Hernández Lobo and his partner, Suyapa Guillén, were murdered. They were active members of the Gregorio Chávez Cooperative and leaders of the peasant movement. For additional information on this case, see: World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), "Honduras : Stop the violence in Agúan – protect human rights defenders: No more trade with Corporación Dinant!," February 12, 2025; *Reportar sin miedo*, "¡Emergencia en el Aguán!" (Emergency in the Aguán!), February 13, 2025; IRTF, Letter addressed to the National Commissioner for Human Rights, August 28, 2025. On January 2, 2025, Arnulfo Díaz, a member of the Brisas del Aguán Cooperative, was murdered. For additional information on this case, see: *Reportar sin Miedo*, "¡Emergencia en el Aguán!" (Emergency in the Aguán!), February 13, 2025; OMCT, "Honduras: Stop the violence in Agúan – protect human rights defenders: No more trade with Corporación Dinant!," February 12, 2025; *Avispa Midia*, "Bajo Aguán: Recrudecen ataques de grupos armados ligados a industria de palma aceitera" (Bajo Aguán: Escalation of attacks by armed groups linked to the palm oil industry), January 6, 2025.

[1396] IACHR, Resolution No. 37/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 137-23, Identified members of the Comité Municipal de Defensa de los Bienes Comunes y Públicos de Tocoa and Bufete Justicia para los Pueblos regarding Honduras (extension, follow-up and partial lift), May 1, 2025.

[1397] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025, p. 27; Office of the Public Prosecutor of Honduras, "Elevan a juicio oral y público el caso de los tres autores materiales de la muerte del ambientalista Juan López" (Case against the three material perpetrators of the murder of environmental defender Juan López is sent to oral and public trial proceedings), September 2, 2025; *Hondudiario*, "A juicio oral y público tres implicados en la muerte del ambientalista Juan López" (Three suspects in the killing of environmental activist Juan López to stand oral and public trial proceedings), September 2, 2025.

forcibly disappeared by armed men who identified themselves as police officers.[1398] In addition, Miriam Miranda, a woman leader, human rights defender and beneficiary of precautionary measures granted by the Commission, reported new death threats against members of the Garífuna community, including against herself.[1399] Similarly, Garífuna defender Mabel Robledo was victim of an assault and an attempted assassination when unidentified armed men opened fire on her,[1400] followed by police intervention, in the context of ongoing police harassment against the community.[1401]

626. With respect to the disappearance of Alberth Snider Centeno and four other members of the Triunfo de la Cruz community in 2021, the State reported that criminal charges were on January 20 against 16 members of the MS-13 gang and that the case was at the stage of formal indictment.[1402]

627. As for the National Protection System for Human Rights Defenders, civil society organizations reported that the protection mechanism remains ineffective. In particular, they highlighted the implementation of inadequate protection measures, the lack of trust in police officers appointed as protection liaisons and the prioritization of certain cases who will reportedly benefit from protective measures.[1403] According to the OHCHR, the system continues to face persistent challenges affecting its proper operation, including weak interinstitutional coordination, insufficient financial and human resources, frequent staff turnover and the absence of specialized training mechanisms.[1404]

628. In terms of the situation of **indigenous persons**, the OHCHR reported in 2025 that the Honduran State had granted collective land titles to 27 Miskito and Garífuna communities in the municipality of Juan Francisco Bulnes, in the Gracias a Dios department, covering more than 9,000 hectares and benefiting approximately 23,000 people within the Cultural Zone of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve.[1405]

629. Notwithstanding the foregoing, territorial conflict remains a persistent challenge. The CONADEH informed that, between 2016 and May 2025, it received 221 complaints from indigenous persons who reported that they were at risk and had been victims of displacement, with most cases involving threats

[1398] OHCHR Honduras [@OACNUDHHN], (April 15, 2025), OACNUDH urge al Estado de Honduras garantizar la vida, integridad personal y derechos territoriales del pueblo garífuna (The OHCHR urges the State of Honduras to guarantee the life, personal integrity and territorial rights of the Garífuna people) [X Post], X, https://x.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1912242285644808553/photo/1; International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net), "Human Rights Crisis in Honduras: Enforced Disappearance and Death Threats Shake the Garífuna People," (April 16, 2025); *Criterio Hn*, "Ocho habeas corpus por Max Gil Castillo, joven garífuna desaparecido hace diez días" (Eight *habeas corpus* petitions filed in the case of Max Gil Castillo, a young Garífuna man who has been missing for 10 days), April 22, 2025.

[1399] *La Prensa Honduras*, "Garífunas denuncian amenazas de muerte por defender sus derechos ancestrales" (Garífuna communities report death threats for defending their ancestral rights), April 15, 2025; *Swissinfo*, "Denuncian nuevas amenazas de muerte en Honduras contra miembros de la etnia garífuna" (New death threats reported in Honduras against members of the Garífuna community), April 15, 2025; *Diario El Mundo*, "Amenazas de muerte contra Miriam Miranda y líderes de Ofraneh generan alarma en Honduras" (Death threats targeting Miriam Miranda and leaders of the Honduran Black Fraternal Organization [OFRANEH] spark concern in Honduras), April 15, 2025.

[1400] Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders (IM-Defensoras), "[Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD) Alert] HONDURAS / Attempted killing, police violence and arbitrary detention of Garífuna woman defender Mabel Robledo," June 23, 2025; *Criterio.hn*, "Seguridad estatal agrede a líderesa garífuna defensora de territorio en conflicto" (State security forces assault a Garífuna woman leader defending disputed territory), June 23, 2025; Reportar sin Miedo, "Defensora garífuna sobrevive a ataque armado y detención ilegal" (Garífuna human rights defender survives armed attack and unlawful detention), June 24, 2025.

[1401] *Reportar sin Miedo*, "Militarizan Punta Izopo: garífunas denuncian hostigamiento" (Punta Izopo militarized as Garífuna communities report harassment), July 7, 2025.

[1402] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025, p. 27.

[1403] IACHR, Meeting with civil society organizations during the working visit on precautionary measures held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from October 8 to 10, 2025, October 9, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1404] OHCHR Honduras, "Diez años después, el Sistema Nacional de Protección a Personas Defensoras y periodistas enfrenta grandes retos" (A decade later, the National Protection System for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists faces significant challenges), May 22, 2025.

[1405] OHCHR, *Situation of human rights in Honduras. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, A/HRC/58/23, July 9, 2025, para. 9.

and the dispossession of their lands.[1406] The OHCHR identified 34 active territorial conflicts arising from land tenure insecurity and the lack of legal clarity.[1407] The OHCHR further documented 22 forced evictions, several of which were conducted without a warrant and making an excessive use of force, without alternative housing being provided and during climate-related emergencies. These circumstances resulted in the destruction of homes, the loss of crops and increased vulnerability.[1408]

630. In addition, the CONADEH underscored the lack of prior consultation regarding the planned construction of an Emergency Detention Center in the community of Mocorón, in the municipality of Puerto Lempira, noting that several organizations and representatives of the Miskitu people had expressed their opposition to this measure.[1409]

631. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination**, the State reported that, between January and August 2025, 7,300 people, including public officials, law enforcement personnel and members of the general population, received training on human rights, intersectionality and nondiscrimination.[1410] Additionally, the Office of the Public Prosecutor delivered training on gender and nondiscrimination to prosecutors from the Unit for the Investigation of Deaths of Persons from Vulnerable Social Groups and, together with the Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Protection of Ethnic Groups and Cultural Heritage (FEP-ETNIAS/PC), trained 65 justice operators on the rights of indigenous and Afro-Honduran persons.[1411] Moreover, the Ministry of Women (SEMUJER) is implementing the 2023–2033 Third Gender Equality and Justice Plan, which incorporates an intercultural approach and specific measures targeted at indigenous and Afro-Honduran women in the areas of education, health, political participation and economic empowerment.[1412]

632. For its part, the Commission noted ongoing tensions in connection with the alleged illegal occupation of ancestral lands by international companies linked to tourism and agro-industrial and media projects.[1413] Protests in defense of territorial rights were followed by renewed acts of intimidation aimed at evicting the Garífuna community of Trujillo.[1414]

633. Additionally, civil society organizations submitted complaints concerning alleged violations of territorial rights in Cayos Cochinos due to the introduction of fishing restrictions and the lack of participation in decision-making, which have adversely affected livelihoods.[1415] Protests were held in Tegucigalpa to demand compliance with the judgments issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in *Triunfo de la Cruz*, *Punta*

[1406] CONADEH, "Pueblos indígenas, víctimas de amenazas, despojo de tierras y desplazamiento forzado" (Indigenous peoples, victims of threats, land dispossession and forced displacement), August 8, 2025.

[1407] OHCHR, *Situation of human rights in Honduras. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, A/HRC/58/23, July 9, 2025, para. 42.

[1408] *Ibid.*, para. 46.

[1409] CONADEH, "Sobre construcción de cárcel en Mocorón" (Regarding the construction of a prison in Mocorón), January 14, 2025.

[1410] State of Honduras, Note Verbale No. 322-DPM-SRECI-2025, in response to the request for information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention. Letter No. 351-25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, August 5, 2025, p. 10. On IACHR's files.

[1411] *Ibid.*, p. 17. On IACHR's files.

[1412] *Ibid.*, pp. 14–15. On IACHR's files.

[1413] *Criterio.hn*, "Exigen la restitución de tierras garífunas ocupadas ilegalmente por empresario canadiense" (Calls for the restitution of Garífuna lands illegally occupied by a Canadian businessman), March 13, 2025; *Contracorriente*, "Organizaciones internacionales exigen justicia por la explotación ilegal de tierras garífunas vinculada al canadiense Randy Jorgensen" (International organizations demand justice for the illegal exploitation of Garífuna lands linked to Canadian businessman Randy Jorgensen), March 17, 2025; *El País*, "Las protestas de los garífunas de Honduras contra 'Supervivientes' caen en saco roto" (Garífuna protests in Honduras against "Survivors" fall on deaf ears), September 25, 2025; OHCHR, "Defendiendo las tierras ancestrales: la lucha garífuna en Honduras" (Defending ancestral lands: the struggle of the Garífuna people in Honduras), February 21, 2025.

[1414] *Criterio.hn*, "OABI niega desalojo, pero empresa de seguridad contratada ejecutó incursión armada en territorio garífuna" (Office for the Administration of Seized Assets [OABI] denies eviction as private security forces conduct armed incursion in Garífuna territory), May 14, 2025.

[1415] *Contracorriente*, "Estado hondureño acusado de violar derechos territoriales de la comunidad garífuna en Cayos Cochinos" (Honduran State accused of violating the territorial rights of the Garífuna community in Cayos Cochinos), May 22, 2025.

Piedra and *San Juan*.[1416] Following calls by the OFRANEH regarding the inaction of the High-Level Intersectoral Commission for Compliance with International Judgments (CIANCSI), state authorities announced plans to convene meetings to reactivate the mechanism.[1417]

634. The final dismissal of charges against five OFRANEH human rights defenders from the community of Santa Fe, Colón, was reported. These individuals had been accused of forced displacement and aggravated usurpation.[1418] Nevertheless, the Commission also became aware of multiple ongoing judicial proceedings against Garífuna leaders, which communities perceive as acts of persecution.[1419] In this context, international organizations held meetings with the Office of the Public Prosecutor to demand an end to the criminalization of Garífuna defenders.[1420]

635. With regard to the rights of **women**, the State informed that it has taken measures aimed at mainstreaming a gender perspective and strengthening the institutional framework for the prevention of and response to violence. Said measures include: i) the adoption of Decree No. 4-2025, which allocates specific resources for the creation of gender units in all public institutions; ii) the signing of Agreement No. 124-2025, which introduced a gender budget classifier into the 2025 General Budget;[1421] iii) advancements in the design of a gender-sensitive statistical subsystem within the judiciary; iv) the development of a diagnostic assessment for the reform of the Law Against Domestic Violence;[1422] v) the launch of the National Information System and Observatory on Human Trafficking;[1423] and vi) the opening of a vulnerability assistance desk in Tegucigalpa to provide information and guidance to women victims of violence.[1424]

[1416] *Proceso Digital*, "Garífunas se movilizan en Tegucigalpa a INA y Casa Presidencial exigen cumplimiento de sentencias de la Corte IDH" (Garífuna communities mobilize in Tegucigalpa, marching to the National Agrarian Institute [INA] and the Presidential Palace to demand compliance with Inter-American Court rulings), April 10, 2025.

[1417] *Criterio.hn*, "Tras funeral simbólico de la CIANCSI por el pueblo garífuna, gobierno promete revivirla" (Following a symbolic funeral held by the Garífuna people, the government pledges to reactivate the High-Level Intersectoral Commission for Compliance with International Judgments [CIANCSI]), April 10, 2025.

[1418] ESCR-Net, "Judicial Victory for the Garífuna People in Honduras: a Step Against Criminalization," August 19, 2025; OHCHR Honduras, "OACNUDH saluda el sobreseimiento definitivo dictado por el Juzgado de Letras de Trujillo a favor de cinco personas defensoras del pueblo Garífuna" (The OHCHR welcomes the final dismissal ruling issued by the Pretrial Court of Trujillo in favor of five Garífuna human rights defenders), August 20, 2025.

[1419] IM-Defensoras, "Amenazas y agresión armada contra Centro de Saberes Ancestrales 'Hachari Wayúnagu'" (Threats and armed attack against the "Hachari Wayúnagu" Ancestral Knowledge Center), May 19, 2025; *Criterio.hn*, "Despojo, criminalización y desaparición: la situación actual del pueblo garífuna en Honduras" (Dispossession, criminalization and disappearance: the current situation of the Garífuna people in Honduras), May 29, 2025; Red Nacional de Defensoras de Derechos Humanos en Honduras, "#AlertaUrgente | Hombres armados hostigan y amenazan reocupación Wamua Le, Triunfo de la Cruz, Tela" (#Urgent | Armed men harass and threaten the Wamua Le reoccupation in Triunfo de la Cruz, Tela), September 24, 2025; *Criterio.hn*, "Garífunas de Santa Fe enfrentan proceso penal por defensa de territorio" (Members of Garífuna community of Santa Fe face criminal proceedings for defending their territory), August 11, 2025; *Criterio.hn*, "Garífunas de Santa Fe exigen que caso por usurpación se resuelva por la vía civil, no penal" (Garífunas in Santa Fe demand that land usurpation case be handled through civil courts, not criminal prosecution), August 11, 2025.

[1420] *Reportar sin Miedo*, "Alerta internacional por violencia y despojo contra pueblo garífuna" (International concern over violence and land dispossession against the Garífuna people), August 16, 2025; *Proceso Digital*, "Exigen a Fiscalía de Honduras justicia y fin de criminalización contra el pueblo garífuna" (Organizations demand that the Office of the Public Prosecutor of Honduras ensure justice and put an end to the criminalization of the Garífuna people), August 15, 2025; *Hondudiario*, "Exigen a Fiscalía de Honduras justicia y fin de criminalización contra el pueblo garífuna" (Organizations demand that the Office of the Public Prosecutor of Honduras ensure justice and put an end to the criminalization of the Garífuna people), August 15, 2025.

[1421] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025, p. 14.

[1422] *Ibid.*, p. 23.

[1423] Inter-Institutional Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking of Honduras (CICESCT), "CICESCT, con apoyo de UNODC y UNICEF, presenta el Sistema Nacional de Información sobre Trata de Personas" (CICESCT presents the National Information System on Human Trafficking with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC] and UNICEF), April 30, 2025.

[1424] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025, p. 24.

636. However, delays persist in the approval of the Comprehensive Law on Violence against Women, the Purple Alert Law for the search of missing women[1425] and the Law on Political Violence against Women.[1426] Reports of femicides and sexual, domestic and political violence against women also remain a concern.[1427] According to information provided by the State, as of August 24, 157 violent deaths of women had been recorded.[1428] Civil society organizations had reported 190 cases as of October 5, most of which had taken place in public spaces.[1429] Some of these murders were allegedly preceded by disappearance reports.[1430] In addition, between January and May, the Office of the Public Prosecutor recorded 368 complaints of sexual violence,[1431] and, between January and July, the National Emergency System (911) received 26,519 reports of domestic violence and 30,820 reports of family violence.[1432]

637. Cases of political violence against women were also reported during the electoral process, particularly targeting those who currently hold public office.[1433] These incidents included threats (primarily through digital platforms) as well as attacks, intimidation and stigmatizing accusations intended to undermine their legitimacy.[1434] Furthermore, according to public information, an armed attack against Mabel Robledo, a Garífuna leader and defender of territorial rights, was allegedly perpetrated by police officers who fired at her vehicle and physically assaulted her while she was in custody.[1435]

638. In terms of sexual and reproductive rights, Honduras continues to report one of the highest regional rates of pregnancies among girls and adolescents in the region, with 97 births per 1,000.[1436] However, the implementation of a regulatory framework for the inclusion of comprehensive sex education into school curricula remains pending.[1437] Access to sexual and reproductive health services also continue to be limited,

[1425] Government of Honduras, Third periodic report of the State of Honduras under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, July 3, 2025, para. 60; *Criterio Hn*, "Ley de Alerta Morada podría no ser aprobada por retrasos de la CSJ" (Purple Alert Law may not be enacted due to delays at the Supreme Court of Justice), June 24, 2025.

[1426] *Criterio Hn*, "Ley contra la violencia política hacia las mujeres sigue estancada en pleno año electoral" (Law addressing political violence against women remains stalled during the election year), May 22, 2025; IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A, March 26, 2025, para. 563; IACHR, *2023 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A, December 31, 2023, para. 494.

[1427] IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A, March 26, 2025, para. 564; Centro de Derechos de Mujeres, *Informe sobre la situación de derechos humanos de las mujeres en Honduras, cuarto ciclo del Examen Periódico Universal* (Report on the human rights situation of women in Honduras, fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review), february 2025, p. 9; *Criterio Hn*, "Francisco Morazán concentra 83% de los incidentes de violencia política en Honduras" (Francisco Morazán accounts for 83 percent of political violence incidents in Honduras), September 12, 2025.

[1428] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025, para. 56.

[1429] *Criterio Hn*, "Feminicidios y políticas estancadas: la crisis silenciosa que afrontan las hondureñas" (Femicide and stalled policies: the silent crisis facing women in Honduras), October 7, 2025; Centro de Derechos de Mujeres, *Violencias contra las mujeres en Honduras-2025* (Violence against Women in Honduras - 2025), August 31, 2025.

[1430] *Criterio Hn*, "Ley de Alerta Morada podría no ser aprobada por retrasos de la CSJ" (Purple Alert Law may not be enacted due to delays at the Supreme Court of Justice), June 24, 2025.

[1431] Government of Honduras, Input submitted by the State of Honduras in response to the IACHR questionnaire on the situation of the sexual and reproductive rights of women, girls and adolescents in Honduras under Article 41 of the American Convention, June 2025, p. 2. On IACHR's files.

[1432] Centro de Derechos de Mujeres, *Violencias contra las mujeres en Honduras-2025* (Violence against Women in Honduras - 2025), August 31, 2025.

[1433] Women's Political Observatory, *Primer boletín sobre violencia política de género* (First Bulletin on Gender-Based Political Violence), July 2025.

[1434] *El Heraldo*, "Denuncian ante el Conadeh violencia social y política contra las consejeras del CNE" (Complaints filed with the CONADEH over social and political violence against CNE councilwomen), March 25, 2025; *Criterio*, "Violencia política de género en Honduras: un juego de poder patriarcal" (Gender-based political violence in Honduras: a patriarchal power struggle), July 9, 2025; *Proceso Digital*, "Violencia digital, el mayor flagelo de mujeres en la política hondureña" (Digital violence, the greatest threat facing women in Honduran politics), July 24, 2025; *Criterio Hn*, "Violencia política de género sigue en aumento en la antesala de las elecciones generales" (Gender-based political violence continues to rise ahead of the general elections), July 24, 2025.

[1435] *Criterio Hn*, "Seguridad estatal agrede a líderesa garífuna defensora de territorio en conflicto" (State security forces assault a Garífuna woman leader defending disputed territory), June 23, 2025.

[1436] UNFPA, *Consecuencias socioeconómicas del embarazo adolescente en Honduras* (Socioeconomic consequences of teenage pregnancy in Honduras), September 25, 2025; IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A, March 26, 2025, para. 565.

[1437] United Nations, Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Honduras*, CRC/C/HND/CO/6-7, February 26, 2025, para. 35.

including access to the emergency contraceptive (EC) pill,[1438] whose legality remains contested,[1439] as well as mammograms and Pap smears.[1440] In addition, cases of obstetric violence have been reported, particularly affecting women living with HIV, some of whom have allegedly been subjected to forced sterilization.[1441] Finally, the absolute ban on abortion and the criminalization of those suffering from obstetric emergencies persist.[1442]

639. As for the rights of **LGBTI persons**, the State reported the development of a training course for prison personnel on how to support LGBTIQ+ persons deprived of liberty, aimed at identifying specific needs and reducing risks related to gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation. In addition, the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Crimes against Life is working on an investigation protocol for crimes against LGBTIQ+ persons, as well as a database to accurately record such crimes, in accordance with the judgment of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in *Vicky Hernández v. Honduras*.[1443] Moreover, the authorities of the National Registry of Persons reported progress in the creation of a protocol to allow trans persons to change their name based on their gender identity.[1444]

640. However, between 2024 and 2025, the CONADEH received 165 complaints of discrimination against LGBTI persons, primarily involving the Ministry of Health and the Police.[1445] According to civil society organizations, at least 15 LGBTI persons had been killed as of mid-2025,[1446] with more than 565 murders recorded over the past decade.[1447] In March, civil society organizations denounced discrimination against diverse families and underscored its impact on children and adolescents during a public hearing before the Commission.[1448] In addition, LGBTI human rights defenders reported shortcomings in the protection

[1438] OHCHR, *Situation of human rights in Honduras. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, A/HRC/58/23, July 9, 2025, para. 69.

[1439] *Criterio Hn*, "Legalidad de la PAE se mantiene en juego por demanda de organización antiderechos" (Legal status of emergency contraceptive [EC] pill remains uncertain amid lawsuit filed by anti-rights group), May 27, 2025.

[1440] *Centro de Promoción en Salud y Asistencia Familia* (CEPROSAF), *Llaves*, Lawyers without Borders Canada, Request for a thematic hearing during the 194th regular period of sessions "Access to health and sexual and reproductive rights of women living with HIV in Honduras," August 22, 2025, paras. 18–20. On IACHR's files.

[1441] CEPROSAF, *Llaves*, Lawyers without Borders Canada, Request for a thematic hearing during the 194th regular period of sessions "Access to health and sexual and reproductive rights of women living with HIV in Honduras," August 22, 2025, paras. 15-24. On IACHR's files; Llaves, "Mujeres con VIH en Honduras siguen enfrentando esterilización forzada y violaciones a sus derechos reproductivos: nuevo estudio urge cambios en la atención en los servicios de salud" (Women living with HIV in Honduras continue to face forced sterilization and violations of their reproductive rights: new study calls for changes in healthcare services), September 24, 2025.

[1442] *Criterio Hn*, "Aborto en Honduras: de la denuncia internacional al estigma nacional" (Abortion in Honduras: between international scrutiny and national stigma), September 26, 2025; Government of Honduras, Input submitted by the State of Honduras in response to the IACHR questionnaire on the situation of the sexual and reproductive rights of women, girls and adolescents in Honduras under Article 41 of the American Convention, June 2025, p. 2. On IACHR's files.

[1443] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025.

[1444] *Expediente público*, "Personas trans en Honduras: 'Vivimos como ilegales en nuestro propio país'" (Trans persons in Honduras: "We live as if we were illegal in our own country"), January 16, 2025; *Colectivo Gama*, "Honduras aprobará un protocolo para el cambio de nombre registral" (Honduras to approve a protocol for legal name changes), August 8, 2024.

[1445] CONADEH, "Desmedida discriminación e impunidad pone en riesgo la vida e integridad de personas LGBTI" (Rampant discrimination and impunity put the lives and integrity of LGBTI persons at risk), July 15, 2025.

[1446] *Tiempo*, "Comunidad LGBTIQ exige fin de la violencia y reconocimiento legal en Honduras" (LGBTIQ community demands an end to violence and legal recognition in Honduras), July 12, 2025; *La Vanguardia*, "Colectivo LGBTIQ pide en Honduras fin de 'crímenes de odio' y ley de identidad de género" (LGBTIQ organizations in Honduras demand an end to "hate crimes" and the enactment of a gender identity law), July 12, 2025.

[1447] *Swissinfo*, "Persiste la violencia y discriminación contra personas LGTBI en Honduras, con 565 muertes" (Violence and discrimination against LGBTI people persist in Honduras, with 565 deaths), June 28, 2025; Efeminista, "Persiste la violencia contra las personas LGTBI+ en Honduras, con 565 asesinatos" (Violence against LGBTI+ people persists in Honduras, with 565 murders), February 26, 2025; KAI+ Observatory on Violence against LGBTI+ Persons in Honduras, *Informe Anual 2024, sobre la situación de derechos humanos y discriminación hacia las personas LGBTI+ de Honduras* (*2024 Annual Report* on the situation of human rights and discrimination against LGBTI+ persons in Honduras), 2025, pp. 39–41.

[1448] IACHR, thematic hearing "Honduras: Impact of the lack of recognition of same-sex marriage on the rights of children and adolescents," 192nd regular period of sessions, March 5, 2025.

mechanism, delays in the adoption of an anti-discrimination law and persistent discriminatory practices within the health system.[1449]

641. With respect to the situation of **persons in the context of human mobility**, the Honduran State reported that, by means of Executive Decree PCM-08-2025, it established the National Emergency Strategy for the Assistance of Honduran Migrants and implemented the "Hermano, hermana, vuelve a casa" (Brother, sister, come home) program, aimed at receiving migrants who returned from the United States and promoting actions to support their reintegration.[1450]

642. The Commission continued monitoring the return of Honduran nationals. As of August 12, 2025, the National Institute of Migration (INM) had received 24,207 returnees, primarily from Guatemala, Mexico and the United States.[1451] Civil society organizations and academic institutions underscored that returns resulting from changes in migration policies and the termination of protection statuses in other countries of the region could pose additional challenges in terms of humanitarian assistance, labor reintegration and educational and psychosocial support.[1452]

643. In addition, by means of Executive Agreement No. 13-DGAJTC-2025, Honduras and the United States agreed that the former would receive persons transferred from the latter and provide them with access to a protection determination mechanism or its equivalent. Under this agreement, Honduras will not return or expel any person transferred until a final administrative decision has been issued regarding their request for protection. To this end, Honduras will examine, in accordance with its protection determination framework, the application of any person who has arrived at a port of entry or attempted to cross a border between ports of entry of the United States upon entry into force of the agreement. In cases where the United States identifies unaccompanied children or adolescents, the United States will remain responsible for determining the outcome of the protection request.[1453] In addition, Honduras signed the Joint Implementation Plan, a technical and operational instrument that describes the procedures and mechanisms established in the agreement and includes the Action Plan for the Joint Implementation of the Protection Agreement (APRO), which regulates the reception, admission and processing for protection or voluntary return of transferred persons.[1454] The Commission has not received any information regarding the implementation of said agreement.

644. Furthermore, INM records show that, between January 1 and August 12, 2025, 22,261 persons had entered the country irregularly. The main nationalities identified were Cuban (13,150 persons), Haitian (3,025), Venezuelan (1,443), Ecuadorian (589) and Chinese (516).[1455] This figure represents a decrease of approximately 92.3 percent compared to 2024, when, as of August 31, 290,902 irregular entries had been recorded.[1456] In this context, the CONADEH indicated that, although Honduras remains a transit country, an

[1449] *Expediente público*, "Personas trans en Honduras: 'Vivimos como ilegales en nuestro propio país'" (Trans persons in Honduras: "We live as if we were illegal in our own country"), January 16, 2025.

[1450] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025, p. 31.

[1451] National Institute of Migration of Honduras (INM), Honduran returnees, n/d., accessed on August 26, 2025.

[1452] Observatory on International Migration in Honduras, *Migración: Contexto, impacto y desafío en Honduras 2025* (Migration: context, impact and challenges in Honduras [2025]), n/d.

[1453] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025, p. 32; National Archives, Federal Register, United States of America, Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Honduras for Cooperation in the Examination of Protection Requests, July 8, 2025.

[1454] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025, p. 32.

[1455] INM, Irregular migration flows, n/d., accessed on August 26, 2025.

[1456] IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IV.A, May 8, 2025, para. 566.

increasing number of persons are seeking to return to their countries of origin and are requesting assistance to do so.[1457]

645. In terms of **internal displacement**, the figures published in May 2025 by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) place Honduras among the countries with the highest number of internally displaced persons by the end of 2024, with 101,000 people in said situation. This total includes 4,300 displacements related to conflict and violence, and 20,000 related to disasters that took place during 2024.[1458]

646. With regard to **human trafficking**, the Commission welcomes the first court ruling in Honduras that includes reparation for victims of human trafficking. In this case, one individual was convicted of the crimes of sexual exploitation and child pornography, and ordered to pay financial compensation to each of the victims, including three children and one woman.[1459] In addition, the Commission was informed that, in March, the State undertook actions to consolidate alliances and promote joint strategies between the Inter-Institutional Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking of Honduras (CICESCT) and sectors such as the hotel industry,[1460] healthcare staff[1461] and academia,[1462] with the aim of strengthening initiatives for the prevention and identification of victims of human trafficking.[1463]

647. As for the rights of **children and adolescents**, the State highlighted the publication of the First National Report on Risks in Social Media for Children and Adolescents, which identifies the risks faced by this population, including cybercrime, recruitment for trafficking purposes, online harassment and the so-called "digital addictions." The State also reported on the establishment, in the city of Comayagüela, of the first Comprehensive Early Childhood Care Center (CAIPI), aimed at providing services to children between 0 and 6 years of age.[1464] The Commission was also informed that the Temporary Protection Families Program was launched in March, with the purpose of providing safe environments for children and adolescents in situations of vulnerability or who have been separated from their family environment as a result of violence.[1465]

648. Furthermore, the Commission notes that at least 60 children and adolescents were killed in the country between January and July 2025, according to the figures published by the UNHCR.[1466] These incidents of lethal violence take place within a context still marked by the presence of armed groups, risks of recruitment and impacts associated with displacement and human mobility, which further exacerbate the

[1457] CONADEH, "Disminuye la migración de personas en tránsito por territorio hondureño" (Transit migration through Honduras shows a decline), April 10, 2025.

[1458] Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024*, May 13, 2025, pp. 73 and 110.

[1459] *Proceso Digital*, "Honduras logra por primera vez una sentencia con reparación del daño a víctimas de trata de personas" (Honduras achieves first court ruling granting reparations to victims of human trafficking), October 28, 2025; *Canal 8*, "Honduras obtiene primera sentencia que ordena reparación del daño a víctimas de trata" (Honduras issues its first judgment ordering reparations for victims of trafficking), October 28, 2025.

[1460] Government of Honduras, "CICESCT Fortalece Alianzas con el Sector Hotelero para Prevenir la Trata de Personas" (The CICESCT strengthens cooperation with the hotel sector to prevent human trafficking), March 31, 2025.

[1461] Government of Honduras, "CICESCT Capacita a Personal de Salud, en la Identificación y Prevención de la Trata de Personas" (The CICESCT provides training to health sector personnel on the identification and prevention of human trafficking), March 25, 2025.

[1462] Government of Honduras, "CICESCT firma convenio con la Universidad de San Pedro Sula para fortalecer la prevención de la trata de personas y la explotación sexual comercial" (The CICESCT signs agreement with the University of San Pedro Sula to strengthen the prevention of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation), March 31, 2025.

[1463] The IACHR welcomes initiatives such as the "Wings of Resilience" activity organized in August by the CICEST with the support of UNICEF, which brought together 22 survivors of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, including men, women, children and adolescents to empower them and provide them with the tools necessary to participate in the forthcoming CICESCT Victims Advisory Council.

[1464] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025, paras. 104–105.

[1465] *El Mundo*, "Honduras lanza programa 'Familias de Protección Temporal' para niños en situación vulnerable" (Honduras launches the "Temporary Protection Families" program to support children in vulnerable situations), March 14, 2025; *Swissinfo*, "Honduras lanza un programa de protección para niños vulnerables" (Honduras launches protection program for vulnerable children), March 14, 2025.

[1466] UNHCR, Honduras - Operational Update - August 2025, September 29, 2025.

vulnerability of children and adolescents in various regions of the country.[1467] The Commission also regrets that, in August, the National Congress of Honduras failed to approve the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning a communications procedure, an important international instrument for the protection of children and adolescents.[1468]

649. Regarding **persons deprived of liberty**, the State reported that, as of May 2025, it had a total of 4,245 prison officers and 58 penitentiary officials trained in human rights, command, management and prison security.[1469] Honduras also informed that the Rehabilitation, Reeducation and Reintegration Program (3Rs Program) was still under implementation in 17 penitentiary centers. This program consists of seven modules and 42 courses and, as of May 2025, 2,708 persons deprived of liberty had enrolled. In addition, the Addictions Program is being implemented to prevent substance use and strengthen abstinence among this population. During the first quarter of 2025, 111 persons received training in the detention centers of El Progreso, Olanchito and the National Women's Penitentiary for Social Rehabilitation (PNFAS).[1470]

650. Furthermore, the Commission notes that, in the context of the extension of the state of emergency in force since 2022, an Intervening Commission of the National Penitentiary System (SPN) was appointed and entrusted with authority and control over the system, as well as with its management and administration The security and control of prisons was also delegated to the Military Police of Public Order of the Armed Forces (PMOP).[1471] The Commission further notes that the Intervening Commission was instructed to present a transition plan and timetable so that all institutions within the SPN would eventually be led by career officials of the Penitentiary Service. For that purpose, the continuation of training for managerial, technical, administrative and security personnel was ordered.[1472] In this context, on August 15, the Ministry of National Defense (SEDENA) signed a Framework Cooperation Agreement with the National Penitentiary Institute to strengthen the operational capacities of the SPN.[1473]

651. With regard to the detention conditions faced by persons deprived of liberty in Honduras, according to information published by the CONADEH, more than 80 percent of the penitentiary centers in the country are operating under overcrowded conditions. The facilities in Puerto Lempira, Danlí, El Porvenir and Olanchito are among the most affected, with overcrowding levels exceeding 150 percent.[1474] In response to this situation, the State has reportedly taken measures to enable new detention modules, build a new penitentiary facility and classify and transfer detained persons.[1475]

652. With respect to the classification and transfer of incarcerated persons, the OHCHR voiced its concern regarding human rights violations arising from these measures, including, among others, the lack of

[1467] United Nations, Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Honduras*, CRC/C/HND/CO/6-7, February 26, 2025; OHCHR, "UN Child Rights Committee publishes findings on Ecuador, Eritrea, Gambia, Honduras, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Slovakia," February 6, 2025.

[1468] *La Prensa*, "Qué es el Protocolo Facultativo de la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño que el Congreso no ha logrado ratificar" (What is the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child that Congress has failed to ratify?), August 26, 2025; *Swissinfo*, "Lamentan que Parlamento de Honduras no haya aprobado protocolo sobre derechos de la niñez" (Concerns raised over the Honduran Congress's failure to approve the protocol on children's rights), August 22, 2025.

[1469] Government of the Republic of Honduras, Electronic Communication No. 1117-DPM-SRECI-2025, Input sent by the State of Honduras for the preparation of the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, pursuant to Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, Chapter IV, Section "A", Official Letter No. SEDH-1208-2025, September 5, 2025, para. 34.

[1470] *Ibid.*, p. 34.

[1471] *Official Gazette* of the Republic of Honduras, Executive Decree No. PCM 41-2024, December 30, 2024, Articles 1–4.

[1472] *Ibid.*

[1473] *Agencia Hondureña de Noticias*, "Honduras refuerza cooperación penitenciaria con acuerdo institucional" (Honduras strengthens penitentiary cooperation through institutional agreement), August 16, 2025.

[1474] CONADEH, "Hacinamiento afecta a más del 80% de los centros penitenciarios del país" (Overcrowding affects over 80 percent of the country's prison facilities), June 26, 2025.

[1475] *Canal 8*, "INP y organismos de derechos humanos abordan medidas de seguridad para reclusos" (National Penitentiary Institute [INP] and human rights organizations discuss security measures for inmates), April 21, 2025; *La Tribuna*, "Interventora del INP anuncia medidas de seguridad en cárceles" (INP intervening authority announces security measures in prisons), April 23, 2025; *Hondudiario*, "INP anuncia distribución de estructuras criminales en centros penitenciarios" (INP announces redistribution of criminal groups within penitentiary centers), May 19, 2025.

individualized assessments, the absence of mechanisms to challenge transfers and the failure to provide prior notification to detained persons, their families and their legal representatives.[1476]

653. In addition, the CONADEH reported that, during 2024, it addressed at least 437 complaints related to violations of the right to health, alleging torture and ill-treatment, acts or omissions in cases involving disciplinary measures or solitary confinement, and death threats, among other issues.[1477] Moreover, according to information from the Center for the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture and Their Families (CPTRT), as reported by the press, at least 139 detainees were allegedly subjected to torture during the first half of 2025, and suffered beatings, punches, pushing, falls from a second floor, kicks during searches, isolation and invasive searches, among other practices.[1478] In this context, the Commission was informed of cases of physical, sexual and psychological abuse suffered by adolescents held at the Jalteva Nuevo and Jalteva Viejo Juvenile Detention Centers, allegedly perpetrated by other adolescents in a context of negligence, acquiescence and tolerance by the authorities of those facilities.[1479]

654. As for the rights of **persons with disabilities**, the civil society reported setbacks and exclusion in the electoral processes. According to public information, more than 200,000 persons with disabilities could be excluded from the upcoming elections due to the lack of support measures and reasonable accommodations, as well as the absence of interpreters and accessible materials, thereby limiting the exercise of their political rights.[1480] In addition, more than 50 organizations of persons with disabilities responsible for implementing public policies are at risk of being suspended or closed as a result of insufficient state budget allocations,[1481] which would impact the services provided to at least 60,000 persons with disabilities.[1482]

XXI. JAMAICA

- **General considerations**

655. As it relates to **progress**, the IACHR takes note of the State's advancement in achieving constitutional reform and a significant reduction in homicides. The Commission also notes the launch of a legal information portal to improve public access to Jamaica's and welcomes the launch of an initiative to establish the first shelter dedicated to supporting boys who are victims of human trafficking.

656. As it relates to **challenges**, the IACHR notes with concern the Special Investigative Report on Planned Police Operations published by the Independent Commission of Investigations which highlighted a notable increase in police related fatalities. Moreover, the Commission takes note of the passage of legislation

[1476] OHCHR, "OACNUDH expresa su preocupación ante los traslados masivos de personas privadas de libertad, realizados por el INP como parte del plan de clasificación" (The OHCHR expresses concern over the mass transfers of persons deprived of liberty carried out by the INP as part of the classification plan), June 10, 2025; CONADEH, "CONADEH solicitará ante la CIDH medidas cautelares para las personas privados de libertad" (The CONADEH will request precautionary measures from the IACHR for persons deprived of liberty), June 6, 2025.

[1477] CONADEH, "Hacinamiento afecta a más del 80% de los centros penitenciarios del país" (Overcrowding affects over 80 percent of the country's prison facilities), June 26, 2025.

[1478] *Criterio Hn*, "Violaciones de derechos humanos aumentaron en los centros penitenciarios bajo el control militar" (Human rights violations increased in penitentiary centers under military control), July 16, 2025.

[1479] *El Heraldo*, "Un niño, seis violadores: cuatro noches de terror en Jalteva Viejo" (One boy, six rapists: four nights of horror in Jalteva Viejo), February 3, 2025; *El Heraldo*, "Agresiones físicas y psicológicas contra menores en Jalteva" (Physical and psychological aggression against minors in Jalteva), February 4, 2025.

[1480] *Criterio Hn*, "Piden al CNE garantizar derecho al voto de la población con discapacidad" (The CNE urged to guarantee voting rights for persons with disabilities), August 6, 2025.

[1481] *Proceso Digital*, "Unas 50 organizaciones de personas con discapacidad a punto de cerrar operaciones" (Nearly 50 organizations representing persons with disabilities are at risk of closing), July 12, 2025.

[1482] *Hondudiario*, "Cerca de 50 organizaciones de discapacitados en riesgo de cierre, señala CONADEH" (The CONADEH reports that nearly 50 organizations serving persons with disabilities are at risk of closing), July 12, 2025.

which seeks to increase the sentences of children convicted of homicide. Finally, the IACHR takes notes of the State practice of collective expulsions aimed at restricting access to asylum procedures.

657. The State did not respond to the request for information to draft this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

658. With regards to **democratic institutionality**, the IACHR notes the holding of general elections and the State's advancement in achieving constitutional reform. The State held general elections on September 3 to elect 63 members of its House of Representatives. According to the preliminary results published by the Electoral Office of Jamaica, the ruling party, the Jamaica Labor Party (JLP) received the majority of votes in 34 constituencies, while the People's National Party (PNP), the main opposition party, won the majority of votes in the other 29 constituencies.[1483] The Commission highlights the OAS Electoral Observation Mission Preliminary Report which noted that the election process was conducted calmly and professionally. In addition, the Report recommended conducting a thorough assessment of the Voters' List, a comprehensive revision and reenactment of the legislation governing elections and the codification of specific offences related to gender-based violence against women, including candidates.[1484]

659. In addition, in January 2025, a Joint Select Committee of Parliament was appointed to consider and report on The Constitution (Amendment) (Republic) Act, 2024 which was introduced in the House of Representatives in December 2024. The Committee invited written submissions from the public (in Jamaica and the Jamaican diaspora) to aid in its deliberations on the Bill. However, with the dissolution of Parliament ahead of the 2025 General Election, the Bill lapsed and will need to be reintroduced in the new parliamentary term. As previously noted by the Commission, the Bill seeks to abolish the Constitutional Monarchy and transition Jamaica to a Republic.[1485]

660. In relation to **human rights institutions**, according to official information, since the Electoral Commission of Jamaica (ECJ) has been entrusted with the functions of the Office of the Political Ombudsman, it has implemented several mechanisms to enhance its role. The Commission notes that a dedicated unit within the ECJ now coordinates activities of the Office and has enhanced the enforcement of the Political Code, streamlined the complaint process, and introduced an accessible platform for the submission of digital complaints.[1486] Nonetheless, civil society actors have raised concerns that combining the Office of the Ombudsman with the ECJ could compromise its impartiality, as four of the eight Commissioners are politically nominated.[1487] In this regard, the Commission highlights the OAS Electoral Observation Mission Preliminary Report which recommends clarifying the mandate and powers of the Office of the Political Ombudsman within the ECJ framework in order to ensure that its role is clearly defined, impartial, and capable of functioning effectively.[1488]

661. Regarding **citizen security**, according to official information, there was a 43% decrease in homicides during the period January 1 and December 20, 2025. A total of 649 homicides were reported up to December 20, 2025, compared to 1136 homicides reported for the same period in 2024.[1489] This represents a homicide rate of rate of 22.8 per 100,000 inhabitants up to December 2025.[1490]

[1483] Electoral Commission of Jamaica, September 3 2025 Elections Preliminary Results, September 3, 2025.
[1484] OAS, Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Jamaica for the 2025 General Elections, September 4, 2025.
[1485] Parliament of Jamaica, Public Notice, January 2025.
[1486] Electoral Commission of Jamaica, Office of the Political Ombudsman Operational under ECJ since February 2024, May 3, 2025.
[1487] Jamaica Gleaner, CAFFE wants reinstallation of single political ombudsman, April 14, 2025.
[1488] OAS, Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Jamaica for the 2025 General Elections, September 4, 2025.
[1489] Jamaica Constabulary Force, Hundreds of Lives Saved in 2025 – Police Commissioner , December 30, 2025.
[1490] The IACHR calculated the homicide rate based on the State's population of 2,839,175 according to data from The World Bank. The World Bank, Population total - Jamaica, 2024.

662. Moreover, the Commission continues to monitor the State's use of States of Public Emergency (SOE) as a crime suppression mechanism. In particular, it highlights that in May, the Supreme Court of Jamaica ruled that seventeen SOEs declared between 2018 and 2023 in response to heightened violent crime were unconstitutional. The Court noted that the SOEs were invalid as they were not declared for a constitutionally legitimate purpose, were disproportionate within a free and democratic society, and undermined the separation of powers by diminishing parliamentary authority regarding their extensions.[1491] In this context, the Commission notes the continued declaration of SOEs. On January 22, an SOE was declared for four divisions: St Andrew South, St Andrew Central, Kingston Western, and St Catherine South, due to a rise in violent crime. Further, on January 28, another SOE was declared in the St. Catherine North Police Division.[1492] In addition, in June, the House of Representatives approved a 180-day extension of the Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs) in seven communities across Jamaica.[1493]

663. On the other hand, the IACHR notes with concern the Special Investigative Report on Planned Police Operations published by the Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM) in October, which highlighted a notable 591% increase in police related fatalities arising from planned police operations between 2021 to 2024. The report noted that for the first seven months of 2025 there were 97 police related fatalities recorded during planned police operations. In this regard, the Report recommended that all planned operations must adhere to the Police Force's Use of Force and Firearms Policy and must be subject to proper planning and documentation.[1494] Further, civil society has called on the Police Force to implement INDECOM's recommendations and conduct an independent audit to ensure that officers are upholding human rights and accountability standards.[1495]

664. With regards to **access to justice**, in its 2024 Annual Report,[1496] the Commission noted that the State intended to develop a legal information portal. This portal was launched on July 30 and aims to improve public access to Jamaica's laws and educate the public about all aspects of legal information. According to the Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, the portal will also serve as a platform for public engagement on law reform issues and assist in shaping legal proposals through citizen input.[1497]

665. Concerning the rights of **children**, the Commission observes that on January 16, the State opened the St. James Child and Adolescent Wellness Centre to provide critical youth mental health services such as psychotherapy, family therapy, social work, and psychiatric care under a multi-agency Citizen Security Plan. The State noted that this development came at a crucial time, as recent data indicated that 20% of Jamaican children suffer from mental health disorders, including depression, anxiety, attention deficit and hyperactive disorders.[1498]

666. Further, the Commission notes with concern that in April, the House of Representatives passed the Child Care and Protection (Amendment) Bill which seeks to increase the sentences of children convicted of homicide. According to official information, the Bill proposes in cases of children convicted of capital murder, they can be sentenced to life imprisonment or a term not less than 30 years, with eligibility for parole after serving 15 years. Whereas for cases of non-capital murder, convicted children can face life imprisonment or another term as deemed appropriate by the court, with judicial discretion to determine the parole eligibility period.[1499]

[1491] Dayton Campbell v Attorney General of Jamaica CLAIM NO. SU 2023CV00736, May 16, 2025.
[1492] Office of the Prime Minister of Jamaica, State of Public Emergency Declared in St Catherine North Police Division, January 28, 2025; Jamaica Observer, State of Public Emergency declared in four more police divisions, January 22, 2025.
[1493] Jamaica Information Service, House Approves 180-Day Extension of ZOSOs in Seven Communities, June 18, 2025.
[1494] Independent Commission of Investigations, Special Investigative Report: Planned Police Operations, October 2025.
[1495] Jamaicans for Justice, Stand up for Jamaica, Joint Press Statement: Jamaicans for Justice and Stand Up for Jamaica Welcome INDECOM's Special Investigative Report on Planned Police Operations, October 13, 2025, IACHR Archive.
[1496] IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "Jamaica", 2024, para. 580.
[1497] Jamaica Information Service, Jamaica Legal Information Portal Launched, July 31, 2025.
[1498] Jamaica Information Service, Child and Adolescent Wellness Centre Opens in Montego Bay, January 18, 2025.
[1499] Jamaica Information Service, House Approves Bills to Increase Penalties for Murder, May 1, 2025.

667. With regard to **persons in the context of human mobility**, the IACHR notes with concern the practice of collective expulsions aimed at restricting access to asylum procedures. During the period under review, several Haitian nationals entered Jamaica irregularly, including children and women in an advanced state of pregnancy.[1500] According to available information, these persons were reportedly detained, and due process was not guaranteed in the context of the expulsions; in particular, they did not have access to legal representation or to a fair hearing in order to report their individual situation.[1501]

668. Relating to **trafficking in persons**, the Commission welcomes the launch of an initiative to establish the first shelter dedicated to supporting boys who are victims of human trafficking. The shelter will function as a safe haven providing specialized support and rehabilitation services to help young male survivors of trafficking to heal, recover, and reintegrate into society.[1502] Likewise, the IACHR takes note that in January, a free online course to strengthen awareness and further educate Jamaicans about human trafficking, was launched. The course will provide better understanding of human trafficking "to not only avoid being trafficked but to identify others who may be trafficked so that it can be reported to the authorities."[1503]

669. With respect to the situation of persons of **African descent and the fight against racial discrimination**, it was delivered the UNESCO certificate recognizing Revivalism as Intangible Cultural Heritage, in addition to previous inscriptions of the Maroon legacy of Moore Town and reggae.[1504] On the other hand, the IACHR observes with concern the persistence of discrimination on the basis of the skin color.[1505]

670. With respect to the rights of **LGBTI persons**, Jamaica continues to have laws which criminalize same-sex relationships between consenting adults and remains as one of the five states in the American region which continues to maintain these laws.

671. Regarding **persons with disabilities**, the State has continued to implement the Disabilities Act, which mandates non-discrimination in education, employment, healthcare, and public facilities.[1506] Despite this advancement, significant challenges remain. Access to essential services continues to be limited for many individuals with disabilities, particularly in rural areas where infrastructure and resources are scarce. As such, civil society organizations have suggested a census specific to the persons with disabilities in order to ensure that they receive services and fair treatment.[1507]

672. With respect to **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission values efforts to expand social reintegration opportunities. Particularly, in June, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Ministry of National Security, Department of Correctional Services (DCS) and HEART/NSTA Trust to equip inmates and wards of the State with the skills and training necessary to secure meaningful employment upon release.[1508] Also, in August, 10 inmates completed university programs in partnership with the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean and Stand Up for Jamaica.[1509]

[1500] Caribbean National Weekly, 42 Haitian migrants detained after illegal landing in Portland, Jamaica, May 19, 2025; Jamaica Observer, 21 of 40 Haitian refugees captured after boat arrives in Portland, September 22, 2025.
[1501] The Gleaner, When Haiti knocked, Jamaica barred the door, May 25, 2025.
[1502] Jamaica Information Service,, Gov't to Establish Shelter for Male Victims of Human Trafficking, June 19, 2025.
[1503] Jamaica Information Service, Free Online Course on Human Trafficking Launched, January 11, 2025.
[1504] Jamaica Observer, Minister Grange hands over UNESCO certificate to Revivalists, March 10, 2025.
[1505] Jamaica Gleaner, Kristen Gyles: What mental shackles look like, August 1, 2025.
[1506] Jamaica Information Service, Significant Progress Made Since Implementation of Disabilities Act, February 13, 2025.
[1507] Jamaica Observer, JCPD wants census for people with disabilities, February 18, 2025.
[1508] Jamaica Information Service, MOU Signed To Equip Inmates And Wards With Skills For Reintegration And Employment, June 27, 2025.
[1509] Department of Correctional Services, Government of Jamaica, From Incarceration to University Graduation: Academic Triumphs Behind Bars, August 13, 2025.

673. On the other hand, the Commission expresses concern about persistent challenges related to conditions of detention, including harsh living conditions reported at the St. Catherine Adult Correctional Centre, and the lack of a fit-for-purpose facility for persons with psychosocial disabilities.[1510]

674. In relation to the **death penalty**, the IACHR notes that there has been no progress with removing this punishment from the statutory books. In addition, it observes that no person has been sentenced to death since the last execution in 1988, and as of May 23, 2023, no one is currently under sentence of death.[1511]

XXII. MEXICO

- **General considerations**

675. As it relates to **progress**, the Commission notes that the United Mexican States (hereinafter, "Mexico") has expanded its social policy to promote and guarantee labor, housing, health and culture rights, as well as to foster universal social programs that are targeted at women, youth, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and older persons. Noteworthy developments include the creation of the National Care System, an increase in the minimum wage and the creation of new channels for reporting corruption. The Commission also notes the adoption of the Mechanism to Monitor and Evaluate the National Program to Prevent and Punish Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the measures implemented to prevent human trafficking. Moreover, adjustments have been made to regulations on disappeared persons, with a focus on the operation and interconnection of the various registries on the subject.

676. As it relates to **challenges**, the Commission is concerned about the low turnout in the elections and the suitability of candidates elected to the judiciary, as well as about the fragmentation of access to information and the protection of personal data following the dismantlement of the National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Protection of Personal Data (INAI). Furthermore, the country is still facing a serious humanitarian crisis given the persistent forensic emergency and the number of disappeared persons. The Commission notes the alarming number of reports of femicides, transfemicides and murders of LGBTIQ+ persons, as well as cases of human trafficking and violence against women. Reports of xenophobic and racist practices by authorities against persons in the context of human mobility are also a cause for concern. Moreover, the defense of human rights continues to be a dangerous activity in Mexico since there have been several documented murders and attacks against people who search for disappeared persons, indigenous rights defenders and union leaders.

677. On September 15, 2025, the State submitted its response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.[1512]

- **Specific issues**

678. Regarding **democratic institutionality**, the Commission was informed about a judicial reform achieved by means of an electoral process carried out on July 1, 2025. Said process resulted in the election of 881 federal positions within the judiciary,[1513] following the turnout of 12.57-13.32 percent of the national constituency. Among the most relevant parts of the judicial reform, the State pinpointed the creation of the Judicial Administration Body and the Judicial Disciplinary Court, the professionalization of the judicial career, the drafting of provisions on gender equality, the restriction of access to the judiciary based on merit,

[1510] Jamaica Observer, Lack fit-purpose facility mentally ill offenders continues pose challenges, July 7, 2025.
[1511] World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Jamaica, May 23, 2023; last visited: October 2025.
[1512] Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, Annual report on key trends, issues, challenges, developments and best practices regarding civil and political rights and ESCERs, via Diplomatic Note No. OEA2922 4.5.0.1, September 15, 2025.
[1513] Elected positions: 9 at the SCJN, 2 at the Superior Chamber of the Electoral Court of the Federal Judiciary (TEPJF), 15 at regional chambers of the TEPJF, 5 at the Judicial Disciplinary Court, 464 at circuit courts and 386 at district courts.

the establishment of nine-year terms for judges and magistrates and the reduction of the Supreme Court of Justice (SCJN) from 11 to 9 members. The State also reported that the candidates to the SCJN were nominated by the three branches of government and were evaluated using technical criteria in a process that was "open to society."[1514]

679. The electoral process was open to international scrutiny. The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (EOM/OAS) indicated that there was a peaceful atmosphere during the election day despite delays in setting up polling stations. It also underscored the low voter turnout, the high number of null ballots and the rush to hold the election, which took place in a context of polarization and widespread litigation.[1515] In addition, the media reported on the use of "accordion pamphlets," or voting guides,[1516] which, in the opinion of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, should be prohibited for the 2027 elections.[1517]

680. The Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center (PRODH Center) indicated that, due to changes in judicial personnel, significant delays in the handling of cases have been documented —especially those involving deprivation of liberty—, and that many continue to be heard by "faceless judges."[1518]

681. With respect to policies on transparency and access to information, during the instant reporting period, the State dismantled the INAI. At a public hearing on the topic before the Commission, civil society organizations stated that the dissolution of the INAI constituted a structural setback and resulted in an excessive concentration of functions regarding these matters in the executive branch.[1519] The State reported that the functions performed by the INAI were to be assigned to a decentralized administrative body attached to the new Anti-Corruption and Good Governance Secretariat, which was to take on the measures to protect personal data. It also indicated that active transparency actions and the decisions over review remedies were now the responsibility of *Transparencia para el Pueblo* (Transparency for the People) at the federal level, which operates under the collegiate coordination of the National Council of the National System of Access to Public Information. Although the State pointed out that the National Transparency Platform would continue to operate smoothly,[1520] organizations such as Article 19 expressed concern about its safekeeping.

682. In addition, the Commission warns about the murders of public officials, elected authorities and state security agents. According to public information, at least 20 state officials have been killed recently. Several of these cases are reportedly linked to organized crime and the political or administrative functions that the victims performed.[1521]

[1514] Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, Annual report on key trends, issues, challenges, developments and best practices regarding civil and political rights and ESCERs, via Diplomatic Note No. OEA2922 4.5.0.1, September 15, 2025, pp. 3-5.

[1515] EOM/OAS, *Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission for the Elections of the Federal Judiciary in Mexico*, June 6, 2025.

[1516] DW, "Los 'acordeones' y la elección judicial en México" (The "accordion pamphlets" and the judicial election in Mexico), June 3, 2025.

[1517] Proceso, "La ONU urge a México evitar para 2027 'acordeones' y otros vicios de la elección judicial" (The UN urges Mexico to refrain from handing out "accordion pamphlets" and from replicating other judicial election irregularities in 2027), September 15, 2025.

[1518] PRODH Center, Follow-up information to Chapter IV.A of the IACHR's *Annual Report*, September 11, 2025, pp. 14-15.

[1519] IACHR, public hearing "Mexico: Status of the right of access to information and the protection of personal data," 192nd regular period of sessions, March 5, 2025.

[1520] Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, *Annual report on key trends, issues, challenges, developments and best practices regarding civil and political rights and ESCERs*, via Diplomatic Note No. OEA2922 4.5.0.1, September 15, 2025, pp. 7-8.

[1521] *El País*, "Asesinada en la costa de Oaxaca la regidora Guadalupe Urban Ceballos" (Councilwoman Guadalupe Urban Ceballos murdered on the coast of Oaxaca), November 6, 2025; *El Financiero*, "PERFIL: ¿Quién fue Carlos Manzo, alcalde de Uruapan que mataron tras pedir ayuda contra el narco?" (PROFILE: Who was Carlos Manzo, the Mayor of Uruapan who was killed after asking for help against drug traffickers?), November 1, 2025; *BBC News Mundo*, "Asesinan a tiros a la secretaria personal y a un asesor de la alcaldesa de Ciudad de México" (The personal secretary and an advisor to the Mayor of Mexico City are shot dead), May 20, 2025; *BBC News Mundo*, "Hombres armados asesinan a una alcaldesa dentro del palacio de gobierno en el estado mexicano de Oaxaca" (Armed men murder mayor inside the government palace in the Mexican state of Oaxaca), June 16, 2025; *El País*, "Asesinada a balazos la alcaldesa de Tepalcatepec junto a su esposo en la puerta de su casa" (The Mayor of Tepalcatepec and her husband were shot dead outside their home), June 17, 2025; *El País*, "Sicarios irrumpen en un hospital de Teocaltiche y asesinan a una enfermera y regidora" (Hit men storm a hospital in Teocaltiche and

683. With regards to elections, the State announced the creation of the Presidential Commission on the Electoral Reform to modernize the electoral system and strengthen democratic representation by means of participatory public hearings between September and December 2025.[1522]

684. In relation to **human rights institutions**, the State indicated that, during the instant reporting period, it continued to provide assistance to victims by means of legal services, social work, psychological support and healthcare. Reportedly, 19,075 people were registered in the National Registry of Victims (RENAVI). The State further noted that it guaranteed comprehensive reparation to 864 victims —for a total amount of 387.13 million pesos (approximately 17.5 million US dollars)— by means of 222 resolutions issued by the Executive Commission for Attention to Victims (CEAV) and complementary actions by other state-run institutions.[1523]

685. With respect to the fight against corruption, Mexico reported on the creation of the Anti-Corruption and Good Governance Secretariat and of Transparencia para el Pueblo, an institution whose purpose is to make all public information available to citizens. The State also indicated that it had been promoting the Comprehensive Citizen Complaint System (SIDEC) for administrative offenses committed by public officials, as well as the System of Internal and External Citizen Corruption Whistleblowers.[1524]

686. Regarding the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), information was submitted on the agreement reached in April 2025 that reportedly limits victims' access to complaint files lodged in the Transparency Unit.[1525] Moreover, in September, the selection process for the new Search Commissioner was completed.[1526]

687. With respect to the country's **social security** policy, the State reported that, as of July 2025, the welfare programs in place resulted in 16.3 million people receiving direct support by means of pensions and transfers, and that social benefits reached 30 million families. Moreover, it indicated that **access to education** had been strengthened by means of an increase in scholarships, the creation and expansion of schools and the implementation of measures to prevent school dropout. And regarding the right to **housing**,

murder a nurse and a councilwoman) May 9, 2025; *La Jornada*, "Matan en Veracruz a director de la policía municipal de Cosolapa, Oaxaca" (Director of the municipal police force in Cosolapa, Oaxaca, killed in Veracruz), September 5, 2025; *El Universal*, "Asesinan a cuatro personas en distintos hechos en Veracruz; una de las víctimas es agente de tránsito" (Four people murdered in separate incidents in Veracruz; one of the victims was a traffic officer), September 20, 2025; *Milenio*, "Levantan y asesinan a Juan Alberto Camarillo, jefe regional de la Fiscalía General de Guanajuato" (Juan Alberto Camarillo, Regional Head of the Office of the Prosecutor of Guanajuato, kidnapped and murdered), September 25, 2025; *El País*, "Asesinado Hossein Nabor Guillén, subsecretario del Bienestar en Guerrero" (Hossein Nabor Guillén, Undersecretary of Welfare of Guerrero, murdered), September 3, 2025; *Animal Político*, "Matan a Ángeles Ojeda de Jesús, director administrativo de Seguridad Pública de Los Cabos" (Ángeles Ojeda de Jesús, Administrative Director of Public Security in Los Cabos, killed), September 7, 2025; *La Jornada*, "Asesinan al secretario del Ayuntamiento de Apaseo el Alto, Guanajuato" (Secretary of the City Council of Apaseo el Alto, Guanajuato, murdered), July 5, 2025; *Milenio*, "Asesinan a Felipe Flores López, funcionario y miembro de la comunidad LGBT en Santiago Maravatío" (Felipe Flores López, official and member of the LGBT community in Santiago Maravatío, murdered), June 30, 2025; *Milenio*, "Esto sabemos sobre el homicidio del comisario de Seguridad Pública de Salamanca en ataque armado" (This is what we know about the murder of the public security commissioner of Salamanca in an armed attack), January 16, 2025; *El País*, "Muere el secretario de Seguridad de Tulum, José Roberto Rodríguez, tras recibir seis disparos" (Tulum Security Secretary José Roberto Rodríguez dies after being shot six times), March 22, 2025; *El Economista*, "Emboscan a alcalde de Oaxaca y lo matan" (Mayor of Oaxaca is ambushed and killed), May 15, 2025; *El Sol de México*, "Asesinan a alcaldesa de San Mateo Piñas, Oaxaca, junto a otro funcionario" (Mayor of San Mateo Piñas, Oaxaca, and another official, murdered), June 15, 2025; *El Financiero*, "Asesinan a Juan Pulido Díaz, secretario del Ayuntamiento de Linares, Nuevo León, en ataque armado" (Juan Pulido Díaz, secretary of the City Council of Linares, Nuevo León, murdered in an armed attack), June 7, 2025; *Proceso*, "Asesinan al secretario general del Ayuntamiento de Teocaltiche, Jalisco" (Secretary General of Teocaltiche City Council, Jalisco, murdered), April 28, 2025; *Gente Tlaxcala*, "Asesinan a balazos al director administrativo de CECyTE en San Pablo del Monte" (Administrative Director of College of Scientific and Technological Studies in San Pablo del Monte, shot dead), June 4, 2025.

[1522] United Mexican States, Press Release, Tarjeta Informativa 34/2025 (Information Bulletin No. 34/2025), August 2, 2025.

[1523] Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, *Annual report on key trends, issues, challenges, developments and best practices regarding civil and political rights and ESCERs*, via Diplomatic Note No. OEA2922 4.5.0.1, September 15, 2025, pp. 14-15.

[1524] *Ibid*., pp. 5-6 and 14-15.

[1525] PRODH Center, Follow-up information to Chapter IV.A of the IACHR's *Annual Report*, September 11, 2025, p. 15.

[1526] *El Economista*, "Martha Lidia Pérez Gumecindo es la nueva titular de la Comisión Nacional de Búsqueda" (Martha Lidia Pérez Gumecindo is the new head of the National Search Commission), September 11, 2025; *Animal Político*, "Comisión Nacional de Búsqueda: poner al centro a las víctimas, una deuda que apremia" (National Search Commission: focusing on victims, a pressing obligation), August 14, 2025; PRODH Center, Follow-up information to Chapter IV.A of the IACHR's *Annual Report*, September 11, 2025, pp. 5–6.

the State noted that it had promoted local infrastructure projects and public spaces to improve living conditions in diverse communities.[1527]

688. As it relates to **labor**, Mexico promoted labor market integration with a focus on equality by strengthening job placement and training services for marginalized groups. The State also reported that it continued to grant increases in the minimum wage, thus reducing poverty among workers and closing the gender pay gap, and it indicated that retirement benefits equal 100 percent of the last salary each person earned before retirement. Additionally, the State fostered measures and regulation reforms with the aim of promoting the labor inclusion of women and equitable treatment in the workplace.[1528]

689. In relation to **health**, the State indicated that it was seeking to consolidate a universal public health system that can offer expanded community services, new medical units and sufficient supplies. As it relates to **sexual and reproductive health**, the State managed to bolster the prevention of teenage pregnancy, access to contraceptive methods and maternity care. Regarding **mental health**, campaigns, support lines and community services for early detection and assistance have been expanded.[1529]

690. With respect to **care**, the State indicated that it is currently promoting the development of a gender-sensitive care society, with shared responsibility between the State, families, the community and the private sector. It further noted that it has improved working conditions for caregivers and began developing the National Care System, which includes setting up Child Care and Education Centers (CECI).[1530]

691. With regard to **access to justice and judicial independence**, according to the 2025 National Survey on Victimization and Perception of Public Security, over 90 percent of crimes are never reported in Mexico. In addition, out of the 33.5 million crimes that occurred in 2024, only 0.8 percent were favorably resolved by the Office of the Public Prosecutor: either the affected property was recovered, the person who committed the crime was brought before a judicial authority, the damage caused was repaired or acquittal was granted.[1531]

692. In this regard, the State referred to the granting of amnesty for ordinary crimes in pursuance with current regulations. It highlighted the passing of 147 favorable resolutions and the issuance of 12 court judgments based on petitions approved by the Amnesty Commission.[1532]

693. For its part, the Inter-American Commission raised concerns about amendments to the Law on the Appeal for Legal Protection and the creation of new barriers of access to justice. According to the information received, the aforementioned amendments restrict the scope of legitimate interest and the concept of suspension, therefore limiting access to justice and the ability of civil organizations to promote collective writs of *amparo*. The reforms also impose stricter requirements for proving "real and differentiated legal injury," which in turn hinders access to judicial protection in cases of collective harm.[1533]

694. With regard to **citizen security**, public information shows a decrease in the total number of daily homicides that occurred last year, from 86.9 intentional crimes in July 2024 to 64.9 in July 2025. Between January and July 2025, the states that recorded the highest numbers of homicides were Guanajuato (11.9

[1527] Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, *Annual report on key trends, issues, challenges, developments and best practices regarding civil and political rights and ESCERs*, via Diplomatic Note No. OEA2922 4.5.0.1, September 15, 2025, pp. 18-20, 55–64 and 60–64.
[1528] *Ibid.*, pp. 20-29 and 32–36.
[1529] *Ibid.*, pp. 36-51.
[1530] *Ibid.*, pp. 29-32.
[1531] National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, Encuesta Nacional de Victimización y Percepción sobre Seguridad Pública del 2025 (2025 National Survey on Victimization and Perception of Public Security), September 2025.
[1532] Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, *Annual report on key trends, issues, challenges, developments and best practices regarding civil and political rights and ESCERs*, via Diplomatic Note No. OEA2922 4.5.0.1, September 15, 2025, pp. 17-18.
[1533] PRODH Center, "Notes on the Reform of the Law on the Appeal for Legal Protection," submitted on October 22, 2025.

percent), Chihuahua (7.2 percent), Sinaloa (7.2 percent), Baja California (7.1 percent), the state of Mexico (6.6 percent), Guerrero (5.9 percent) and Michoacán (5.6 percent).[1534]

695. The State indicated that its security policy is aimed at addressing the structural causes of violence by means of a comprehensive strategy based on respect for human rights and peacebuilding. According to the 2025–2030 National Development Plan and the 2024–2030 National Public Security Strategy, the four main lines of action are: addressing the root causes, strengthening the National Guard, using investigation and intelligence, and coordinating tasks with state and municipal authorities.[1535]

696. The PRODH Center expressed concern about the expansion of the militarized model of citizen security following the enactment of the new National Guard Law on July 16, 2025, which repealed the 2019 law and formalized the full integration of the Guard into the Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA). According to reports, the reforms consolidated the military nature of the National Guard and expanded the scope of action of the SEDENA to the areas of intelligence and military discipline. Nevertheless, the Commission notes that a lack of civilian controls and the opacity in accountability persist, particularly in cases of use of force.[1536]

697. With regard to **torture**, the 2025 Global Torture Index classifies Mexico as a country with a considerable risk of torture and ill-treatment. According to data from the Technical Secretariat on the Fight Against Torture under the Federal Institute of Public Defense, 2,881 cases of torture were reported (between 2019 and 2024), which involved a total of 3,506 victims.[1537] The State reported that, within the framework of the National Strategy on the Prevention and Punishment of Torture, it offered five training sessions on the Mechanism to Monitor and Evaluate the National Program to Prevent and Punish Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which were attended by 55 officials and social representatives.[1538]

698. Member organizations of the Observatory against Torture highlighted that, after seven years of inaction by the Office of the Attorney General, the National Program to Prevent and Punish Torture was launched on February 18, 2025 —promoted by the civil society—, in compliance with a judgment by the Tenth Collegiate Court in Administrative Matters of Mexico City.[1539] However, the General Law to Prevent, Investigate and Punish Torture is yet to be harmonized with local legislation in most Mexican states.[1540]

[1534] Secretariat of Citizen Security and Protection of Mexico, *1er Informe de Labores 2024-2025* (First Work Report, 2024–2025), September 24, 2025.

[1535] Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, *Annual report on key trends, issues, challenges, developments and best practices regarding civil and political rights and ESCERs*, via Diplomatic Note No. OEA2922 4.5.0.1, September 15, 2025, pp. 8-9.

[1536] Serious human rights violations were reported during security operations, such as the extrajudicial executions of two girls in Badiraguato, Sinaloa, on May 6, 2025, and of a couple in El Aguajito, Sinaloa, on June 1, 2025, as well as the disappearance of an adolescent during an operation in Guanajuato on June 19, 2025. PRODH Center, Follow-up information to Chapter IV.A of the IACHR's *Annual Report*, September 11, 2025, pp. 1–4.

[1537] World Organization Against Torture, *Global Torture Index 2025: Mexico Factsheet*, June 2025.

[1538] Moreover, in June 2025, as part of the commemoration of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the "Mexico Without Torture" campaign was carried out, with the aim of disseminating information on investigations, punishment, assistance and comprehensive reparation for victims. Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, *Annual report on key trends, issues, challenges, developments and best practices regarding civil and political rights and ESCERs*, via Diplomatic Note No. OEA2922 4.5.0.1, September 15, 2025, pp. 10–11.

[1539] According to the information received, this program sets forth the application of administrative sanctions against judges and public defenders who fail to order investigations into allegations of torture. However, there is concern that the new Judicial Disciplinary Court will sanction, on the grounds of ignorance, justice operators who apply the rule of disregard of confessions obtained by means of torture. United Mexican States, *Official Gazette*, *Acuerdo A/001/2025 por el que se expide el Programa Nacional para Prevenir y Sancionar la Tortura* (Agreement A/001/2025 issuing the National Program to Prevent and Punish Torture), February 18, 2025; PRODH Center, "Tribunal colegiado de CDMX reconoce omisión de la FGR y ordena la expedición del Programa Nacional para Prevenir y Sancionar la Tortura (PNT)" (Mexico City Collegiate Court acknowledges omission by the Office of the Attorney General and orders the issuance of the National Program to Prevent and Punish Torture), February 4, 2025.

[1540] Secretariat of the Interior of Mexico (SEGOB), *Segundo Informe Anual de Actividades 2024-2025 del Mecanismo de Seguimiento de Casos de Tortura Sexual Cometida contra las Mujeres* (2024–2025 Second Annual Activity Report by the Mechanism to Monitor Cases of Sexual Torture Committed Against Women), 2025, pp. 81–82.

699. Concerning **disappearances**, the National Registry of Disappeared and Unlocated Persons indicated that there are currently 133,601disappeared and unlocated persons.[1541] The states that show the highest figures of disappeared persons are the state of Mexico (14,844), Jalisco (13,635) and Tamaulipas (13,614). Furthermore, although civil society organizations estimate that, as of 2024, there were over 70,000 unidentified bodies, the Inter-American Commission notes that there are no official figures on this matter. According to the organization FUNDAR, the main reason the figures on the extent of the forensic crisis cannot be updated is that there is no data collection method in place to make year-over-year comparisons.[1542]

700. The State reported that between October 2024 and June 2025, over 5,700 search operations were carried out —3,148 to find people that were alive and 2,582 forensic searches— and that 14 meetings were held with families and organizations to discuss the proposed reform to the General Law on Disappearances, which was enacted in July 2025. It also indicated that it had consolidated the National Network of Searchers and held the First National Meeting on Human Identification Processes with the participation of prosecutor's offices, local commissions and international organizations.[1543]

701. Human rights organizations warned that, despite the presidential decree of March 18, 2025, aimed at "strengthening search processes," there has been no evidence of a budget increase or the allocation of sufficient resources to the National Search Commission. Furthermore, they expressed concern about the dismantling of the National Center for Human Identification and the technical limitations of the National Forensic Data Bank. The organizations also indicated that the creation of the Single Identity Platform entailed the elimination of the option to lodge administrative reports of disappearances, a tool for families who fear filing criminal complaints. The Commission issued a press release on the findings of human remains, household items, personal belongings and ammunition casings, among other items, at the so-called "Rancho Izaguirre" (Izaguirre ranch) in Teuchitlán, Jalisco, an alleged operating site of organized crime.[1544]

702. With regard to the rights of **indigenous peoples**, the government announced the Indigenous Education Program and the creation of the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples.[1545] According to the State, these measures seek to combat education gaps,[1546] which are more prevalent among indigenous populations. In relation to access to land, in Sierra Tarahumara, the Ódami and Guarijó indigenous communities of Chihuahua face a serious wave of armed violence that has triggered mass forced displacement since late 2024. In Cinco Llagas (Guadalupe y Calvo), violence in the context of organized crime forced numerous families to flee,[1547] while in Santa Tulita the community resisted with civilian support, although it remains isolated and lacks security guarantees. In Dolores, hundreds of families abandoned their homes following prolonged shootings, and in early 2025, a priest, a local official and an army general were attacked, which triggered the suspension of classes and religious activities.[1548]

[1541] SEGOB, Registro Nacional de Personas Desaparecidas y No Localizadas (National Registry of Disappeared and Unlocated Persons), accessed on December 15, 2025.

[1542] FUNDAR, *Crisis forense en México: presupuesto forense para entidades federativas* (Forensic crisis in Mexico: Forensic budget for states), March 2025.

[1543] Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, Annual report on key trends, issues, challenges, developments and best practices regarding civil and political rights and ESCERs, via Diplomatic Note No. OEA2922 4.5.0.1, September 15, 2025, pp. 9-10.

[1544] IACHR, Press Release No. 61/25, IACHR calls on the Mexican State to increase efforts to investigate events and identify human remains found in Teuchitlán, Jalisco, March 27, 2025.

[1545] United Mexican States, "Presidenta: Vamos a seguir trabajando para que el sistema público de educación en el INBAL sea un espacio para las y los jóvenes de México" (President: 'We will continue working to ensure that the public education system at the National Institute of Fine Arts and Literature is available for young people in Mexico'), March 14, 2025.

[1546] National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy, *Pobreza y Población Indígena en México* (Poverty and the Indigenous Population in Mexico), March 2025, p. 16.

[1547] Raíchali Noticias, "Salen cientos de familias desplazadas por violencia en Guadalupe y Calvo" (Hundreds of families displaced by violence in Guadalupe y Calvo), December 17, 2024.

[1548] CONTEC, "Desplazamiento forzado en comunidades indígenas de la Sierra Tarahumara" (Forced displacement of indigenous communities in Sierra Tarahumara), published in Debates Indígenas, August 1, 2025.

703. Regarding the **human rights of women**, some Mexican states passed the "Malena Law," which punishes attacks with acid against women;[1549] criminal legislation was amended to incorporate a gender perspective in the assessment of cases of self-defense;[1550] vicarious violence was classified as a crime;[1551] and abortion was decriminalized in several states.[1552] At the federal level, progress was made in the procedure to pass the "Valeria Bill," which classifies stalking as a crime to be incorporated into the Federal Criminal Code;[1553] professional midwifery was officially recognized within the National Health System;[1554] and the SCJN recognized the parents of victims of femicide as indirect victims with the right to reparation.[1555]

704. At the institutional level, it is worth highlighting that at least 607 LIBRE (Freedom, Equality, Well-being, Networks and Emancipation) Centers were opened in different states across the country, which offer comprehensive and specialized services.[1556] Moreover, the Línea Mujeres 079 (Women's Hotline 079), the Red Nacional de Tejedoras de la Patria (National Network of Weavers of the Homeland)[1557] and the National Network of Lawyers for Women[1558] were set up, while financial support was provided to women aged between 60 and 64 by way of the Pensión Mujeres Bienestar (Women's Welfare Pension).[1559] At the state level, among the initiatives carried out are the creation of the Secretariat of Women Affairs in Guanajuato[1560] and the provision of financial support to women who had faced violence.[1561]

705. Notwithstanding the measures above, alarming figures of gender-based violence against women, girls and adolescents persist.[1562] Between January and August 2025, there were reports of 444 femicides, 341 cases of women trafficking, 13,955 cases of rape, 4,368 cases of gender-based violence, 180,356

[1549] El Heraldo de Chiapas, "Aprueban en Chiapas Ley Malena; en qué consiste y origen del nombre" (Malena Law passed in Chiapas: what is it about and what is the origin of its name?), March 27, 2025; Congress of the State of San Luis Potosí, "Importante aprobación de 'Ley Malena' en San Luis Potosí" (San Luis Potosí passes important "Malena Law"), April 25, 2025.

[1550] Congress of the State of Quintana Roo, *Dictamen con proyecto de decreto por el que se adicionan los párrafos tercero, cuarto y quinto, a la fracción II, del apartado B, del artículo 20 del código penal para el Estado libre y soberano de quintana Roo, en materia de legítima defensa con perspectiva de género* (Opinion and draft decree adding the third, fourth and fifth paragraphs to Section B, Subsection II of Article 20 of the Criminal Code of the Free and Sovereign State of Quintana Roo, regarding self-defense with a gender perspective), October 17, 2023.

[1551] Congress of the State of San Luis Potosí, "Aprobadas reformas para tipificar como delito la violencia vicaria" (Amendments to classify vicarious violence as a crime adopted), May 13, 2025.

[1552] *Animal Político*, "Ley Valeria avanza en Diputados: qué es el acecho, cómo se sancionaría y qué sigue para ser delito federal" (Valeria Bill moves forward in the Chamber of Deputies: what is stalking, how would it be punished and what's next for it to become a federal crime?), October 8, 2025.

[1553] United Mexican States, "Nueva Norma Oficial Mexicana NOM-020-SSA-2025 fortalece la atención materna y neonatal en México" (New Official Mexican Regulation NOM-020-SSA-2025 strengthens maternity and neonatal care in Mexico), March 4, 2025.

[1554] SCJN, *Amparo en revisión 170/2025* (Writ of *amparo* under review no. 170/2025), August 22, 2025.

[1555] SCJN, Press Release No.141/2025, "Los padres de las víctimas de feminicidio menores de edad deben ser reconocidas como víctimas indirectas de ese delito y tienen derecho a la reparación integral del daño" (The parents of underage victims of femicide must be recognized as indirect victims and are entitled to full reparation for the damage caused), May 16, 2025.

[1556] United Mexican States, "Gobierno de México invierte 651 millones de pesos en Centros LIBRE, se han inaugurado el 90% de los planeados para 2025" (The Mexican government invests 651 million pesos in LIBRE Centers; 90 percent of centers planned for 2025 have already opened), July 21, 2025; Government of Chiapas, "Se inaugura el Centro LIBRE para las Mujeres en el municipio de Pantelhó" (A LIBRE Center for women opens in the municipality of Pantelhó), October 10, 2025.

[1557] United Mexican States, "Inicia Red Nacional de Tejedoras de la Patria con el objetivo de que las mujeres nos protejamos entre todas: Presidenta Claudia Sheinbaum" (The Red Nacional de Tejedoras de la Patria is launched for women to protect one another — announced by President Claudia Sheinbaum), April 23, 2025.

[1558] United Mexican States, "Red de Abogadas de las Mujeres construyen derechos y justicia: Presidenta Claudia Sheinbaum" (Network of Lawyers for Women advances rights and justice —announced by President Claudia Sheinbaum), July 25, 2025.

[1559] United Mexican States, "Inicia entrega de las tarjetas de la Pensión Mujeres Bienestar a casi 2 millones de mujeres: Ariadna Montiel" (Delivery of Pensión Mujeres Bienestar cards to nearly 2 million women has started —announced by Ariadna Montiel), October 8, 2025.

[1560] Congress of the State of Guanajuato, "Avalan reformas para crear la Secretaría de las Mujeres" (Amendments to create the Secretariat of Women Affairs are passed), May 22, 2025.

[1561] Secretariat of Women Affairs of Mexico City, "Entrega gobierno capitalino 466 apoyos para impulsar la autonomía económica de mujeres en situación de violencia" (The capital city government grants 466 allowances to promote the economic independence of women who have faced violence), June 24, 2025.

[1562] CEDAW, *Concluding observations on the tenth periodic report of Mexico*, July 10, 2025, para. 27(a); IACHR, *2024 Annual Report, Chapter IV.A*, March 26, 2025, para. 636; International Federation for Human Rights *et al.*, Request for a thematic hearing on the disappearance of and gender-based violence against women and girls in Mexico, 193rd regular period of sessions. On IACHR's files.

cases of domestic violence and 194,801 emergency calls related to incidents of violence against women.[1563] Civil society organizations continue to report cases of vicarious violence against mothers who report domestic violence[1564], as well as multiple forms of violence against women human rights defenders. In this regard, organizations submitted information on threats, attacks, criminalization, harassment, raids, forced displacement, disappearances and even murders, especially against indigenous environmental defenders, journalists and mothers who are searching for disappeared relatives.[1565] According to public information, other types of violence include acts of repression and violence against women who attended the march commemorating International Women's Day in different parts of the country.[1566] In addition, the Commission identified challenges in the access to sexual and reproductive health services in Mexico, particularly for migrant women, who frequently face violence and sexual exploitation.[1567] In relation to this matter, the Commission also condemned the sexual harassment suffered by President Claudia Sheinbaum at a public event.[1568]

[1563] Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System, *Informe de violencia contra las mujeres. Incidencia delictiva y llamadas de emergencia al 911* (Report on violence against women. Crime rates and 911 emergency calls), December 2025, pp. 10, 53, 57, 63, 68 and 75.

[1564] CEDAW, *Concluding observations on the tenth periodic report of Mexico*, July 10, 2025, para. 27(c); *CIMAC Noticias*, "Citlalli Hernández, promete justicia a mujeres que buscaron a la CIDH por casos de violencia vicaria" (Citlalli Hernández promises justice to women who resorted to the IACHR for cases of vicarious violence), May 7, 2025; Red Solidaria Década Contra la Impunidad A.C., Request for a thematic hearing on vicarious violence, 193rd regular period of sessions, April 21, 2025. On IACHR's files; Red Solidaria Década Contra la Impunidad A.C., Request for a working meeting on vicarious violence, 194th regular period of sessions, August 15, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1565] *CIMAC Noticias*, "Amenazan a defensora del Río Sonora. María Auxiliadora contra el Plan Hidráulico del gobierno" (Threats against defender of the Sonora river. María Auxiliadora resists the government's water plan), October 14, 2025; Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Human Rights Center, "Expresamos nuestra indignación y preocupación por el allanamiento del domicilio de la Directora de Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de las Casas" (We express our outrage and concern over the raid of the home of the Director of the Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Human Rights Center), July 26, 2025; *Infobae*, "Chiapas y su crisis por violencia contra defensores de DDHH: 156 ataques en año y medio" (Crisis of violence against human rights defenders in Chiapas: 156 attacks in a year and a half), October 8, 2025; Comunicación e Información de la Mujer A.C. (CIMAC), *Voces en resistencia* (Voices in resistance), April 22, 2025; *El Universal*, "'Temo por mi vida': dice la defensora indígena Silvia Pérez a un año de su desplazamiento forzoso" ("I fear for my life," says indigenous defender Silvia Pérez one year after her forced displacement), February 27, 2025; IM-Defensoras, "[Alerta Defensoras] MÉXICO / No cesa hostigamiento contra la defensora zapoteca Silvia Pérez e integrantes de CIARENA A.C.: allanan de nuevo las oficinas de la organización, en el estado de Oaxaca" ([Defenders Alert] MEXICO / Harassment continues against Zapotec defender Silvia Pérez and members of CIARENA A.C.: the organization's headquarters in the state of Oaxaca were raided once again), June 26, 2025; CEDAW, *Concluding observations on the tenth periodic report of Mexico*, July 10, 2025, para. 55; Amnesty International, *Disappearing Again: Violence and Impacts Experienced by Women Searchers in Mexico*, July 8, 2025; IM-Defensoras, "[Alerta Defensoras] MÉXICO / La defensora buscadora María Ángeles Valenzuela está desaparecida después de que sujetos armados la privasen de su libertad en Mazatlán, Sinaloa" ([Defenders Alert] MEXICO / Human rights defender María Ángeles Valenzuela disappears after armed individuals kidnap her in Mazatlán, Sinaloa), October 15, 2025; Article 19, "Asesinan a madre buscadora Aida Karina Juárez Jacobo" (Searching mother Aida Karina Juárez Jacobo, murdered), August 29, 2025; *Infobae*, "Estela Hernández, defensora otomí, denuncia tortura tras detención arbitraria en Querétaro" (Estela Hernández, Otomí activist, reports torture after arbitrary detention in Querétaro), June 5, 2025.

[1566] IM-Defensoras, "[Alerta Defensoras] MÉXICO / Durante 8M registramos represión, ataques y detenciones arbitrarias contra manifestantes en al menos once Estados de la República" ([Defenders Alert] MEXICO / On March 8, we recorded repression, attacks and arbitrary detentions against protesters in at least 11 states), March 10, 2025; *Entre Semana*, "Derechos Humanos de Yucatán condena violenta represión contra manifestantes del 8M en Mérida" (The Human Rights Commission of Yucatán condemns violent repression against March 8 protesters in Mérida), March 10, 2025; Human Rights Commission of Yucatán, *Comunicado* (Press Release), March 9, 2025; *Proceso*, "Golpes, gases y detenciones arbitrarias en protestas de 8M en Pachuca" (Beatings, tear gas and arbitrary detentions during March 8 protests in Pachuca), March 8, 2025.

[1567] Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, *Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Mexico*, May 20, 2025, para. 49; *El Universal*, "Despenalización del aborto no mejoró acceso a la salud de las mujeres: UNNA; advierte aumento de violencia y maltrato" (Decriminalization of abortion did not improve women's access to healthcare: UNNA warns of increase in violence and abuse), May 1, 2025; *La Silla Rota*, "Mujeres migrantes son víctimas de trata y violencia extrema en Hidalgo: Centro de Justicia" (Migrant women are victims of trafficking and extreme violence in Hidalgo, according to the Justice Center), June 16, 2025; Office of the Attorney General of the state of Quintana Roo, "Rescatan FGE Quintana Roo y Guardia Nacional a 26 mujeres víctimas de trata de personas en Benito Juárez" (Office of the Attorney General of the state of Quintana Roo and National Guard rescue 26 women victims of human trafficking in Benito Juárez), May 10, 2025; *DW*, "Rescatan en México a 16 extranjeras que eran prostituidas" (Sixteen foreign women who were being forced into prostitution rescued in Mexico), April 13, 2025.

[1568] IACHR [@CIDH], (November 6, 2025), #México: #CIDH condena el acoso sexual y la violencia contra la presidenta de la República @Claudiashein que tuvo lugar el 4 de noviembre en público y exige que se investigue y castigue este acto. Todas las mujeres están expuestas a la violencia de género y su prevención debe ser una prioridad (#Mexico: The #IACHR condemns the act of sexual harassment and violence against the President of the Republic @Claudiashein that took place on November 4 in public and urges that it be investigated and punished. All women are vulnerable to gender-based violence and preventing it must be a priority) [X post], X, https://x.com/CIDH/status/1986588116530946091.

706. Regarding the guarantee of the rights of **children and adolescents**, in May, the Executive Committee of the National Strategy on the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy reported a 30 percent reduction in the adolescent fertility rate and a 21 percent reduction in forced pregnancies among girls under the age of 15.[1569] The State reported that between October 2024 and June 2025, 453,393 adolescents received information on topics such as unintended pregnancy prevention, the use of contraception after medical consultation and methods to prevent sexually transmitted diseases.[1570] During said period, 3,352 state groups created to prevent teenage pregnancy were reportedly reestablished in Veracruz and Mexico City and over 3,000 Servicios Amigables para Adolescentes (Adolescent-Friendly Services) were put in operation, by means of which 278,619 young people between the ages of 10 and 19 received assistance. The online chat service ¿Cómo le hago? (What should I do?) was used to assist 23,747 adolescents and young people, who were able to access information on contraceptive methods, menstrual management, legal termination of pregnancy and gender-based violence.[1571]

707. Furthermore, the Commission notes with concern the persistent recruitment of children and adolescents by organized criminal groups. According to official information, people as young as six years old were recruited on social media platforms, video games and by family members, and then forced to engage in criminal activities. It is estimated that currently around 30,000 children are directly involved in these groups, while over 200,000 are vulnerable to recruitment.[1572]

708. With regard to **persons deprived of liberty**, the State reported on the engagement of 107,352 inmates in social reinsertion activities, the launch of the Arte por la Libertad (Art for Freedom) brand to market inmates' work and the implementation of the Reconecta con la Paz (Reconnect with Peace) strategy to prevent recidivism.[1573] According to public information, the National Census of State Penitentiary Systems was implemented.[1574] Moreover, the Commission notes the agreement signed by the Government of Tlajomulco and the Jalisco Directorate of Prevention and Social Reinsertion aimed at facilitating the reintegration of released or prereleased inmates[1575] and welcomes the opening of the country's first penitentiary maternity ward at the Women's Social Reinsertion Center of Nuevo León.[1576]

709. Despite the aforementioned efforts, the Commission expresses concern about the entry into force —on January 1— of the amendment to Article 19, paragraph 2 of the National Constitution, which expanded the list of crimes that trigger automatic pretrial detention.[1577] In this context, according to official data as of July 2025, there was an increase in the pretrial detention rate compared to June 2024. In courts of federal jurisdiction, this rate rose from 39.3 percent to 44.6 percent; while in courts of local jurisdiction, it increased from 36.9 percent to 39.2 percent.[1578]

[1569] United Mexican States, *Annual report on key trends, issues, challenges, developments and best practices regarding civil and political rights and ESCERs*, September 15, 2025, p. 44. On IACHR's files.

[1570] *Ibid.*, pp. 44–45.

[1571] *Ibid.*, pp. 46–47.

[1572] *Reuters*, "How Mexico's cartels recruit children and groom them into killers," May 28, 2025.

[1573] United Mexican States, *Annual report on key trends, issues, challenges, developments and best practices regarding civil and political rights and ESCERs*, September 15, 2025, pp. 12–13. On IACHR's files.

[1574] INEGI, *Censo Nacional de Sistemas Penitenciarios Estatales 2025* (2025 National Census of State Penitentiary Systems), July 17, 2025.

[1575] Municipal Government of Tlajomulco, "Tlajo firma convenio por la reinserción social y las segundas oportunidades" (Tlajomulco signs agreement in favor of social reinsertion and second chances), July 6, 2025.

[1576] SWI swissinfo.ch, "Una cárcel en México abre el primer espacio de maternidad para los hijos de las reclusas" (A prison in Mexico opens the first maternity ward for the children of women inmates), April 9, 2025; *Infobae*, "Esta es la cárcel mexicana que abrió el primer espacio de maternidad para hijos de las reclusas" (This is the Mexican prison that opens the first maternity ward for the children of women inmates), April 10, 2025; *Efeminista*, "Primer espacio de maternidad para hijas e hijos de las reclusas en un penal de México" (First maternity ward for children of women inmates in a Mexican prison), April 23, 2025.

[1577] See: United Mexican States, *Official Gazette*, *Decreto por el que se reforma el párrafo segundo del artículo 19 de la Constitución Política de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, en materia de prisión preventiva oficiosa* (Decree amending Article 19, paragraph 2 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, regarding automatic pretrial detention), December 31, 2025.

[1578] Secretariat of Citizen Security and Protection of Mexico, *Cuaderno mensual de información estadística penitenciaria nacional* (Monthly compilation of national prison statistics), July 2025, p. 3; also, see: Secretariat of Citizen Security and Protection of Mexico, *Cuaderno mensual de información estadística penitenciaria nacional* (Monthly compilation of national prison statistics), June 2024, p. 3.

710. With respect to detention conditions, it is concerning that, out of the total 275 penitentiary centers, 138 are overcrowded, especially state centers, which account for 90 percent of the total number of penitentiaries in the country.[1579] In this regard, the Commission notes the strategy implemented by the State to transfer inmates from overcrowded state facilities to federal ones.[1580] The Commission is also concerned that, according to official information, deaths in custody have increased by 11.5 percent due to alleged shortcomings in medical care.[1581] Finally, reports of fights and riots in penitentiaries are noted as well.[1582]

711. With regard to **LGBTI persons**, according to data published in 2025 by the INEGI, 5.1 percent of the population aged 15 and over identifies as LGBTI.[1583] In May, Mexico City amended provisions of the law on women's access to a life free of violence to also protect the rights of transgender women.[1584] That same month, the SCJN overturned a provision of the Criminal Code of the state of Guerrero that exempted parents or guardians who forced their children to attend conversion therapy from criminal liability.[1585] In June, both the Congress of Chiapas and the Congress of Tamaulipas passed reforms to their respective criminal codes to prohibit "conversion therapy."[1586] In September, a standardized protocol on the investigation of crimes committed against LGBTTTI+ persons was adopted.[1587]

712. Conversely, according to data from the National Observatory on Hate Crimes against LGBT Persons, in the last 10 years and as of early June 2025, the recorded cases of murders and disappearances of

[1579] Secretariat of Citizen Security and Protection of Mexico, *Cuaderno mensual de información estadística penitenciaria nacional* (Monthly compilation of national prison statistics), July 2025, p. 3.

[1580] *Publimetro*, "Saturación en cárceles de México por estrategia de seguridad, ¿cuáles son los riesgos?" (Overcrowding in Mexican prisons due to security strategy: what are the risks?), August 4, 2025.

[1581] Secretariat of Citizen Security of Mexico City, *Sistema penitenciario – Síntesis informativa – Comunicación social* (Penitentiary System - Information Summary - Social Communication), June 1, 2025.

[1582] *El País*, "Un motín en una cárcel de Veracruz deja siete muertos y once heridos" (A riot in a Veracruz prison results in 7 dead and 11 injured), August 3, 2025; *Reforma*, "Mueren 8 reos en Tuxpan tras motín por extorsiones" (Eight inmates die in Tuxpan after riot over extortion), August 4, 2025; *Infobae*, "Suman 8 muertos tras riña en penal de Tuxpan, denuncian extorsiones y complicidad de autoridades" (Eight dead after fight in Tuxpan prison; extortion and collusion of authorities reported), August 5, 2025; *AP*, "Siete muertos y 14 heridos en un motín en cárcel del sur de México, el segundo en menos de dos meses" (Seven dead and 14 injured in a riot at a prison in southern Mexico, the second in less than two months), February 4, 2025; *La Voz*, "Mueren siete personas en un motín en cárcel del sur de México, el segundo en menos de dos meses" (Seven people die in a riot at a prison in southern Mexico, the second in less than two months), February 4, 2025; *CNN en Español*, "Incidente en cárcel de Tabasco deja 7 muertos y 14 heridos" (Incident at Tabasco prison results in seven dead and 14 injured), February 4, 2025; Secretariat of Citizen Security of Mexico City, *Sistema penitenciario – Síntesis informativa – Comunicación social* (Penitentiary System - Information Summary - Social Communication), June 1, 2025; *El Comentario*, "Riña en penal de Culiacán deja 3 reos muertos" (Fight in Culiacán prison results in three inmates dead), June 27, 2025; *Animal Político*, "Riña en el penal de Aguaruto en Sinaloa deja tres internos muertos; van cuatro fallecimientos en dos días" (Fight in Aguaruto prison in Sinaloa results in three inmates dead; four deaths in two days), June 27, 2025.

[1583] *Infobae*, "¿Cuántas personas son de la comunidad LGBT en México? INEGI revela alarmantes cifras de violencia y discriminación" (How many people are members of the LGBT community in Mexico? The INEGI discloses alarming figures on violence and discrimination), May 17, 2025; *Expansión*, "Así es la comunidad LGBT+ en México" (This is what the LGBT+ community in Mexico is like), June 28, 2025.

[1584] *Excelsior*, "CDMX reconoce violencia transfeminicida; así quedan las sanciones" (Mexico City incorporates transfemicide into law; here are the penalties), June 25, 2025.

[1585] *El País*, "La Suprema Corte invalida la norma que le permitía a padres de familia aplicar las terapias de conversión" (The Supreme Court overrides legislation that entitled parents to use conversion therapy), May 21, 2025; Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation [@SCJN], (May 21, 2025), Un artículo del Código Penal de Guerrero permitía a los padres y a quienes ejercen la patria potestad de menores imponer terapias de conversión sin enfrentar consecuencias penales (…) (An article in the Criminal Code of Guerrero entitled parents and guardians of minors to impose conversion therapy without facing criminal consequences [...]) [X post], X, https://x.com/SCJN/status/1925013358039752789.

[1586] *El Heraldo de Chiapas*, "Chiapas prohíbe las terapias de conversión con reformas al Código Penal" (Chiapas bans conversion therapy via amendments to its Criminal Code), June 4, 2025; *Milenio*, "Congreso de Chiapas prohíbe las prácticas de las terapias de conversión" (Congress of Chiapas bans conversion therapy practices), June 5, 2025; Congress of Tamaulipas, Press Release No. 7273, "Tipifica Congreso delitos contra la orientación sexual e identidad de género" (Congress classifies crimes against sexual orientation and gender identity), June 17, 2025.

[1587] *Debate*, "México: Fiscalía aprueba protocolo para crímenes contra comunidad LGBT" (Mexico: Office of the Attorney General adopts protocol on crimes against the LGBT community), September 11, 2025; *El Sol de México*, "Nuevo protocolo de la FGR busca erradicar la revictimización de la comunidad LGBT+" (New protocol adopted by the Office of the Attorney General seeks to eradicate the revictimization of the LGBT+ community), October 3, 2025.

LGBTI persons amounted to 739.[1588] In 2025 alone, as of May, the Observatory recorded 12 disappearances and 13 murders of LGBTI persons in the country.[1589] Victims of these crimes include political and social leaders of the LGBTI community and LGBTI human rights defenders.[1590]

713. With regard to the situation of **Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination**, the State reported on progress in various public policies targeted at Afro-Mexicans in the areas of education, protection of vulnerable groups (children, women, youth, persons with disabilities), reinsertion of persons deprived of liberty, promotion of democracy, reduction of historical and structural inequalities and social welfare, with an emphasis on inclusion, justice, socioeconomic development, access to work and the preservation of the memory of disappeared people.[1591]

714. The National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI) promoted activities to appreciate and pay tribute to Afro-Mexican women[1592] and reported on the allocation of resources from the Fund for the Comprehensive Care of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples and Communities (FAISPIAM) to social infrastructure projects led by Afro-Mexican communities,[1593] although some sectors complained that indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities in Oaxaca were excluded thereof.[1594] Moreover, awareness campaigns against racism were carried out to shed light on and report acts of discrimination.[1595]

715. The Commission also notes affirmative policies and actions implemented with an intercultural approach at the state level.[1596] Nevertheless, research has unveiled the prevalence of structural racism and has

[1588] National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) Newsletter, "Persisten los crímenes de odio contra comunidad LGBTIQA+ en México" (Hate crimes against the LGBTIQA+ community persist in Mexico), June 9, 2025; *La Crónica de Hoy*, "Aumentan 176% crímenes contra comunidad LGBT+ en CDMX en 9 años" (Crimes against the LGBT+ community in Mexico City increase by 176 percent in nine years), June 23, 2025.

[1589] *Infobae*, "Día Contra la LGBTIfobia: entre avances y desafíos para la diversidad sexual y de género en México" (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia: progress and challenges for sexually and gender diverse persons in Mexico), May 17, 2025.

[1590] Cases include: *La Jornada*, "Asesinan a Jesús Laiza, líder LGBT+ de Espacio Hidalgo y a su pareja en Edomex" (Jesús Laiza, LGBT+ leader of Espacio Hidalgo, and partner murdered in the state of Mexico), July 2, 2025; OHCHR Mexico [@ONUDHmexico], (August 18, 2025), Lamentamos profundamente el asesinato de la defensora trans Katia Daniela Medina Rafael, directora del Colectivo Trans Zapotlán (…) (We deeply regret the murder of trans defender Katia Daniela Medina Rafael, director of the Zapotlán Trans Collective […]) [X post], X, https://x.com/ONUDHmexico/status/1957612060788883903; National Observatory on Hate Crimes against LGBT Persons [@ObservatorioCr3], (July 3, 2025), Nos siguen matando (…) (They continue to kill us […]) [X post], X, https://x.com/ObservatorioCr3/status/1940906562362696019; Mexican LGBTTTI+ Coalition [@cmlgbttti], (July 3, 2025), Ni un asesinato más (…) (No more murders […]) [X post], X, https://x.com/cmlgbttti/status/1940918328509583460.

[1591] United Mexican States, Note in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (CADH), August 5, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1592] INPI, "Gobierno de México reconoce, visibiliza y honra a mujeres afromexicanas" (Government of Mexico recognizes, appreciates and pays tribute to Afro-Mexican women), July 31, 2025.

[1593] INPI, "Entrega de recursos públicos de manera directa a pueblos indígenas y afromexicanos; un acto de justicia social" (Direct allocation of public resources to indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples: an act of social justice), July 7, 2025.

[1594] Chamber of Deputies of Mexico, "Denuncia Martha Aracely Cruz exclusión de más de mil comunidades indígenas y afromexicanas del FAISPIAM" (Martha Aracely Cruz denounces the exclusion of over 1,000 indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities from the FAISPIAM), April 1, 2025; *La Jornada*, "Pueblos indígenas de varios estados denuncian exclusión de fondo para infraestructura" (Indigenous peoples from several states denounce exclusion from fund allocated to infrastructure projects), March 31, 2025.

[1595] COPRED, "Campaña #EsRacismo y un 'Decálogo Para Personas Servidoras Públicas' en el marco de las 'Jornadas Contra el Racismo'" (#ItIsRacism campaign and a "Decalogue for Public Servants" are part of the "Conferences against Racism"), March 21, 2025; INEGI, "Estadísticas a propósito del Día Internacional de la Eliminación de la Discriminación Racial" (Statistics concerning the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination), March 18, 2025; *El Universal*, "'Lady racista' en CDMX: ¿cómo denunciar un acto racista ante el escándalo de Ximena Pichel?" ("Racist lady" in Mexico City: how to report a racist act in light of the Ximena Pichel scandal?), July 8, 2025.

[1596] Government of Oaxaca, "Con la anfitrionía de las 16 etnias y el pueblo afromexicano inicia julio Mes de la Guelaguetza 2025" (July 2025, the month of Guelaguetza, kicks off with the 16 ethnic groups and the Afro-Mexican community hosting celebrations), July 1, 2025; Government of Guerrero, "La SEDEPIA e INPI pondrán en marcha el proyecto 'Garantizando el derecho a la identidad jurídica de los pueblos indígenas y afromexicanos'" (The Secretariat of Development of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples and the INPI to launch a project titled "Guaranteeing the right to legal identity of indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples"), July 23, 2025; Government of Guerrero, "Titular de SEDEPIA presenta ante Gabinete estatal acciones en favor de los derechos de los pueblos indígenas y afromexicanos" (The head of the Secretariat of Development of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples proposes actions in favor of the rights of indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples to the state cabinet), June 4, 2025; Mexico City Electoral Institute (IECM), "Avanza Consulta Afromexicana 2025" (2025

pointed out that 3.1 million Afro-descendants suffer from poverty and face challenges in terms of education, health, labor inclusion, infrastructure and the representation of girls and women.[1597]

716. Regarding the rights of **older persons**, the State announced the continuity and expansion of pension programs for older persons, as well as the launch of new social benefits in 2025, such as the Salud Casa por Casa (Door-to-Door Healthcare) strategy, which provides at-home medical care to the elderly.[1598] Around 8.9 million older persons are reportedly registered under this program. Based on information on each older person, customized healthcare plans will be designed. The State pointed out that the Abriendo Espacios (Opening Spaces) initiative seeks to bring persons in a situation of exclusion, like the elderly, to the labor market. It added that 798 older persons have been placed in the labor market within the reported period.[1599] Furthermore, the Commission gathered information on cases of abuse and neglect at nursing homes in Puebla and San Luis Potosí.[1600]

717. In relation to the rights of **persons with disabilities**, the State made progress in the consolidation and implementation of plans such as Política Laboral Incluyente (Inclusive Labor Policy), Servicios de cuidado a quienes cuidan (Care Services for Those who Care), Salud Casa por Casa, Programas para el Bienestar (Welfare Programs), Sistema de Salud para el Bienestar (Welfare Healthcare System) and Iniciativas contra el Abandono Escolar (Initiatives against School Dropout), in which persons with disabilities are included as a top priority.[1601] Furthermore, the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN) set a new criterion for exercising the right to prior consultation for persons with disabilities, which will now be analyzed only upon request from the party invoking it.[1602] Civil society organizations have warned that, while this approach allegedly intends to overcome procedural formalities, it could jeopardize the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, as consultation is left to chance or subjected to contingency.[1603]

718. Concerning the rights of **persons in the context of human mobility**, official data shows that, between January and July 2025, a total of 124,353[1604] foreigners with an irregular migration status were identified. In January, the State launched the *México te abraza* (Mexico Embraces You) policy, under which shelters were opened in Mexicali, Baja California; Reynosa and Nuevo Laredo, and Tamaulipas with the aim of

Afro-Mexican Consultation moves forward), August 20, 2025; Mexico City Human Rights Commission (CDHCM), Bulletin No. 74/2025, *En el marco del Día Internacional de la Mujer Afrodescendiente, CDHCM refrenda compromiso institucional con sus derechos* (On the International Day for Women and Girls of African Descent, the CDHCM reaffirms its institutional commitment to their rights), July 25, 2025.

[1597] UNAM Newsletter, "Racismo, una problemática estructural en México" (Racism is a structural problem in Mexico), March 18, 2025; *La Jornada*, "En México, 31 millones de afrodescendientes sufren pobreza y racismo estructural" (In Mexico, 31 million Afro-descendants experience poverty and structural racism), August 28, 2025; *Infobae*, "Comunidad afrodescendiente, la más discriminada; le sigue población indígena y migrante" (The Afro-descendant community is the most discriminated against; followed by indigenous and migrant populations), March 23, 2025; *Excélsior*, "Visibilizar a las niñas y a las mujeres afrodescendientes, pendiente en México" (Making Afro-descendant girls and women visible is a pending issue in Mexico), July 22, 2025; INEGI, "Encuesta Nacional sobre Discriminación (ENADIS) 2022: Resultados" (2022 National Survey on Discrimination [ENADIS]: results), May 2023.

[1598] Government of Mexico, "Gobierno de México pone en marcha programa 'Salud Casa por Casa' para adultos mayores y personas con discapacidad" (Government of Mexico launches Salud Casa por Casa [Door-to-Door Healthcare] program), April 3, 2025.

[1599] Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, *Annual report on key trends, issues, challenges, developments and best practices regarding civil and political rights and ESCERs*, via Diplomatic Note No. OEA2922 4.5.0.1, September 15, 2025.

[1600] *El Ciudadano*, "DIF interviene asilo clandestino en Puebla: abuso y abandono de adultos mayores" (National System for Family Development [DIF] takes action at clandestine nursing home in Puebla: Abuse and neglect of older persons), March 5, 2025; *Marca*, "Maltrato y abandono de adultos mayores: la otra cara del envejecimiento en México" (Ill-treatment and neglect of older persons: The other side of aging in Mexico), May 16, 2025.

[1601] Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, *Annual report on key trends, issues, challenges, developments and best practices regarding civil and political rights and ESCERs*, via Diplomatic Note No. OEA2922 4.5.0.1, September 15, 2025.

[1602] Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, Press Release No. 224, "La nueva Corte protege derechos de las personas con discapacidad y garantiza acceso a información pública" (The new Court protects the rights of persons with disabilities and ensures access to public information), September 22, 2025.

[1603] Human Rights Watch, "Mexico: Supreme Court Risks Weakening Disability Rights," October 2, 2025.

[1604] Unit on Migration Policy, Registry and Identity, Mexico, 2025, *Boletín estadístico mensual*, "III. Personas en situación migratoria irregular (antes, extranjeros presentados y devueltos)" (Monthly Statistics Newsletter;. III. Persons with an Irregular Migration Status [Before: Foreigners who Appeared before the Authorities and Were Sent Home], 2025, Chart 3.1.

receiving Mexican citizens deported from the United States. These shelters provide services such as food, healthcare and labor reintegration support.[1605]

719. In addition, the United Nations Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families expressed its concern over the lack of data on access to justice, free legal assistance, guarantees of due process in detention or deportation procedures, as well as limited information regarding measures which intend to prevent discrimination.[1606] Moreover, it warned against persistent discriminatory, xenophobic and racist practices by the authorities and private-sector stakeholders, as well as interruptions in the granting of visitor cards for humanitarian reasons since October 2023, which has prevented migrants from having access to key documents that help them exercise their rights.[1607]

720. With regards to the rights of **human rights defenders**, the civil society has shared figures which indicate that, from 2016 to August 2025, 25 defenders who search for disappeared persons were murdered and seven disappeared, while 37 human rights defenders disappeared, possibly as a result of their advocacy work.[1608] Furthermore, Amnesty International reported that, between February 2011 and May 2025, 30 relatives and close friends of disappeared persons were murdered, of which 16 were women.[1609] Moreover, the Commission gathered information on attacks and homicides against people who search for disappeared persons,[1610] LGBTIQ+ activists[1611] and indigenous and territorial rights defenders committed throughout the

[1605] International Migration Observatory, Mexico, "Personas en situación migratoria irregular entre México y Estados Unidos. La narrativa actual en medios de comunicación" (Persons with an irregular migration status between Mexico and the United States. The current media narrative), January–February 2025.

[1606] Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW), *Concluding Observations in the Fourth Periodic Report of Mexico*, CMW/C/MEX/CO/4, May 20, 2025, pp. 2 and 3.

[1607] *Ibid.*, pp. 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 14, and 17.

[1608] Espacio OSC para la protección de personas defensoras y periodistas, "Día Internacional de las Víctimas de Desapariciones Forzadas: exigimos verdad, justicia, protección y aparición con vida de personas defensoras, buscadoras y periodistas" (International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances: We demand truth, justice, protection and the return of defenders, searchers and journalists alive), August 29, 2025.

[1609] Amnesty International, *México: informe al Comité para la Eliminación de la Discriminación contra la Mujer 91º período de sesiones, 16 de junio al 4 de julio de 2025* (Mexico: Briefing to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 91st period of sessions, June 16–July 4, 2025), June 17, 2025, p. 2.

[1610] *El Sol de México*, "Urge ONU al gobierno mexicano la búsqueda con vida de padre buscador desaparecido en Irapuato" (UN urges the Mexican government to return searcher father alive after his disappearance in Irapuato), June 13, 2025; *Infobae*, "Secuestran a 'Don Panchito', padre buscador de Irapuato; asesinaron a su hijo frente a él" ("Don Pachito", searchers father from Irapuato kidnapped: his son was killed in front of him), June 11, 2025; *El Universal*, "Padre buscador José Francisco Arias, es 'levantado' por sujetos armados en Irapuato, Guanajuato; asesinan a su hijo" (Searcher father José Francisco Arias 'taken" by armed men in Irapuato, Guanajuato. His son, killed), June 10, 2025. *Artículo 19*, "Asesinan a madre buscadora Aida Karina Juárez Jacobo" (Searcher mother Aida Karina Juárez Jacobo killed), August 29, 2025; *El País*, "Asesinada la madre buscadora Aida Karina Juárez Jacobo tras ser secuestrada en Zacatecas" (Searcher mother Aida Karina Juárez Jacobo killed after being kidnapped in Zacatecas), August 29, 2025; *El Universal*, "Encuentran sin vida a madre buscadora; fue secuestrada el martes" (Searcher mother found dead: she had been kidnapped on Tuesday), August 29, 2025.

[1611] IM Defensoras, "México: Asesinan a la defensora trans Katia Daniela Medina Rafael en Ciudad Guzmán" (Mexico: Trans defender Katia Daniela Medina Rafael killed in Ciudad Guzmán), Jalisco, August 12, 2025; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mexico (ONU-DH) [@ONU-DH México], (August 18, 2025), "Lamentamos profundamente el asesinato de la defensora trans Katia Daniela Medina Rafael, directora del Colectivo Trans Zapotlán, cuyo cuerpo fue localizado el 9 de agosto en Zapotlán el Grande, #Jalisco. Recordamos la importancia de una investigación pronta y eficaz que considere su labor de defensa de los #DerechosHumanos y permita sancionar a todos los responsables. Expresamos nuestras más sinceras condolencias a su familia y amistades" (We deeply regret the murder of trans defender Katia Daniela Medina Rafael, director of the Zapotlán Trans Collective, whose body was found on August 9 in Zapotlán El Grande, #Jalisco. We recall the importance of a swift, effective investigation that considers her work defending #HumanRights and leads to the punishment of those responsible. We express our deepest condolences to her family and friends), [X post], X, https://x.com/ONUDHmexico/status/1957612060788883903; *Latinus*, "ONU-DH pide investigar el asesinato de Katia Medina, defensora de los derechos trans en Jalisco" (ONU-DH calls for an investigation into the murder of Katia Medina, trans rights defender from Jalisco), August 18, 2025.

year,[1612] as well as the murder of a trade union leader.[1613] Additionally, the organization Justicia Afirmativa denounced the arrest of a cultural activist, which the organization labeled as arbitrary.[1614]

721. In relation to the Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists, information provided by the civil society showed that, as of March 2025, a total of 2,011 beneficiaries had been registered.[1615] Furthermore, persistent challenges in its functioning were highlighted, especially with regards to enrollment requests, inter-agency coordination and measure implementation. The civil society pointed out that from January 2023 to July 2025, only 116 out of 361 requests submitted by defenders at risk were admitted (with 67.9 percent being rejected), while just 136 out of 246 requests filed by journalists were approved (with 44.7 percent being rejected).[1616] Information was also received that women searching for disappeared persons were not included in the mechanism because their work as human rights defenders was not acknowledged.[1617]

722. Finally, regarding **human trafficking**, the State reported that activities were carried out to create coordination mechanisms among federal, public security and justice prosecution authorities to organize joint investigations in the areas of tourism, transport, and night entertainment, as well as strengthen the institutional capacity of 786 public officials in terms of early detection, chain of custody with a victim-based approach, and criminal analysis.[1618] An initiative seeking to amend the Migration Law to prevent human trafficking, among other purposes, stands out.[1619] Likewise, the Commission takes note of the launch of prevention campaigns tailored for different types of audiences.[1620]

XXIII. PANAMA

- **General considerations**

723. As it relates to **progress**, the Commission welcomes the implementation by the Republic of Panama (hereinafter, "Panama") of the National Plan to Reduce Overcrowding at Prisons, whose purpose is to bring down the number of incarcerated persons. The Commission also highlights the legislative, preventive and protection measures taken to avoid gender-based violence, such as harsher punishments for rape and other

[1612] *La Jornada*, "En 10 meses hubo dos allanamientos a casas de nuestros integrantes: Frayba" (Two raids on our members' houses in 10 months: Frayba Center), July 25, 2025; *Resumen Latinoamericano*, "México. Centro Frayba: mensaje del allanamiento" (Mexico. Frayba Center: Message from the raid), July 29, 2025; OSC Space, "Espacio OSC exige garantías de protección para directora del Frayba tras allanamiento" (OSC Space demands protection guarantees in favor of Frayba director after raid), July 25, 2025; UN Human Rights Mexico, "ONU-DH condena los asesinatos del periodista Calletano de Jesús en Edomex y del defensor Sergio Cruz en Puebla" (ONU-DH condemns the murders of reporter Calletano de Jesus in Edomex and defender Sergio Cruz in Puebla), January 20, 2025.

[1613] *Infobae*, "Cronología del asesinato de Bernardo Bravo Manríquez, líder limonero" (Chronology of the murder of leading lemon producer Bernardo Bravo Manríquez), October 22, 2025.

[1614] Justicia Afirmativa, Press Release, "Sobre la detención arbitraria, desaparición temporal y judicialización del activista cultural y ambiental Isaac Benjamín Cárdenas Valdez" (On the arbitrary detention, temporary disappearance and criminalization of cultural and environmental activist Isaac Benjamín Cárdenas Valdez), November 20, 2025.

[1615] Espacio OSC para la protección de personas defensoras y periodistas, *Violencia y discriminación contra mujeres defensoras de derechos humanos y periodistas en México. Informe para el 91° período de sesiones del Comité de la CEDAW* (Violence and discrimination against human rights women defenders and journalists in Mexico, Report for the 91st period of sessions of the CEDAW), June 19, 2025.

[1616] Espacio OSC para la protección de personas defensoras y periodistas, "Boletín: La deuda del Estado mexicano con las personas defensoras de derechos humanos: el incumplimiento de las obligaciones estatales a más de cuatro años de la Sentencia de la Corte IDH en el Caso Digna Ochoa" (Bulletin. The Mexican State debt to human rights defenders: breach of state obligations four years after the IAHR Court judgment in the Digna Ochoa case), September 3, 2025.

[1617] Amnesty International, *México: informe al Comité para la Eliminación de la Discriminación contra la Mujer 91º período de sesiones, 16 de junio al 4 de julio de 2025* (Mexico: Briefing to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women), 91st period of sessions, June 16–July 4, 2025), June 17, 2025, p. 5.

[1618] Report by the Mexican State, Chapter IV.A, September 15, 2025.

[1619] Government of Mexico, "Iniciativa que reforma los artículos 81, 97 y 98 y adiciona un párrafo tercero al artículo 97 de la Ley de Migración" (Initiative to amend Articles 81, 97 and 98, and add a third paragraph to Article 97 of the Migration Law), March 5, 2025.

[1620] Government of Mexico, "México en marcha con la iniciativa de sensibilización sobre la Trata de Personas de CVSA" (Mexico moves forward with initiative led by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance to raise awareness about human trafficking), March 17, 2025; United Nations, "UNODC lanza campaña para prevenir la trata de personas en comunidades indígenas y afromexicanas" (UNODC launches campaign to prevent human trafficking in indigenous and African-Mexican communities), August 8, 2025.

crimes related to sexual violence; the incorporation of certain digital crimes; the launch of a project to reinforce primary care in connection with maternal, sexual and reproductive health; and violence prevention through community engagement in the region of Darién and the Emberá Wounaan community.

724. As it relates to **challenges**, since April, Panama experienced a period of protests and social unrest after the adoption of Law No. 462, which amended the Social Security Fund. In response, the executive branch declared a state of emergency in the province of Bocas del Toro from June 20 through 29, during which abuses in the use of force and arbitrary detentions were denounced, especially those targeting indigenous groups. Additionally, the Commission notes the challenges faced by persons deported from the United States.

725. The State did not respond to the request for information to prepare this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

726. Concerning **democratic institutionality** and **citizen security**, the Commission takes note of a period of social turmoil and protests related to Law No. 462, which modified the Social Security Fund, followed by a declaration of the stage of emergency in the province of Bocas del Toro between June 20 and 29.[1621] The executive branch took this measure because public roads had been blocked in the province, upon breach of agreements undertaken between demonstrators and state authorities, and due to the "criminal and urban terrorist attacks" committed on June 19. During the early days of the state of emergency, *habeas corpus* remedies were formally suspended. Consequently, the Commission reminded the State that all guarantees and judicial protections had to be safeguarded for everyone and under any circumstance in relation to the deprivation of liberty, including a state of emergency.

727. The Commission also notes the massive deployment of security agents and the arrest of at least 376 people, in addition to reports of human rights violations during operations, which especially affected **indigenous peoples**.[1622] Indigenous protests were rooted not only in their rejection of the social security reform, but also in the lack of prior, free and informed consultation about extraction projects in their territories.[1623] These events mirror the persistence of structural conflicts over land and natural resources.[1624]

[1621] IACHR, Press Release No. 138/25, IACHR Calls for Continued Dialogue and the respect for rights in the face of Social Conflict and State of Emergency in Panama, July 11, 2025; Cabinet Council, Cabinet Decree No. 27, which declares the state of emergency across the province of Bocas del Toro in the Republic of Panama and temporarily suspends the effects of Articles 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 37, and 38 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama, as modified by the 1978 Amendment Acts, the 1983 Constitutional Act, Legislative Acts No. 1 of 1993 and No. 2 of 1994, and Legislative Act No. 1 of 2004, June 20, 2025; Ministry of the Presidency, "Extienden cinco días más el estado de urgencia en Bocas del Toro, y se cuadruplica la suma límite en contrataciones y compras para la recuperación de la provincial" (State of emergency renewed for five additional days in Bocas del Toro. Maximum contracting and procurement amounts quadrupled to regain control over the province), June 24, 2025; Republic of Panama, Diplomatic Note No. NV-PANA-OEA-2-257, June 26, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1622] Office of the Ombudsperson, "Nota de Prensa. Defensoría expone Informe preliminar de la situación de derechos humanos en los actos de violencia y Estado de Urgencia en Bocas del Toro" (Press Release: Office of the Ombudsperson shares preliminary report on the situation of human rights amid acts of violence and the state of emergency in Bocas del Toro), July 3, 2025; *La Estrella de Panamá*, "Defensor del Pueblo: 'ranitas, rapados de cabello y torturas', el balance de las protestas (Ombudsman: "Frog lifts, heads shaved, and torture: the balance of the protests), July 12, 2025; *DW*, "Panamá reporta más de 300 detenidos en violentas protestas" (Panama reports over 300 detainees in violent protests), June 24, 2025; *TRT Español*, "¿Qué pasa en Panamá con la provincia Bocas del Toro y por qué se extiende el 'estado de urgencia'?" (What is going on in Panama's Bocas del Toro province and why is the "state of emergency" extended?), June 25, 2025; *Anred*, "Panamá impone silencio: denuncias de represión, tortura y censura en Bocas del Toro" (Panama imposes silence: Reports of repression, torture and censorship in Bocas del Toro), July 1, 2025; Movement for the Defense of Territories and Ecosystems in Bocas del Toro (MODETEAB), Center for International Environment Law (CIEL), "Pronunciamiento Urgente: Violencia policial ejercida contra comunidades indígenas en Panamá deja a por lo menos dos personas Ngäbe fallecidas y siete personas desaparecidas" (Urgent statement: Police violence against indigenous communities in Panama leaves at least two Ngäbe people dead and seven people disappeared), July 8, 2025. On IACHR's files; MODETEAB, CIEL, "Urgent Pronouncement: MODETEAB Condemns Repression against Indigenous Communities Amid Ongoing Social Mobilization in Panama," June 3, 2025. On IACHR's files; *La Estrella de Panamá*, "Organizaciones exigen comisión independiente para investigar abusos en Bocas del Toro y Darién" (Organizations demand an independent commission investigate abuse in Bocas del Toro and Darién), July 11, 2025.

[1623] Office of the Ombudsperson, Republic of Panama, "Defensoría expone Informe preliminar de la situación de derechos humanos en los actos de violencia y Estado de Urgencia en Bocas del Toro" (Office of the Ombudsperson shares preliminary report on the situation of human rights amid acts of violence and the state of emergency in Bocas del Toro), July 3, 2025.

[1624] IACHR, Press Release No. 138/25, IACHR Calls for Continued Dialogue and the Respect for Rights in the Face of Social Conflict and State of Emergency in Panama, July 11, 2025.

Several indigenous organizations reported evictions, arbitrary arrests, physical assault and threats against leaders and protesters, in particular in the Arimae community, where law enforcement agents took violent action. The Commission also received information about several negative impacts on the Ngäbe-Buglé, Guna Yala and Arimae communities, as a result of an excessive use of force and the suspension of basic rights during the repression of protests. At a hearing conducted by the Commission in November, participating organizations reiterated to the Commission both their reports of an abusive use of force and the structural deficiencies in prior, free and informed consultation processes, as well as in the implementation of rules and decisions related to territorial recognition.[1625] According to the Office of the Ombudsperson, out of the 186 persons deprived of liberty who were interviewed by such office in Bocas del Toro, 104 accounts revealed typical abuses, such as: arbitrary arrest (92 people), excessive use of force, punches, prolonged cuffing, tear-gas spraying (101 people), cruel and inhuman treatment (99 people), and coercion to induce a confession (26 people). Out of these persons, 99 were identified as members of the Ngäbe Buglé people.[1626]

728. In relation to disturbances and the state of emergency, the Commission also expressed its concern over the evidence gathered by the National Mechanism to Prevent Torture related to the arrest and transfer of individuals to prisons without an order issued by a competent authority, as well as transfers to different geographic areas without the knowledge of detainees' relatives and, presumably, their defense counsel. Such mechanism also featured an allegedly excessive use of force during arrests, transfers and prison entries, the absence of medical care, as well as possible torture and ill-treatment at the Changuinola Police station, even against women, reportedly including threats of sexual abuse and other types of ill-treatment, such as sleep, food, water and restroom deprivation.[1627]

729. In this regard, at a public hearing, the Panamanian State claimed that the use of force was progressive and protocol–compliant.[1628] The State expressed its willingness to look into any reports on an excessive use of force or arbitrary detention, and reiterated its commitment to accountability and the respect for human rights.[1629] Furthermore, the Commission took note of other measures taken, such as the creation of dialogue channels with indigenous peoples and the passing of Law No. 471 on June 16, 2025, which provides for a special labor and social security regime for workers at banana production companies and independent banana producers.[1630]

730. Regarding the rights of **human rights defenders**, the Commission has learned about the commencement of criminal investigations and the issuance of arrest warrants against the Single Trade Union of Workers in Construction and Similar Industries (SUNTRACS), as possible retaliation for the role played by SUNTRACS during protests.[1631] In this regard, in May, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, together with the

[1625] IACHR, thematic hearing "Panama: Situation of Indigenous Territories," 194th regular period of sessions, Miami, United States of America, November 19, 2025.

[1626] Office of the Ombudsperson, Republic of Panama, "Defensoría expone Informe preliminar de la situación de derechos humanos en los actos de violencia y Estado de Urgencia en Bocas del Toro" (Office of the Ombudsperson shares preliminary report on human rights situation amid acts of violence and the state of emergency in Bocas del Toro), July 3, 2025.

[1627] National Mechanism to Prevent Torture, *Preliminary Mission Report on Detainees in the Provinces of Chiriquí and Veraguas Following Disturbances and Declaration of State of Emergency in the Province of Bocas del Toro*, received by the IACHR via email, July 9, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1628] IACHR, thematic hearing "Panama: Situation of Indigenous Territories," 194th regular period of sessions, Miami, United States of America, November 19, 2025.

[1629] Republic of Panama, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission of Panama to the OAS, IACHR Press Release, with changes and comments (003), July 9, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1630] IACHR, thematic hearing "Panama: Situation of Indigenous Territories," 194th regular period of sessions, Miami, United States of America, November 19, 2025; Republic of Panama, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission of Panama to the OAS, IACHR Panama Press Release, with changes and comments (003), July 9, 2025. On IACHR's files; National Assembly, Law No. 471, which sets forth a special system for banana production companies and independent banana producers, June 16, 2025.

[1631] *SWI*, "Detienen a un histórico dirigente sindical en Panamá" (Historic trade union leader arrested in Panama), May 23, 2025; *TeleSur*, "Suntracs denuncia arresto arbitrario de dirigentes en medio de huelga nacional en Panamá" (Suntracs trade union denounces arbitrary arrest of union leaders amid national strike in Panama), May 12, 2025; *DW*, "Masiva protesta en Panamá contra detención de sindicalistas" (Massive protest across Panama against arrest of union leaders), May 24, 2025; *AP News*, "Emiten órdenes de detención contra líderes sindicales de Panamá, ante protestas contra el gobierno" (Arrest warrants issued against Panamanian union leaders amid anti-government protests), May 21, 2025; *La Estrella de Panamá*, "Allanan a Suntracs: siguen procesos y ordenan captura de sus dirigentes" (Raids on Suntracs: Ongoing proceedings and arrest warrants issued against leaders), May 20, 2025.

National Police, carried out operations and issued arrest warrants against six SUNTRACS leaders for alleged financial crimes. In October, new arrests and raids targeting union leaders and their relatives were carried out.[1632] It also became known to the Commission that the Independent Panamanian Institute of Cooperatives cancelled the legal personality of the union's cooperative as a result of an audit that had begun in 2022. The union challenged the decision for being at odds with due process guarantees. It also questioned the measure's proportionality, purpose and opportunity.[1633]

731. As it relates to **human rights institutions**, the Commission takes note of the progress made with Bill No. 164, which modifies the law governing the Office of the Ombudsperson (Law No. 7 of 1997) to reinforce its autonomy and capacity to act against human rights violations.[1634]

732. Concerning the situation of **persons in the context of human mobility**, the Commission visited the country from February 10 to 13, 2025, to observe the transit of persons across Panama, based on a regional approach, and to gather information on the measures adopted to protect the human rights of persons in the context of human mobility. During such visit's follow-up, the Commission published its remarks, in which it highlighted that the Darién route across Colombia and Panama has become one of the main migration routes in the region, characterized by dense forests and difficult ground movement, which makes it hard to provide state and humanitarian assistance in the jungle.[1635]

733. However, since the change in administration in July 2024, Panama adopted new measures in the face of growing migration flows across the Darién, which significantly reduced the transit of people in the area.[1636] In this regard, the most up-to-date data provided by the National Migration Service shows that, as of late August 2025, a total of 2,941 individuals had travelled across the Darien region,[1637] which accounts for a 99-percent reduction in transit, compared to the same period in 2024.[1638]

734. Moreover, the State reported to the Commission that the increase in the number of persons going through the Darién region forced the State to take indispensable measures to assist them, ensuring a balance between the country's safety, orderly and safe transit, and access to humanitarian aid, despite the conditions of the jungle, which make it difficult to maintain state control over such territory. Additionally, the State emphasized the need to find joint solutions together with the other countries included in the migration route to ensure that the rights of the people moving across their territories are protected, under the shared responsibility principle.[1639]

[1632] *Telesur*, "Denuncian ofensiva represiva del Gobierno de Panamá contra líderes sindicales" (Reports of repressive action by the Panamanian government against union leaders), October 28, 2025; SUNTRACS, "SUNTRACS denuncia persecución judicial contra sus dirigentes y familiares" (SUNTRACS reports judicial persecution targeting union leaders and their relatives), October 29, 2025; *La Estrella de Panamá*, "Fiscalía informa sobre aprehensión de dos dirigentes del Suntracs durante un allanamiento" (Office of the Attorney General reports arrest of two Suntracs leaders during raid), October 27, 2025.

[1633] Office of the President, "Ipacoop cancela personería jurídica de la cooperativa Suntracs por violar normas financieras y de prevención de blanqueo de capitales" (Independent Panamanian Institute of Cooperatives cancels legal personality of Suntracs Cooperative for having breached financial and money laundering prevention rules), May 20, 2025; *La Estrella de Panamá*, "Suntracs defiende legalidad de su cooperativa y denuncia persecución política" (Sunracs defends legality of its cooperative and denounces political targeting), May 21, 2025.

[1634] National Assembly, "Nueva Ley del Ombudsman: Una Defensoría del Pueblo más protagonista en la defensa de los derechos ciudadanos" (New Ombudsperson Law: Office of the Ombudsperson with a more prominent role in the defense of citizen rights), April 21, 2025; National Assembly, "A segundo debate Proyecto que refuerza la independencia de la Defensoría del Pueblo" (A second debate on the bill that reinforces independence of the Office of the Ombudsperson), March 26, 2025.

[1635] IACHR, Press Release No. 066/25, IACHR Presents Observations from its Working Visit to Panama on Persons on Human Mobility, April 1, 2025. See also: IACHR, *Observaciones visita de trabajo a Panamá* (Observations from Working Visit to Panama), OEA/Ser.L/V/II.doc.2/25, March 15, 2025.

[1636] *Ibid*.

[1637] National Migration Service, Republic of Panama, *Estadísticas – Tránsito irregular por el Darién 2025* (Statistics – Irregular Transit Across Darién 2025), n/d., accessed on September 22, 2025.

[1638] *Ibid*.

[1639] IACHR, Press Release No. 066/25, IACHR Presents Observations from its Working Visit to Panama on Persons on Human Mobility, April 1, 2025. See also: IACHR, *Observaciones visita de trabajo a Panamá* (Observations from Working Visit to Panama), OEA/Ser.L/V/II.doc.2/25, March 15, 2025.

735. Furthermore, the Commission notes that, on February 2, 2025, Panama decided to expand a joint program with the United States under which the Panamanian State accepted to receive migrants deported from the United States with the purpose of returning them to their countries of origin.[1640] Pursuant to this agreement, Panama received three flights with a total of 299 people of different nationalities.[1641] With regard to persons deported from the United States into Panama, the Commission received information that these individuals were allegedly detained in isolation under the armed surveillance of the Panamanian government. Their passports were reportedly confiscated by state authorities and they were allegedly prevented from getting legal counsel or communicating with civil society organizations. Also, they were reportedly denied the possibility of seeking asylum. These people were later sent to the San Vicente migration station, in the province of Darién.[1642]

736. Civil society organizations voiced their concerns, stating that, while these persons had temporary stay permits, they were not authorized to carry out paid activities in Panama, which made them dependent on the humanitarian aid provided by civil society organizations. Faced with this scenario, the Commission requested information from the State concerning the measures taken to provide humanitarian aid, ensure access to mental health services, as well as psychological and social support, allow them to conduct paid activities, ensure their right to seek asylum and protect them against forced return, among others.[1643]

737. In its response to the Commission, the State confirmed that, under the framework of the above-mentioned agreement, all people had been transferred to be assessed and included in a voluntary, assisted return program to their countries of origin. However, only 10 of them registered in said program, while 180 people decided to continue with their journey at their own expense. As of the date of the request for information, a total of 49 individuals remained in Panamanian territory, who had been granted a visa for humanitarian reasons for a period of six months. In addition, the State pointed out that civil society organizations and international agencies had provided shelter and food to people who "did not manage to promptly ensure their return to their countries of origin."[1644]

738. On the matter of **human trafficking**, the Commission takes note that, in April 2025, the Government, Justice and Constitutional Affairs Commission adopted a bill to amend the Procedural Criminal Code and measures, including action against human trafficking, aligning laws with the Constitution and international standards.[1645] Said bill sought to fight transnational organized crime and facilitate the seizure of illegal assets, even if transformed, regardless of their owner or owners' criminal liability. Moreover, the Commission notes that in February, under the auspice of the National Migration Service,[1646] a specialized training course on the adoption of Law No. 458 dated December 3, 2024, which amended Law No. 79 of 2011 on human trafficking and related activities, as well as the Criminal Code, was provided.

739. In relation to the rights of **women**, measures were taken to prevent and protect women against gender-based violence. In the legislative front, Law No. 474, which sets out harsher punishment for

[1640] Library of Congress, United States of America, "Panama-United States: Agreement Reached on Joint Repatriation Program," March 13, 2025.

[1641] Republic of Panama, Diplomatic Note No. A.J - MIRE-2025-050213, Annex: Republic of Panama's Response Report, *Situation of Persons in the Context of Human Mobility*, July 8, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1642] IACHR, Press Release No. 066/25, IACHR Presents Observations from its Working Visit to Panama on Persons on Human Mobility, April 1, 2025. See also: IACHR, *Observaciones visita de trabajo a Panamá* (Observations from Working Visit to Panama), OEA/Ser.L/V/II.doc.2/25, March 15, 2025.

[1643] IACHR, Letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (CADH), June 9, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1644] Republic of Panama, Diplomatic Note No. A.J - MIRE-2025-050213, Annex: Response Report by the Republic of Panama, *Situation of Persons in the Context of Human Mobility*, July 8, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1645] National Assembly, "Comisión de Gobierno aprueba tres iniciativas en primer debate" (Government commission approves three initiatives in first round of debate), April 30, 2025.

[1646] National Migration Service, "SNM realiza taller de formación especializada en el marco de la promulgación de la ley 458 del 3 de diciembre de 2024, sobre trata de personas y actividades conexas" (National Migration Service holds specialized workshop amid the passing of Law No. 458 of December 3, 2024, on human trafficking and related activities), February 20, 2025.

rape and other crimes related to sexual violence,[1647] and Law No. 478, which incorporates digital crimes, such as the dissemination of intimate images without consent, were enacted.[1648] Additionally, the Creciendo Seguras (Growing Safe) initiative, which focuses on the prevention of physical, psychological and sexual violence against girls and adolescents through training, was launched.[1649] Moreover, the Ministry of Health implemented a project called Reinforcement of Primary Care for Maternal, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Violence Prevention Through Community Engagement in the Darién Region and the Emberá Wounaan Community, whose purpose is to improve access to contraceptives, prenatal care, care during delivery and postnatal medical attention for women and adolescents in overlooked communities.[1650]

740. The Commission regrets the announcement on the discontinuity of the Ministry of Women, which will reportedly be downgraded to a Secretariat under the Ministry of Social Development. This represents a step backwards in the protection of women's rights.[1651] The announcement is framed in a context of persistent gender-based violence.[1652] According to data from the Office of the Public Prosecutor, between January and September 2025, 12 femicides were registered, with nine attempted femicides and 15 violent deaths of women.[1653] Furthermore, from January to August, 4,072 reports for crimes against sexual liberty and integrity were registered, with 10,272 reports on domestic violence[1654] and 303 reports on corruption of minors, commercial sexual exploitation and other crimes.[1655] Incidents of state violence against women and girls, especially indigenous and Afro-descendants, were also documented amid social protests in Bocas del Toro.[1656]

741. Regarding the rights of **LGBTI persons**, in a report prepared for the Periodic Universal Review (PUR) Fourth Cycle, Panamanian civil society organizations pointed to problems such as discrimination at state

[1647] National Assembly, "Ley 474 de 24 de junio de 2025 que modifica y adiciona artículos al Código Penal y al Código procesal penal" (Law No. 474 of June 24, 2025, to amend and add articles to the Criminal Code and the Procedural Criminal Code), June 24, 2025.

[1648] National Assembly, "Panameños cuentan con nueva ley internacional en materia penal y ciberdelincuencia" (Panamanians have a new international law on crimes and cybercrimes), June 8, 2025; Ministry of the Presidency, "Presidente Mulino sanciona leyes que fortalecen el marco legal contra la ciberdelincuencia" (President Mulino approves laws that reinforce the legal framework to fight cybercrimes), August 5, 2025.

[1649] Ministry of Women, "Lanzamiento del proyecto creciendo seguras" (Launch of the Creciendo Seguras [Growing Safe] Project), May 29, 2025.

[1650] Ministry of Health, "Minsa fortalece la atención primaria de salud para Darién y Comarca Emberá Wuounaan" (Ministry of Health strengthens primary healthcare for Darién and the Emberá Wuounaan community), April 29, 2025; Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO), "Panamá fortalece la salud materno-infantil con capacitación a parteras tradicionales en comunidades de difícil acceso" (Panama reinforces maternal and infant care with training for traditional midwives in communities difficult to access), August 13, 2025.

[1651] Office of the Ombudsperson, "La Defensoría del Pueblo considera un retroceso el posible cierre del Ministerio de la Mujer" (The Office of the Ombudsperson believes that the potential closure of the Ministry of Women is a step backwards), July 9, 2025; OAS, MESECVI, Committee of Experts of the MESECVI Expresses Concern over the Imminent Risk of Discontinuity of the Ministry of Women in Panama, July 24, 2025.

[1652] IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IVa, March 26, 2025, para. 664.

[1653] Office of the Public Prosecutor, *Cantidad de víctimas de femicidios, tentativas y muertes violentas registrados a nivel nacional, por tipo, según mes* (Number of Victims of Femicide, Attempted Femicide and Violent Deaths Registered at a National Level, by Type and Month), October 13, 2025.

[1654] Office of the Public Prosecutor, *Cantidad de denuncias registradas por los delitos contra la libertad e integridad sexual, en el sistema penal acusatorio a nivel nacional, por mes, según delito específico* (Number of Registered Reports of Crimes against Sexual Freedom and Integrity in the Prosecution Criminal System at a National Level, by Month and Crime Type), August 31, 2025; Office of the Public Prosecutor, *Cantidad de denuncias registradas por los delitos contra el orden jurídico familiar y el estado civil, a nivel nacional, por mes, según tipo de delito* (Number of Registered Reports of Crimes against the Family Legal Order and Marital Status, at the National Level, by Month and Crime Type), September 15, 2025.

[1655] Office of the Public Prosecutor, *Cantidad de denuncias registradas por los delitos contra la libertad e integridad sexual, en el sistema penal acusatorio a nivel nacional, por mes, según delito específico* (Number of Registered Reports of Crimes against Sexual Freedom and Integrity in the Prosecution Criminal System at a National Level, by Month and Crime Type), August 31, 2025; Human Rights Council, *Summary of Stakeholders' Submissions on Panama*, August 12, 2025, paras. 26–28.

[1656] Office of the Ombudsperson, "Defensoría expone Informe preliminar de la situación de derechos humanos en los actos de violencia y Estado de Urgencia en Bocas del Toro" (Office of the Ombudsperson shares preliminary report on the situation of human rights amid acts of violence and the state of emergency in Bocas del Toro), July 3, 2025; OAS, MESECVI, Committee of Experts of the MESECVI Expresses Concern over the Imminent Risk of Discontinuity of the Ministry of Women in Panama, July 24, 2025; *UP informa*, "La Crisis de Derechos Humanos en Bocas del Toro: Una Herida Abierta en Panamá" (The human rights crisis in Bocas del Toro: an open wound in Panama), October 1, 2025; *La Estrella de Panamá*, "Nuevo informe advierte de abusos durante estado de urgencia en Bocas del Toro" (New report warns against abuse during state of emergency in Bocas del Toro), September 30, 2025.

institutions; discriminatory practices in access to social security, employment and education; criminalization of LGBTIQ+ persons at state entities; barriers in access to justice; and the absence of legislation against discrimination. Additionally, they underscored the proliferation of hate speech, the lack of measures enabling legal recognition of gender identity for trans persons, and the absence of legal recognition and protection for same-sex couples and the rights of their families.[1657] The Commission has not learned of any progress made in the recognition of this population's rights.

742. In relation to the rights of **children and adolescents**, the Commission takes note of the training sessions conducted in June, addressed to 26 traditional midwives in the medical regions of Darién and the Emberá-Wounaan community, held by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development.[1658] The purpose of this training opportunity was to strengthen traditional midwives' work since they play a paramount role in birth care in remote communities. According to PAHO information, these regions feature higher birth rates than the national average and face significant challenges such as higher infant mortality (17.3 out of 1,000 live births in Darién and 18.3 out of 1,000 live births in the Emberá-Wounaan community) compared to the national average (14.8 out of 1,000 live births).

743. Furthermore, according to UNICEF data published in late 2024, there was a 40-percent reduction in migrant or asylum-seeking children across the Darién region, going from 106,000 in 2023 down to 64,000 in 2024. Meanwhile, UNICEF also registered a 35-percent increase in the number of children and adolescents separated from their families or unaccompanied, going from 3,000 in 2023 up to 4,776 in 2024.[1659] Moreover, the Commission notes that, in August, the Ministry of the Environment published a joint report with UNICEF where it stated that one out of four children and adolescents in Panama live in places with high climate vulnerability, which impacts the enjoyment of rights, such as health, education and food, and exposes them to poverty and the need to mobilize.[1660]

744. On the matter of **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission applauds the progress made with the National Plan to Reduce Overcrowding at Prisons, which was adopted in the second half of 2024 to bring down the number of incarcerated persons through the increase and speeding-up of court hearings.[1661] In early 2025, an inter-agency, multidisciplinary team performed a massive review of the files of persons deprived of liberty for classification and review of sentences, especially in the case of inmates who have served two-thirds of their sentence or who suffer from chronic disease.[1662] This led to the release of approximately 6,000 people on August 14.[1663] In addition, the Commission appreciates the implementation, on June 16, of the Plan Libertad (Freedom Plan), whose purpose is to have incarcerated people work on the upgrade of community

[1657] Iguales Foundation, LGBTI+ Litigants Network of the Americas, Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI), "Contribución presentada al consejo de derechos humanos para el cuarto ciclo del examen periódico universal (EPU) de Panamá" (Contribution submitted to the Human Rights Council for the Periodic Universal Review [PUR] Fourth Cycle of Panama), 2025.

[1658] PAHO/WHO, "Panamá fortalece la salud materno-infantil con capacitación a parteras tradicionales en comunidades de difícil acceso" (Panama reinforces maternal and infant care with training for traditional midwives in communities difficult to access), August 13, 2025.

[1659] UNICEF, "Crece el número de niños, niñas y adolescentes que transitan por Darién solos: UNICEF" (Growing number of children and adolescents who travel alone across the Darién region: UNICEF), December 18, 2024.

[1660] UNICEF, "Impacto de la crisis climática, ambiental y energética en el desarrollo y bienestar de las niñas, niños y adolescentes en Panamá" (Impact of the climate, environmental and energy crisis on the development and well-being of children and adolescents in Panama), August 20, 2025.

[1661] Ministry of the Interior, "Plan Nacional de Descongestión Penitenciaria avanza a paso redoblado" (National Plan to Reduce Overcrowding at Prisons moves forward), June 28, 2025; see also: Office of Public Relations of the Ministry of the Interior, "Edición 13 - Mingob con paso firme" (Issue No. 13 - Ministry of the Interior moves forward at a steady pace), July 2025.

[1662] Ministry of the Interior, General Directorate of the Penitentiary System, "Plan de descongestión penitenciaria avanza de manera positiva" (Plan to reduce prison overcrowding takes positive step forward), April 25, 2024; see also: "Avanza el Plan de Descongestión Penitenciaria" (Plan to reduce prison overcrowding moves forward), April 29, 2025.

[1663] Ministry of the Interior, Official Instagram Account, "Más de seis mil personas privadas de libertad fueron liberadas gracias al Plan de Descongestión Penitenciaria y a programas de resocialización" (Over 6,000 persons deprived of liberty released under the Plan to Reduce Prison Overcrowding and social reintegration programs), August 14, 2025.

space infrastructure.[1664] Moreover, the Commission notes the progress made in the construction of Las Esmeralda Women's Detention Center, which has been completed by 63 percent, and the Nueva Esperanza Penitentiary Center, where up to 5.72 percent of works have been completed.[1665]

745. Notwithstanding this, the Commission received information about reports of violations of the rights of persons deprived of liberty at the La Joya, La Joyita, and Mega Joya prison centers. According to inmates' relatives, those facilities present the following challenges: i) inhuman, unhealthy conditions due to overcrowded cells, broken restrooms and spaces without ventilation; ii) obstacles to access drinking water and hygiene products; iii) proliferation of infectious diseases, especially tuberculosis, with no medical protocols or adequate treatment in place; iv) deficient medical attention at Clínica de la Merced; and v) violation of the right to education, given that inmates face challenges when it comes to securing an authorization to participate in education programs.[1666]

746. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination**, the Commission received information that the State took affirmative action in this regard, with municipal and national reach. The Office of the Ombudsperson held the 7th National African-Panamanian Conference to drive the implementation of the 2022–2030 Master Plan.[1667] Moreover, the Ministry of Education reported that it had updated a project to incorporate the Afro-descendant history, culture and contributions into the national curricula.[1668] In September 2025, the Ministry of Social Development and the UNFPA presented a demographic analysis based on the 2023 Census, which underscores the need for inclusion and equity policies targeted at Afro-descendant communities.[1669] Additionally, the Commission learned about initiatives led by civil society organizations as well as international agencies with a gender-based and intersectional focus in the country.[1670]

747. As it relates to challenges, organizations and the media pointed to persistent representation breaches and exclusion risks. In this regard, the Commission takes note of information concerning the absence of Afro-Panamanian people in key diplomatic offices. Analyses conducted by the civil society identified stereotypes and obstacles for Afro-descendant women and girls, as well as barriers to entrepreneur projects carried out by Afro-descendants.[1671]

748. Furthermore, challenges disproportionally affecting Afro-descendant urban communities persist, especially in Colón and San Miguelito.[1672] Civil society organizations reported that, in September 2025,

[1664] Ministry of the Interior, "Panamá inicia una nueva era penitenciaria con el 'Plan Libertad'" (Panama enters a new prison era with the "Freedom Plan"), June 16, 2025; see also: "Representantes del PNUD destacan la labor del Plan Libertad con personas privadas de libertad en Panamá" (UNDP representatives highlight work done under the Freedom Plan with persons deprived of liberty in Panama), July 9, 2025.

[1665] Ministry of the Interior, "1 Año, haciendo que las cosas sucedan" (One year of getting things done), June 2025; see also: "Inicia construcción de moderno centro de rehabilitación femenino La Perla" (Construction of La Perla Modern Women's Rehabilitation Center begins), January 19, 2024.

[1666] Information provided to the IACHR by families of persons deprived of liberty. Received via email on June 30, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1667] State of Panama, Office of the Ombudsperson, "Defensoría fortalece la lucha por la equidad en el VII Encuentro Nacional Afropanameño" (Office of the Ombudsperson reinforces fight for equity at the 7th National African-Panamanian Conference), June 2, 2025.

[1668] State of Panama, Ministry of Education (MEDUCA), "Proyecto que incluye la cultura y los 'aportes de los 'afro' en el currículo educativo en Panamá" (Project to incorporate culture and "'Afro Contributions" into the education curricula in Panama), July 2, 2025.

[1669] State of Panama, Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), "UNFPA presenta Análisis Demográfico sobre la Población que define los retos y oportunidades para el desarrollo de Panamá" (UNFPA presents Demographic Population Analysis that defines challenges and opportunities for Panama's development), September 10, 2025.

[1670] UNFPA, Latin America and the Caribbean, "Voces que impulsan el cambio: Mujeres afrodescendientes de Panamá que luchan por la igualdad" (Voices driving change: Afro-Descendent women in Panama fighting for equality), July 25, 2025; *Afroféminas*, "Panamá destaca en un estudio sobre el afroemprendimiento en América Latina" (Panama stands out in a study on African entrepreneurship in Latin America), May 12, 2025.

[1671] *La Verdad Panamá*, "El Dato de La Verdad Panamá para hoy domingo 15 de junio de 2025" (Fact of the day by *La Verdad Panamá* on Sunday, June 15, 2025), June 15, 2025; *Afroféminas*, "Día de las Trenzas en Panamá como acto de resistencia" (Braids Day in Panama, an act of resistance), May 19, 2025.

[1672] National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC), "Población afrodescendiente de 10 y más años de edad en la República, por alfabetismo y sexo, según provincia, comarca indígena, distrito y corregimiento: Censos 2023" (Afro-descendant population aged 10 or above in the Republic, by level of literacy and sex, province, indigenous community, district and municipality: 2023 Census), February 6, 2024.

homicides soared in Colón as a result of gang-related disputes,[1673] while local data portrays a scenario of high labor informality in San Miguelito, with over 240 street stalls registered in 2025.[1674] The Commission also notes the tuberculosis health alerts in Colón, for which the State ordered contention and treatment measures.[1675]

749. Concerning the rights of **older persons**, the media reported that, between January and April 2025, the Office of the Public Prosecutor recorded 288 reports on ill-treatment to older persons, which is roughly equivalent to one case every 10 hours.[1676] Moreover, the Ministry of Social Development informed about a national supervision and training tour at Comprehensive Healthcare Centers for Older Persons operating in the country aimed at reinforcing the medical attention and care these organizations provide to the elderly at a national level.[1677]

750. In terms of social security, in March 2025, legislation to amend social security laws was passed,[1678] introducing reforms to the retirement system to avoid its financial collapse. However, this reform faced challenges, which included protests demanding that inter-generational solidarity be disregarded and replaced with an individual account scheme.[1679]

751. Finally, the official discount list for health services, medication and private hospitals, among others, in favor of retirees and pensioners was published under the legal framework in force, which constitutes a good practice for community integration and dignified aging.[1680]

752. Regarding **processes of memory, truth and justice**, the Commission appreciates the submission to the National Assembly of a bill that seeks to declare June 9 as a civic day to pay tribute to the victims of the military dictatorship in Panama.[1681] This initiative, related to the commitment undertaken under a friendly settlement agreement, also includes measures to promote a historical, educational memory regarding that period with a human rights perspective.[1682]

753. In relation to the rights of **persons with disabilities**, the State moved forward with the adoption of the Program on Unpaid Care Services, Disability and a Gender-Based Transforming Approach[1683] and the 2025–2029 National Strategic Disability Plan.[1684] Moreover, while the Electoral Tribunal implemented

[1673] *TVN*, "Colón supera los 70 homicidios en 2025: pandillas reavivan guerra por microtráfico" (Over 70 homicides in Colón during 2025: Gangs reignite war over microtrafficking), September 14, 2025.

[1674] *La Prensa*, "San Miguelito enfrenta expansión del comercio informal, hay más de 240 puestos" (San Miguelito faces expansion of informal trade with over 240 street stalls), June 5, 2025.

[1675] *La Prensa*, "Cepa de tuberculosis de alta capacidad de transmisión circula en Colón" (Highly contagious tuberculosis strain circulates in Colón), August 15, 2025.

[1676] *El Siglo*, "Cada 10 horas un adulto mayor es maltratado en Panamá" (An older person is ill-treated every 10 hours in Panama), June 9, 2025.

[1677] MIDES, "MIDES realiza gira de supervisión y capacitación a todos los Centros de Atención Integral para Personas Mayores que operan en el país" (MIDES holds supervision and training tour at Comprehensive Healthcare Centers for Older Persons across the country), February 24, 2025.

[1678] *Infobae*, "El presidente de Panamá sanciona la ley para reformar la seguridad social" (Panama President approves law to reform social security system), March 18, 2025.

[1679] *Prensa Latina*, "Nuevo movimiento en Panamá rechaza ley sobre seguro social" (New movement in Panama rejects social security law), January 7, 2025; *France 24*, "Protestas masivas en Panamá en contra del Gobierno de Mulino: ¿qué exigen los manifestantes?" (Massive protests across Panama against Mulino's administration: What do protesters want?), May 16, 2025; *TeleSur*, "¿Por qué protestan los pueblos indígenas contra la ley 462?" (Why are indigenous people protesting against Law No. 462?), June 11, 2025.

[1680] *Telemetro*, "¡Noticia importante para los jubilados y pensionados! Lista oficial de descuentos que reciben en todo el país" (Breaking news for retirees and pensioners! Official list of discounts across the country), May 8, 2025.

[1681] *La Prensa*, "Proponen declarar el 9 de junio como Día de las Víctimas de la Dictadura Militar en Panamá" (June 9 proposed as Military Dictatorship Victims' Day in Panama), September 18, 2025; *Public*, "Cancillería respalda creación de Día Cívico de Reflexión por las víctimas de la dictadura" (Ministry of Foreign Affairs backs creation of a civic day to pay tribute to dictatorship's victims), October 27, 2025.

[1682] IACHR, Press Release No. 156/2019, IACHR Applauds the Signing of the Friendly Settlement Agreement for Case 13.017 A - Relatives of Victims of the Military Dictatorship in Panama, June 24, 2019.

[1683] UNDP, "Panamá lanza programa sobre cuidados con apoyo del PNUD" (Panama launches care program with UNDP support), April 22, 2025.

[1684] MIDES, "Junta Directiva del SENADIS presenta pen 2025-2029 y aprueba anteproyecto del presupuesto 2026" (Board of the National Disability Secretariat [SENADIS] presents the 2025–2029 Strategic National Disability Plan and approves 2026 Budget Bill), May 7, 2025.

measures such as early online voting, the sign language interpretation system and the creation of a Voting Accessibility Commission,[1685] civil society organizations have denounced deficiencies. Reportedly, many voting centers fail to meet international accessibility standards, the ballots are allegedly not adapted to the Braille system, and no adequate transition has been made towards online voting to assist persons with sensory disabilities.[1686]

XXIV. PARAGUAY

- **General considerations**

754. In 2025, **advances** were recorded in the Republic of Paraguay (hereinafter, "Paraguay") in terms of democratic institutionality and the strengthening of human rights frameworks and public policies, including the continuity of the executive branch's Human Rights Network and the Recommendation Monitoring System (SIMORE) Plus, as well as legislative initiatives to create a national protection mechanism for journalists and human rights defenders.

755. However, **challenges** persisted in terms of corruption, impunity, judicial independence and civic space. Protests against corruption, along with acts of police repression were noted, while a law restricting access to public information and the work of civil society organizations was passed.

756. On September 8, 2025, the State submitted its response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.[1687]

- **Specific issues**

757. As for **democratic institutionality**, on February 5, 2025, the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice (TSJE) adopted, by means of Resolution No. 78/2025, the schedule for the municipal elections for the 2026-2031 period, thus initiating preparations for the local electoral process.[1688] Additionally, the Congress advanced the analysis of a bill to establish a national protection mechanism for journalists and human rights defenders. This responds to international obligations and the judgment in the Leguizamón case.[1689]

758. In 2025, Law No. 7363/24 entered into force and civil society organizations (CSOs) expressed their concern about the risk it posed regarding the persecution of entities deemed critical of the government, with potential impacts on freedom of association and pluralism.[1690] According to these organizations, the law introduces bureaucratic obstacles to the operation of CSOs, with greater impact on smaller ones, and establishes state oversight mechanisms over their main activities.[1691] According to the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), this law constitutes one of the most restrictive measures on civic space in the Americas in 2025.[1692] At the same time, the Congress processed a bill on personal data protection which could limit access

[1685] *TVN*, "Tribunal Electoral refuerza inclusión de personas con discapacidad" (Electoral Tribunal reinforces inclusion of persons with disabilities), July 4, 2025; *Verificado Contigo*, "Estudio de observación de la accesibilidad al voto en las elecciones de mayo de 2024" (Observation study on voting accessibility in May 2024 elections), August 19, 2025.

[1686] *Panamá América*, "Accesibilidad para personas con discapacidad: reto pendiente del sistema electoral" (Accessibility for persons with disabilities: An outstanding challenge of the electoral system), May 5, 2025.

[1687] Republic of Paraguay, Note Verbale MPP/OEA/No. 196/205 in response to the request for information of the IACHR for the preparation of the *2025 Annual Report*, sent on September 8, 2025. On IACHR´s files.

[1688] I*bid.*; *La Nación*, "TSJE lanza calendario electoral para las Municipales 2026" (TSJE launches electoral schedule for the 2026 municipal elections), July 15, 2025.

[1689] *ABC Color*, "Avanza análisis del proyecto de ley de protección a periodistas" (Analysis on the bill to protect journalist moves forward), October 10, 2025.

[1690] Freedom House, *Paraguay: Freedom in the World 2025 Country Report*, 2025; CIVICUS Monitor, "President enacts controversial law restricting civil society: land rights protesters face threats," May 21, 2025.

[1691] IACHR, Meeting with civil society organizations of Paraguay, November 6, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1692] WOLA, "Curtailing civic space: Tightening restrictions on civil society in the Americas," June 30, 2025.

to public information.[1693] All this occurred in a backdrop of protests against corruption and impunity, as well as episodes of police repression during the exercise of demonstrators' right to protest.[1694]

759. In the area of **human rights institutions,** the continuity of the executive branch's Human Rights Network was reported, which has been operating since 2009 under the coordination of the Ministry of Justice. Comprising 20 institutions, the network seeks to coordinate policies, plans and programs. As a result of the greater visibility that human rights had, participating institutions created specific human rights units. On December 2, 2024, the IV Action Plan of the Network was adopted (with technical support from the OHCHR), with the aim of continuing previous plans.[1695] The Commission takes note of the presentation of the Network's *2024–2025 Management Report*, which highlights the continuity of plans, as well as training and coordination efforts with OHCHR and the UNDP within the SIMORE Plus program.[1696]

760. As for the SIMORE Plus, the State reported meetings and training sessions held in 2025 aimed at focal points, with a total of 294 people trained. Moreover, it was further reported that a course on international recommendations and observations from UN committees was taught to officials of the Ministry of Justice so as to strengthen capacities and mainstream the human rights approach in institutional management.[1697]

761. In 2025, the Office of the Ombudsperson regained its "A" accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), which formally reinforces its status as a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles;[1698] resource challenges nevertheless persisted.[1699] The Commission commends the issuance of Decree No. 4061 by the Ministry of the Interior, which creates the Search System for Disappeared Persons and establishes the National Commission for Search and Location of Persons, thus enabling immediate action while a bill on the matter is being processed.[1700]

762. With respect to **access to justice and judicial independence,** in 2025 the Supreme Court of Justice approved the 2026–2030 Institutional Strategic Plan to strengthen judicial institutionality, access to justice with a human rights approach and conventionality control. The Court also conducted training on the

[1693] *ABC Color*, "Detallan cómo los cambios a ley de protección de datos afectarían a la transparencia" (Details on how changes to data protection law would affect transparency), October 14, 2025; *Última Hora*, "Datos Personales: Insisten en que se obstaculiza acceso a información" (Personal Data Law: Claims about the law obstructing information persist), October 19, 2025.

[1694] National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (MNP), "El MNP condena uso abusivo de la fuerza pública durante manifestaciones en Asunción y exhorta al respeto de los derechos humanos" (The MNP condemns the abusive use of public force during demonstrations in Asunción and urges respect for human rights), September 29, 2025; *ABC Color*, "Marcha 'Gen Z': Policía confirma más de 30 detenidos y fin de la protesta" ("Gen Z" March: The Police confirms more than 30 detainees and end of the protest), September 29, 2025; *ABC Color*, "Video: Fiscalía explica liberación de detenidos tras marcha de la 'Generación Z'" (Video: Office of the Attorney General explains release of detainees following 'Generation Z' march), September 30, 2025; *NODAL*, "Paraguay: Movimientos sociales, campesinos y partidos opositores inician semana de protestas contra la corrupción y la impunidad" (Paraguay: Social movements, peasants and opposition parties begin week of protests against corruption and impunity), March 25, 2025.

[1695] Republic of Paraguay, Note Verbale MPP/OEA/2 No. 196/2025 in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (CADH), Note No. 355-25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, September 8, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1696] Ministry of Justice, "Red de Derechos Humanos del Poder Ejecutivo presentó informe de gestión 2024–2025" (Human Rights Network of the executive branch presented the 2024–2025 management report), October 7, 2025.

[1697] Republic of Paraguay, Note Verbale MPP/OEA/2 No. 196/2025 in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (CADH), Note No. 355-25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, September 8, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1698] State of Paraguay, Office of the Ombudsperson, "Oficialmente, el día de hoy, Paraguay recupera la Categoría A en Derechos Humanos" (Paraguay officially recovers Category A status in human rights today), March 11, 2025.

[1699] *ABC Color*, "Paraguay recuperó la categoría 'A' en derechos humanos" (Paraguay recovers Category A status in human rights), March 11, 2025; *Última Hora*, "Rafael Ávila: 'Vamos por buen camino' tras recuperar categoría A en DDHH" (Rafael Ávila: "We are on the right path" after recovering A category status in human rights), March 23, 2025.

[1700] State of Paraguay, Ministry of the Interior, Decree No. 4061, which regulates Article 6, incision 10 and Article 235, incision 5, of Law No. 7280/2024 "on reform and modernization of the National Police," creates the National System for the Search and Location of Disappeared Persons and adopts regulations for its implementation, June 17, 2025; *Última hora*, "Ejecutivo crea el sistema de búsqueda de personas desaparecidas sin esperar al Congreso" (The executive branch creates disappeared persons search system without waiting for Congress), June 18, 2025; *Agencia de Información Paraguaya*, "Senado aprueba la creación del Registro Nacional de Personas Desaparecidas" (Senate approves creation of National Registry of Disappeared Persons), September 18, 2025.

application of the 100 Brasilia Rules.[1701] In addition, the Office of the Public Prosecutor continued its Guidelines on Human Rights and Ethnic Rights, along with specialized programs on human trafficking, sexual exploitation, adolescents in conflict with the law, witness protection, victim care and mediation.[1702] Furthermore, the Office of the Public Defender provided 170,790 legal consultations, assisted 119,298 vulnerable people and strengthened services for women and indigenous people.[1703] With regard to intercultural inclusion, the creation of the National Network for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was promoted and the Directorate of Defense of the Indigenous Peoples was established, in collaboration with experts in indigenous culture, which assisted 964 people.

763. In terms of challenges, in the legislative branch a bill seeking to reinstate secret voting in the Supreme Court, which reportedly reverses nominal and public vote and limits judicial transparency, advanced.[1704] Incidents of intimidation and political pressure on judges[1705] were also recorded, while the *2025 Report* of Freedom House maintained low scores on judicial independence and due process.[1706] At the same time, the procedural fraud scheme known as the "Mafia de los Pagarés" (promissory notes fraud scheme), by means of which false debts were enforced with the support of judicial officials, was uncovered.[1707] The Supreme Court, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Congress and Office of the Public Defender adopted intervention, investigation and victim assistance measures.[1708]

764. As for **citizen security**, the State reported that it continues to use the Manual on the Use of Force and Firearms and the Manual of Obligations and Police Procedures Guide in training sessions delivered with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Directorate of Human Rights of the Ministry of the Interior. This Directorate also provided support for eviction procedures involving vulnerable groups.[1709] Additionally, the Supreme Court issued a decision upholding the conviction of the former anti-drug prosecutor in the Minotauro case,[1710] along with advances in the capture and conviction of members of criminal organizations, including one of the leaders of the Rotela Clan[1711] and former prison authorities linked to drug trafficking.[1712]

765. However, levels of violence and impunity remain high amid allegations of state corruption. Networks of arms trafficking persist, as do murders and attacks against journalists, especially in border

[1701] Republic of Paraguay, Note Verbale MPP/OEA/2 No. 196/2025 in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (CADH), Note No. 355-25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, September 8, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1702] *Ibid*.

[1703] *Ibid*.

[1704] *ABC Color*, "Golpe a la transparencia: cartistas y aliados buscan blindar a ministros de la Corte y volver al voto secreto" (Blow to transparency: Cartes supporters and allies seek to shield Supreme Court justices and return to secret voting), October 15, 2025; *Última Hora*, "Proponen volver al voto secreto de ministros de CSJ y critican maniobra" (Proposal to return to secret voting for Supreme Court justices amid criticism), October 16, 2025.

[1705] *ABC Color*, "Intentaron obtener datos sobre jueza de causas emblemáticas" (Attempt to obtain data on judge in emblematic cases), October 4, 2025; State of Paraguay, Senate of the Republic, "Senado presentará denuncia ante el JEM contra tres jueces" (Senate to file complaint before Jury for the Prosecution of Magistrates [JEM] against three judges), March 27, 2025.

[1706] Freedom House, *Paraguay: Freedom in the World 2025 Country Report*, February 26, 2025.

[1707] *ABC Color*, "Mafia de los pagarés: casi una veintena de remates en juicios espurios" ("Mafia de los pagarés": Nearly twenty auctions in spurious proceedings), October 1, 2025.

[1708] State of Paraguay, Senate of the Republic, "Comisión analiza impacto de la denominada 'mafia de pagarés'" (Commission analyzes impact of so-called "Mafia de los pagarés"), April 8, 2025; Office of the Ombudsperson, "Defensor del Pueblo presentó 129 casos de víctimas de pagarés fraguados a la Defensa Pública" (Ombudsperson submits 129 cases of victims of forged promissory notes to the Office of the Public Defender), April 8, 2025; Office of the Public Prosecutor, "Caso 'Mafia de los pagarés': Fiscalía gestionó el traspaso de expedientes a la Corte Suprema de Justicia" ("Mafia de los pagarés" case: Office of the Attorney General arranges transfer of case files to the Supreme Court of Justice), January 31, 2025.

[1709] Republic of Paraguay, Note Verbale MPP/OEA/2 No. 196/2025 in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (CADH), Note No. 355-25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, September 8, 2025. On IACHR's files.

[1710] *ABC Color*, "Minotauro: Corte declara inadmisible recurso del exfiscal Hugo Volpe" (Minotauro: The Supreme Court declares former prosecutor Hugo Volpe's appeal inadmissible), April 21, 2025.

[1711] *Última Hora*, "Condenan a Armando Javier Rotela por traficar drogas desde Tacumbú" (Armando Javier Rotela convicted for drug trafficking from Tacumbú), March 7, 2025.

[1712] *ABC Color*, "Corrupción en la cárcel: condenan a 18 años y 9 meses de prisión a exdirector y excoordinador" (Corruption in prison: former director and former coordinator sentenced to 18 years and 9 months in prison), August 12, 2025.

areas.[1713] Several reports point to the presence and influence of Capital's First Command (PCC) and Rotela Clan factions in Paraguay, with impacts on public security, corruption and prison control.[1714] Journalistic investigations describe the infiltration of drug trafficking networks in the Office of the Attorney General and the political sphere, which has interfered with investigations and fostered impunity.[1715] Drug trafficking influence is also reported in communities with low state presence, deterioration of services and limited police response.[1716]

766. With respect to the rights of **indigenous peoples**, the State closed the Asunción office of the Paraguayan Indigenous Institute (INDI) and arranged for the transfer of its personnel to regional offices. This decision raises concerns due to the lack of prior consultation in the adoption of this measure.[1717] This occurs amid ongoing challenges related to the protection of indigenous ancestral lands, evictions and the right to participation,[1718] as well as various protests led by Bajo Chaco communities, the Ava Guaraní Paranaense people and the Maká people.[1719] The risk of cultural extinction faced by the Ayoreo people, who live in voluntary isolation, due to the deforestation of the Chaco forest was also reported.[1720] Territorial protection shortcomings particularly affect indigenous children and adolescents in urban areas, who face discrimination and barriers to service access.[1721]

767. As for the situation of **Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination**, the National Afro-descendant Council (CONAFRO) was regulated by means of Decree No. 2915/24, which sets forth the application of Law No. 6940/22 on the national registry, curricular inclusion and sanctions for discrimination.[1722] CONAFRO began activities to coordinate public policies. The National Secretariat of Culture prepared the 2025–2029 Institutional Strategic Plan by means of a participatory process and developed awareness-raising campaigns.[1723] Along with CONAFRO and other institutions, it held an interministerial

[1713] *El País*, "Armas, contrabandistas y el asesinato de un periodista en la frontera entre Paraguay y Brasil" (Arms, smugglers, and the murder of a journalist on the Paraguayan–Brazilian border), July 10, 2025; State of Paraguay, Office of the Ombudsperson, "Comunicado ante otro atentado contra la libertad de expresión en Paraguay" (Statement on another attack against freedom of expression in Paraguay), October 14, 2025; *Agencia EFE*, "SIP ve en Paraguay 'persistencia de graves desafíos' para ejercer la libertad de expresión" (Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) sees "persistence of serious challenges" in Paraguay for exercising freedom of expression), October 19, 2025; Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), "Investigations of murdered Paraguayan journalists live on," July 9, 2025; *ABC Color*, "Alianza Paraguay: por qué Forbidden Stories impulsó una investigación global sobre el crimen organizado" (Alianza Paraguay: Why Forbidden Stories promoted a global investigation into organized crime), July 9, 2025.

[1714] *ABC Color*, "Después de Brasil, Paraguay es el país con mayor presencia del PCC, según informe"(According to a report, after Brazil, Paraguay has the largest PCC presence), June 25, 2025; *Última Hora*, "El Estado 'bajó la guardia' y facilitó expansión de grupos criminales, dice el ministro Riera"(The State "dropped its guard" and facilitated expansion of criminal groups, says Minister Riera), June 27, 2025.

[1715] *El País*, "Cómo el crimen organizado infiltró la Fiscalía en Paraguay: un periodista asesinado y corrupción en el sistema judicial" (How organized crime infiltrated the Office of the Attorney General in Paraguay: a journalist murdered and corruption in the judicial system), July 10, 2025.

[1716] *ABC Color*, "Inseguridad, microtráfico y abandono: el Estado ausente golpea a Cordillera" (Insecurity, microtrafficking and neglect: absent State hits Cordillera), August 15, 2025; *ABC Color*, "Detienen a tres hombres y una mujer por microtráfico entre Asunción y Limpio" (Three men and a woman arrested for microtrafficking between Asunción and Limpio), February 28, 2025.

[1717] *ABC Color*, "Indígenas sostienen que cierre de sede central del INDI viola marco legal" (Indigenous people claim closure of the central office of INDI violates legal framework), September 22, 2025; Information provided by civil society organizations during a meeting regarding the closure of the INDI office, August 7, 2025.

[1718] IWGIA, "The Indigenous World 2025: Paraguay," April 25, 2025.

[1719] *ABC Color*, "Indígenas anuncian movilización 'Por la vida, la tierra y la dignidad'" (Indigenous people announce demonstration "For life, land and dignity"), September 16, 2025; *ABC Color*, "Indígenas del Bajo Chaco exigen US$ 42 millones para la compra de tierras" (Indigenous people of Bajo Chaco demand 42,000,000 US dollars for land purchase), October 29, 2025; *ABC Color*, "Avá guaraní paranaenses pedirán en COP30 restitución de tierras usadas para represa de Itaipú" (Avá Guaraní people to demand restitution of lands used for Itaipú dam at COP30), November 5, 2025.

[1720] *The Guardian*, "The end of the Ayoreo? The race to find proof of Paraguay's uncontacted people," March 13, 2025.

[1721] *Última Hora*, "Comunidades reivindican derechos de niños y adolescentes indígenas en zonas urbanas" (Communities claim rights of indigenous children and adolescents in urban areas), October 10, 2025; IWGIA, "The Indigenous World 2025: Paraguay," April 25, 2025.

[1722] State of Paraguay, National Secretariat of Culture, "Primera Reunión del Consejo Nacional de Afrodescendientes (CONAFRO)" (First meeting of the CONAFRO), May 21, 2025; State of Paraguay, National Secretariat of Culture, Tercera Sesión del Consejo Nacional de Afrodescendientes (Publicación en Instagram) (Third session of the CONAFRO [Instagram post]), August 21, 2025.

[1723] Republic of Paraguay, Note Verbale MPP/OEA/2 No. 196/2025 in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (CADH), Note No. 355-25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, September 8, 2025, p. 7. On IACHR's files.

workshop on the National Human Rights Plan for Afro-descendants.[1724] In March 2025, the Senate adopted a declaration against racial discrimination.[1725] Initiatives on memory,[1726] culture[1727] and youth empowerment with a special focus on Afro-Paraguayan women were also recorded.[1728]

768. Additionally, civil society organizations highlighted persistent challenges and episodes of racism in sports. The Paraguayan Afro-descendant Network reported the normalization of racism and called for the effective application of Law No. 6940/22.[1729] In May, Cerro Porteño football club announced it would identify and sanction an individual who had been involved in racist incidents during an international match[1730] and the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) officially sanctioned Palmeiras football club for discriminating against Cerro Porteño fans.[1731] Furthermore, note is taken of the regional implementation of a system, headquartered in Paraguay, to combat racism and abuses on social media during continental competitions,[1732] as well as operations by the National Police to stop racist chants at football matches, including the referral of identified perpetrators to the Office of the Public Prosecutor.[1733]

769. With regard to the **rights of women**, measures to strengthen prevention and care in cases of violence against women, as well as to promote gender equality, were implemented. Among these are the launch of several prevention and awareness campaigns, such as "Todos los meses es noviembre" (Every month is November), "Novizago sin violencia" (Dating without violence), and "Lentes lilas" (Purple lenses),[1734] together with the continuation and expansion of the activities of the Ciudad Mujer Móvil (Mobile Women City) program, under which healthcare, legal and social services are provided;[1735] the approval and dissemination of the 2025–2030 Action Plan of the National Care Policy;[1736] and the implementation of the Mujeres que Brillan (Women that sparkle) project, which seeks to promote the economic and social empowerment of rural

[1724] State of Paraguay, National Secretariat of Culture, "Paraguay define acciones para los derechos de afrodescendientes" (Paraguay defines actions for the rights of Afro-descendants), July 17, 2025.

[1725] State of Paraguay, Senate of the Republic, "Senado aprueba declaración en conmemoración al 'Día Internacional contra la Discriminación Racial'" (Senate adopts declaration commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination), March 26, 2025.

[1726] *Última Hora*, "Llega 34ª Fiesta Kamba Lázaro Vive" (34th Kamba Lázaro Vive Festival to kick off), January 3, 2025; *ABC Color*, "Fiestas patrias: estas son las actividades que se ofrecen hoy en el centro de Asunción" (National celebrations: Activities offered today in downtown Asunción), May 14, 2025; UNFPA – Paraguay, "Paraguay, en deuda con la población afrodescendiente" (Paraguay in debt to Afro-descendant population), September 5, 2025; State of Paraguay, National Secretariat of Culture, Nota SNC/SG Nº 22/2025: Remitir la matriz de informe final de Rendición de Cuentas al Ciudadano y Memoria Anual 2024 (SNC/SG Note No. 22/2025: To send the final report matrix of Citizen Accountability and 2024 Annual Report), January 14, 2025; *ABC Color*, "Altos se prepara para revivir la tradicional fiesta del Kamba Ra'anga" (Altos is getting ready to revive the traditional Kamba Ra'anga festival), June 25, 2025.

[1727] UNFPA – Paraguay, "Estefanía: orgullo, raíces y lucha afroparaguaya" (Estefanía: pride, roots, and Afro-Paraguayan fight), July 23, 2025.

[1728] Republic of Paraguay, Note Verbale MPP/OEA/2 No. 196/2025 in response to the letter requesting information in light of Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (CADH), Note No. 355-25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, September 8, 2025, pp. 5–6. On IACHR's files.

[1729] *ABC Color*, "'El racismo sigue asolando en las sociedades', sostiene la Red Paraguaya de Afrodescendientes" ("Racism continues to ravage societies," states the Paraguayan Afro-descendant Network), March 21, 2025.

[1730] *D10 (Última Hora)*, "Cerro sancionará al socio o hincha involucrado en hechos de racismo" (Cerro to sanction the member or fan involved in racist acts), May 8, 2025.

[1731] *Versus*, "Conmebol oficializa el castigo a Palmeiras por actos de racismo contra hinchas de Cerro" (CONMEBOL officially imposes punishment on Palmeiras for racist acts against Cerro fans), May 7, 2025.

[1732] *D10 (Última Hora)*, "Conmebol anuncia sistema para combatir racismo y abusos en redes" (CONMEBOL announces system to combat racism and abuses on social media), August 12, 2025.

[1733] *ABC Color*, "Paraguay-Uruguay: Policía controlará cánticos racistas" (Paraguay-Uruguay: The Police to control racist chants), June 5, 2025.

[1734] State of Paraguay, Note Verbale MPP/OEA/2 No. 196/2025, Information to prepare Chapter IV, section A and B, Annex II, September 8, 2025. On IACHR's files; Ministry of Women, "Noviazgo sin violencia" llegó a más de 150 estudiantes de colegios de Caaguazú ("Noviazgo sin violencia" reached more than 150 students from schools in Caaguazú), October 16, 2025.

[1735] State of Paraguay, Note Verbale MPP/OEA/2 No. 196/2025, Information to prepare Chapter IV, section A and B, Annex II, September 8, 2025, p. 5. On IACHR´s files; Ministry of Public Health and Social Wellbeing, "En Concepción: más de 750 mujeres fueron beneficiadas en jornada "Ciudad Mujer Móvil" (Concepción: Over 750 women benefited from Ciudad Mujer Móvil activity), April 18, 2025; *ADN Digital*, "Ciudad Mujer Móvil llega al Alto Paraná con servicios gratuitos e integrales" (Ciudad Mujer Móvil disembarks on Alto Paraná with free and comprehensive services), October 14, 2025.

[1736] State of Paraguay, Note Verbale MPP/OEA/2 No. 196/2025, Information to prepare Chapter IV, section A and B, Annex II, September 8, 2025, p. 8. On IACHR´s files.

women.[1737] Legislative progress was also made to prohibit, without exceptions, the marriage of people under 18 years of age.[1738]

770. In addition, a bill is being processed which, if passed, would eliminate the Ministry of Women by merging it with other ministries, thus weakening the role of this specialized institution for the promotion and protection of the rights of women.[1739] Similarly, a bill aimed at creating specialized courts to handle cases of violence against women was initially amended to create courts specialized in family violence matters —that is, not specialized in gender violence— and was ultimately vetoed by the executive branch.[1740]

771. Those actions are framed within a persistent context of violence against women, girls and adolescents.[1741] According to figures from the Office of the Public Prosecutor, between January and September 2025, 28 femicides were recorded (most of them committed by partners or former partners), 41 attempted femicides[1742] and 28,421 cases of family violence.[1743] At the same time, between January and May, 873 cases of sexual abuse against girls and adolescents were registered.[1744] In this regard, the case of a 13-year-old adolescent who had gotten pregnant as a result of rape and died while giving birth was recorded.[1745]

772. In the area of **persons deprived of liberty,** the State signed a Framework Agreement between the Ministry of Justice and the Paraguayan Industrial Union (UIP) to implement productive, educational and labor projects in the prison system.[1746] It also presented a project to build new women's detention centers[1747] and adopted a protocol for visits involving children and adolescents.[1748] In August, the State inspected the Emboscada Antigua Penitentiary after unauthorized cell structures were found.[1749] Additionally, 46 judges conducted a judicial census in Tacumbú, reviewing the procedural status of more than 2,100 people.[1750] The

[1737] State of Paraguay, Ministry of Women, "MinMujer presentó proyecto "Kuñanguera Omimbiva en Mburuvicha Róga" (The Ministry of Women launches the Kuñanguera Omimbiva in Mburuvicha Róga project), March 31, 2025.

[1738] State of Paraguay, Chamber of Deputies [@DiputadosPy], (June 5, 2025), En audiencia pública debaten proyecto para prohibir el matrimonio infantil (A public hearing is held to debate a bill to ban child marriage) [X post], X, https://x.com/DiputadosPy/status/1930670422082625590.

[1739] State of Paraguay, Chamber of Deputies, "Debaten en audiencia pública proyecto que crea el Ministerio de la Familia" (Public hearing held to debate a bill creating the Ministry of the Family), May 22, 2025; *La Tribuna*, "Rechazan eliminar Ministerio de la Mujer ante el proyecto del Ministerio de Familia" (The elimination of the Ministry of Women in the face of the creation of the Ministry of the Family is turned down), May 22, 2025.

[1740] State of Paraguay, Chamber of Deputies, Sumario de proyectos de Ley (Summary of bills), September 16, 2025; State of Paraguay, Senate [@SenadoresPy], (July 9, 2025), Inicia el estudio de los puntos del orden del día, mensaje del Poder Ejecutivo, por la cual remite el Decreto N° 4121 (Analysis of the items on the agenda begins, whereby it submits Decree No. 4121, message from the executive branch) [X post], X, https://x.com/SenadoresPy/status/1942961457466937558.

[1741] IACHR, *2024 Annual Report*, Chapter IVa, March 26, 2025, para. 691.

[1742] State of Paraguay, Office of the Public Prosecutor, "Feminicidio DA" (Open data on femicides), September 18, 2025.

[1743] State of Paraguay, Office of the Public Prosecutor, "Datos Abierto: La Fiscalía atendió un total de 28.421 víctimas de Violencia Familiar de Enero a Setiembre de 2025. Unas 104 víctimas por día (Open Data: The Office of the Attorney General provides services to a total of 28,421 victims of family violence from January to September 2025 —around 104 victims daily), October 10, 2025.

[1744] State of Paraguay, Office of the Public Prosecutor, "Abuso sexual en niño, niñas y adolescentes de enero a mayo de 2025-total de víctimas 1305" (Sexual abuse of children and adolescents from January to May 2025, 1,305 total victims), May 28, 2025.

[1745] *ABC*, "Muerte de niña madre: esto dicen desde el hospital donde falleció" (Death of child mother: The version of the hospital where she died), July 14, 2025; *Efeminista*, "Muere una niña de 13 años en Paraguay al dar a luz tras un embarazo por violación" (A 13-year-old girl dies in Paraguay while giving birth after a pregnancy resulted from rape), July 18, 2025.

[1746] State of Paraguay, Ministry of Justice, "Histórico acuerdo entre el Ministerio de Justicia y la UIP para promover la reinserción penitenciaria" (Historic agreement between the Ministry of Justice and the UIP to promote reintegration of persons deprived of liberty), July 16, 2025.

[1747] State of Paraguay, *Agencia de Información Paraguaya*, "En 2025, apuntan a la construcción de nuevos centros penitenciarios para mujeres" (In 2025, plans target the construction of new penitentiary centers for women), January 24, 2025.

[1748] State of Paraguay, *Agencia de Información Paraguaya*, "Socializan protocolo de ingreso de niños y adolescentes a penitenciarías" (Presentation of protocol for entry of children and adolescents into penitentiaries), February 9, 2025.

[1749] State of Paraguay, Ministry of Justice, "El Ministro de Justicia ordena intervención del Penal de Emboscada Antigua" (The Minister of Justice orders intervention at the Emboscada Antigua Penitentiary), August 25, 2025; see also: *El nacional*, "Justicia ordena intervención en penal de Emboscada" (Justice orders intervention at Emboscada Antigua prison), August 25, 2025; and *Última hora*, "Frigobar, TV led y otros lujos: Así se ven por dentro las celdas vips del penal de Emboscada" (Frigobar, LED TV and other luxuries: This is what the VIP cells at Emboscada Antigua prison look like), August 25, 2025.

[1750] *ABC Color*, "Cárcel de Tacumbú: 46 jueces realizan un censo judicial" (Tacumbú Prison: 46 judges conduct a judicial census), October 13, 2025.

Supreme Court extended the use of ankle monitors[1751] and strengthened legal assistance and case management.[1752]

773. Nevertheless, the prison system continues to show high levels of overcrowding which, as of July 31, reached 88 percent. The main reason for overcrowding is linked to the excessive use of pretrial detention, whose rate, on the same date, was 63 percent. In this scenario, Paraguay ranks fourth in the region with the highest percentage of people held preventively.[1753] In this context, the Commission commends the establishment of a working line to facilitate the review of precautionary measures and identify those who could be released.[1754] In view of this, more than 950 people that should be released have been reportedly identified.[1755] Additionally, the Commission notes the transfer, in August, of 500 imprisoned men from an overcrowded prison to the new Minga Guazú center, as part of the Umbral Operation. In this regard, the Commission expresses its concern about images showing hooded and mostly barefoot individuals.[1756]

774. Additionally, regarding detention conditions, according to the MNP, besides overcrowding, the centers show inadequate healthcare services that lead to disease transmission, challenges in food provision and exercise of power by organized crime within the prisons.[1757]

775. With regard to the rights of **human rights defenders**, the State reported detentions, pretrial detention and house arrest against leading yerba mate producers who reported pollution as a result of mining activities,[1758] in a context characterized by the closure of the civic space, which especially affects peasant and indigenous communities as a result of land conflicts and an agricultural exports and extractivist model that promotes evictions, criminal persecution and harassment.[1759] The Commission also received information on charges for criminal association filed against groups seeking land regularization, despite the fact that the law requires neighborhood commissions to settle his type of matters, together with complaints regarding the use of pretrial detention as a mechanism of pressure against people and collectives resisting the agricultural exports extractivist model.[1760]

[1751] *ABC Color*, "Corte extiende uso de tobilleras electrónicas a todo el país" (The Supreme Court extends use of ankle monitors nationwide), July 30, 2025.

[1752] Center of Judicial Studies (CEJ), "Corte Suprema y CEJ acuerdan proyecto para fortalecer el acceso a la justicia de personas privadas de libertad" (The Supreme Court and CEJ agree on a project to strengthen access to justice for persons deprived of liberty), October 15, 2025.

[1753] World Prison Brief, Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research, World Prison Brief data - Paraguay, 2025; and Highest to Lowest - Pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners, 2025.

[1754] State of Paraguay, *Agencia de Información Paraguaya*, "Ministerio de Justicia y Corte Suprema definen acciones para reducir la sobrepoblación en las cárceles" (The Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court define actions to reduce overcrowding in prisons), March 18, 2025.

[1755] *Judiciales.net*, "Detectan que más de 950 personas deberían abandonar las cárceles" (Over 950 people identified as eligible to leave prisons), August 5, 2025; and *RDN*, "Revisión de causas podría liberar a más de 950 reclusos" (A review of cases could free more than 950 inmates), August 13, 2025.

[1756] State of Paraguay, Ministry of Justice, "Traslado masivo de reclusos llega al penal de Minga Guazú en el marco del Operativo 'Umbral'" (Massive transfer of inmates reaches Minga Guazú prison as part of the Umbral Operation), August 6, 2025; MNP, "MNP llama a garantizar derechos y trato digno en traslados de personas privadas de libertad" (MNP calls to guarantee rights and dignified treatment in transfers of persons deprived of liberty), August 6, 2025.

[1757] State of Paraguay, MNP, *2024 Informe de Gestión* (2024 Management Report), 2025, pp. 33–39; State of Paraguay, MNP, "Tuberculosis en cárceles: el MNP solicita declarar emergencia sanitaria penitenciaria" (Tuberculosis in prisons: MNP requests penitentiary health emergency to be declared), July 22, 2025; Insight Crime, "Paraguay's endless prison crisis," January 13, 2025.

[1758] *ABC Color*, "Pobladores de Paso Yobái exigen la liberación de un dirigente de productores de yerba mate" (Residents of Paso Yobái demand the release of leading yerba mate producer), March 28, 2025; *Última Hora*, "Codehupy denuncia detención arbitraria contra dirigente yerbatero en Paso Yobái" (Codehupy reports arbitrary detention against a leading yerba mate producer in Paso Yobái), March 31, 2025; *ABC Color*, "Ya son tres los yerbateros con arresto domiciliario tras protesta contra la contaminación de una mina en Paso Yobái" (Three yerba mate producers are now under house arrest following a protest against mining pollution in Paso Yobái), August 7, 2025.

[1759] Coordination of Humans Rights of Paraguay (CODEHUPY), *Derechos Humanos en Paraguay 2024* (Human Rights in Paraguay 2024), Asunción: Codehupy, 2024.

[1760] IACHR, Meeting with civil society organizations of Paraguay, November 6, 2025. On IACHR´s files; CODEHUPY, *Derechos Humanos en Paraguay 2024* (Human Rights in Paraguay 2024), Asunción: Codehupy, 2024; Business & Human Rights Resource Center, "Paraguay: Indígenas reclaman la protección de sus territorios frente a desalojos que habrían sido promovidos por la agroindustria" (Paraguay: Indigenous peoples demand protection of their territories against evictions allegedly promoted by the agribusiness sector), September 30, 2025.

776. With regard to the rights of **LGBTI persons**, the Commission notes the demands of the civil society for a comprehensive law against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and specific measures in labor and healthcare contexts, and effective educational policies to prevent violence and harassment.[1761] There has been a constant lack of legal recognition of trans identities, together with hate crimes and barriers to access to justice.[1762] In that context, on October 28, the Juvenile and Family Court of Luque denied a trans student's request to attend school activities wearing the uniform consistent with her gender identity.[1763]

777. With regard to **children and adolescents**, the Ministry of Childhood and Adolescence (MINNA) launched and expanded protection measures during major events and operations to prevent child labor, sexual exploitation and human trafficking, in addition to announcing the expansion of the coverage of the Dispositivo de Respuesta Inmediata (Immediate Response Initiative).[1764] A joint operation rescued 50 indigenous children and adolescents in situations of extreme vulnerability from a tenement house.[1765] During the Week for Rights, the Office of the Ombudsperson received demands directly made by children and adolescents: access to land, decent work for families, mental health, comprehensive sexual education, participation and protection.[1766] It also reported activities to prevent child sexual abuse in schools and municipalities.[1767]

778. According to data from the National Institute of Statistics, 29.5 percent of children and adolescents live in poverty, which amounts to 544,696 people.[1768] Between January and July 2025, the Office of the Public Prosecutor provided assistance to 12,943 child and adolescent victims, with a predominance of cases of sexual abuse, ill-treatment, rape, and child pornography.[1769] Moreover, civil society organizations noted challenges in the access to food at schools and the implementation of educational inclusion policies.[1770] In addition, a public investigation indicated that more than 10,300 girls and adolescents are married or in civil unions across the country.[1771] Criticism was also recorded regarding the slowness of adoption processes due to formalities that allegedly limit their effectiveness.[1772] In that context, the UN concluded that the State is

[1761] *ABC Color*, "Preocupa postura del Estado en torno a organizaciones LGBTIQ+" (There is concern over the State's stance toward LGBTIQ+ organizations), June 28, 2025; *ABC Color (EFE)*, "Comunidad LGTBI denuncia en marcha del Orgullo que Estado paraguayo no garantiza derechos" (During the Pride parade, the LGBTI community claims that the Paraguayan State fails to guarantee their rights), June 28, 2025; *ABC Color*, "Coalición TLGBI+ convoca a marcha para enfrentar al autoritarismo" (Coalición TLGBI+ calls for a march to confront authoritarianism), September 26, 2025.

[1762] *AP News (AP)*, "For Paraguay's transgender women, survival often means leaving home," September 30, 2025.

[1763] *ABC Color*, "Rechazan medida cautelar de alumna trans por discriminación" (Justice rejects precautionary measure of trans student for discrimination), October 28, 2025; *Unicanal*, "Justicia rechazó pedido de estudiante de defender su proyecto con jumper" (The court rejects a student's request to defend her project wearing a jumper), October 28, 2025; *OviedoPress*, "Justicia rechaza pedido de estudiante trans para usar jumper en el colegio" (Justice denies a trans student's request to wear a jumper at school), October 28, 2025.

[1764] State of Paraguay, MINNA, "Inicia Operativo de Protección de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes en el Rally WRC 2025" (Protection Operation for Children and Adolescents is launched at the 2025 WRC Rally), August 28, 2025.

[1765] State of Paraguay, MINNA, "Operativo conjunto protege a 50 niños y adolescentes indígenas en situación de vulnerabilidad" (Joint operation protects 50 indigenous children and adolescents in vulnerable situations), August 22, 2025.

[1766] State Paraguay, Office of the Ombudsperson, "La Defensoría presente en la Semana por los Derechos de niños, niñas y adolescentes" (The Office of the Ombudsperson participates in the Week for the Rights of Children and Adolescents), August 12, 2025; *ABC Color*, "Semana por los Derechos 2025: niñas, niños y adolescentes presentaron sus demandas al Estado" (During the 2025 Week for Rights: Children and adolescents present their demands directly to the State), August 13, 2025.

[1767] State Paraguay, Office of the Ombudsperson, "Delegados impulsan acciones de protección de derechos en todo el País" (Delegates are promoting actions to protect rights nationwide), June 17, 2025.

[1768] *ABC Color*, "ONG alerta sobre la situación de pobreza y violencia en niños y adolescentes de Paraguay" (NGO warns of the situation of poverty and violence affecting children and adolescents in Paraguay), August 16, 2025.

[1769] State of Paraguay, Office of the Public Prosecutor, "De enero a julio de 2025, el Ministerio Público atendió un total de 12.943 niños" (Between January and July 2025, the Office of the Public Prosecutor provided assistance to a total of 12,943 children), August 13, 2025.

[1770] *Última Hora*, "Excluidos: Niños sin escuelas y tampoco alimentos" (Excluded: Children without schools or food), October 14, 2025.

[1771] *ABC Color*, "Más de 10.300 niñas y adolescentes están casadas o 'unidas' en Paraguay" (More than 10,300 girls and adolescents are married or in civil unions in Paraguay), October 15, 2025.

[1772] *ABC Color*, "Ministerio de la Niñez insta a adoptar y ciudadanos reclaman años de espera" (MINNA encourages adoption while citizens claim years of waiting), November 7, 2025.

responsible for human rights violations in the death of two 11-year-old girls during a military operation in 2020, which evidences deficiencies in prevention, investigation and accountability.[1773]

779. In terms of efforts towards **memory, truth and justice**, between January and July, the Directorate of Historical Memory and Reparation conducted 25 investigations into possible unidentified graves, 50 interviews with witnesses and victims of the dictatorship and 31 communications with relatives of disappeared persons. It also carried out explorations in Lambaré and Caaguazú, responded to public information requests, prepared files on disappeared persons and managed the restitution of identified remains.[1774] Apart from organizing its physical and digital archives and coordinating actions with organizations and authorities, the Directorate prepared tributes, cultural activities, publications and the signage of memory sites. Furthermore, it provided economic reparations to the 323 victims recognized under Law No. 838/1996 by means of six rounds of compensations.[1775]

780. In terms of **persons in the context of human mobility**, Paraguay is experiencing sustained growth in the number of residency applications. According to available information, in the first half of 2025 a total of 20,567 temporary and permanent residency procedures were initiated, which accounted for an increase of 51.1 percent compared to the first half of last year, when 13,611 applications were recorded. Applicants are mainly from Brazil and Argentina.[1776]

781. In August, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the National Commission for Stateless Persons and Refugees (CONARE) of Paraguay and the United States Department of Homeland Security and the United States Department of State regarding cooperation on the analysis of protection claims.[1777] According to government statements, the agreement offers asylum seekers currently in the United States the opportunity to process their protection claims in Paraguay, so as to "share the burden of managing illegal immigration while shutting down the abuse of our nation's [the United States] asylum system."[1778] For its part, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay highlighted that the instrument would help manage refugee admission processes in accordance with the country's legislation and under the supervision of the CONARE.[1779]

782. In that regard, the CONARE highlighted that the purpose of the memorandum is to ensure that people seeking protection be transferred "in a dignified, safe and timely manner."[1780] Nevertheless, the lack of resources to handle the processing of the respective asylum applications has been noted.[1781] The coherence of the memorandum has also been questioned, given that the United States Department of State reportedly circulated a report criticizing the human rights situation in Paraguay.[1782] At the time of the drafting of this

[1773] OHCHR, "Paraguay responsible for grave rights violations over deaths of two young girls, UN committee finds," January 22, 2025.

[1774] State of Paraguay, Diplomatic Note MPP/OEA/2/N°196/2025, Ref.: IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, September 8, 2025, Annex I: Ministry of Justice, Note DG.DDHH/N.º281/25, September 2, 2025, pp. 7–9. On IACHR´s files.

[1775] *ABC Color*, "MEF estableció calendario de pagos a víctimas de la dictadura" (The Ministry of Economy and Finance [MEF] establishes the payment schedule for victims of the dictatorship), April 4, 2025; Government of Paraguay, "MEF paga hoy indemnización a sexto grupo del 2025 de Víctimas de la Dictadura" (Today the MEF pays compensation to the sixth group of dictatorship victims in 2025), September 19, 2025.

[1776] National Directorate of Migration, "Migraciones registra un aumento sostenido en las solicitudes de residencia en el primer semestre de 2025" (The National Directorate of Migration records sustained growth in residency applications during the first half of 2025), July 20, 2025.

[1777] State of Paraguay, Presidency of the Republic, "Gobierno del Paraguay firma memorándum de entendimiento con los departamentos de Estado y Seguridad Nacional de EE.UU." (The government of Paraguay signs a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of State and Homeland Security), August 14, 2025.

[1778] United States Department of State, "Signing of a Safe Third Country Agreement with Paraguay," August 14, 2025.

[1779] State of Paraguay, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Paraguay y EE.UU. avanzan en agenda estratégica con nuevo memorando de entendimiento" (Paraguay and the United States advance their strategic agenda with a new memorandum of understanding), August 20, 2025.

[1780] *La Nación*, "Paraguay debe garantizar la inclusión social y económica de refugiados, sostiene titular de Conare" (Paraguay must guarantee the social and economic inclusion of refugees, states the head of the CONARE), August 24, 2025.

[1781] *El Nacional*, "¿Está Paraguay preparado para asumir el rol de 'tercer país seguro'?" (Is Paraguay prepared to assume the role of "safe third country"?), August 31, 2025.

[1782] *El Nacional*, "Incoherencia: Paraguay firma acuerdo de refugiados mientras es aplazado en derechos humanos" (Incoherence: Paraguay signs refugee agreement while facing setbacks in human rights), August 16, 2025.

report, details of the agreement's comprehensive operational framework remained unknown. The Commission has expressed its concern regarding this type of bilateral agreements, which may be contrary to non-derogable human rights obligations.[1783]

783. With regard to **human trafficking**, in June the State proceeded with the establishment of the Executive Secretariat for Human Trafficking, which will coordinate strategic, cross-cutting actions for the prevention and fighting of this crime.[1784] At the same time, the Interinstitutional Roundtable for the Prevention of Human Trafficking signed a memorandum of understanding with France and bilateral initiatives with Bolivia, Peru and Brazil to strengthen victim protection and perpetrator accountability.[1785] In addition, the Study on the Characterization of Human Trafficking in Paraguay, published in June 2025 by the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the UNFPA, revealed that 76 percent of the victims in Paraguay are women, 50 percent are under 18 years of age and 91 percent are nationals.[1786]

784. As for the situation of **persons with disabilities**, the State passed Law No. 7371/2025, which sets forth a comprehensive framework for the protection, inclusion and exercise of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities.[1787] The State moved forward with the development and drafting of Practical Guides on the Application of the Protocol on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities.[1788] Nevertheless, there were complaints regarding the inhuman conditions faced by 14 persons with intellectual disabilities who are serving prison sentences and complying with security measures in psychiatric centers, following an inspection by enforcement judges.[1789]

785. In relation to **older persons**, the Senate approved the State's adherence to the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, which remains under consideration in the Chamber of Deputies.[1790] The Commission commends this progress and urges the State to complete the treaty adherence procedure, particularly in a context of persistent challenges. In that regard, the MNP warned of the urgent need to strengthen public policies to prevent torture and ill-treatment in homes for older adults,[1791] and the Chamber of Deputies accepted requests for information on ill-treatment in nursing homes.[1792] The Office of the Public Prosecutor reported over 1,000 cases of breach of duty of care affecting older persons and persons with disabilities between 2024 and 2025, predominantly in Central and Asunción.[1793]

[1783] IACHR, Press Release No. 190/25, IACHR and United Nations Experts: States must protect the rights of persons in human mobility, September 18, 2025.

[1784] Government of Paraguay, "Instalación de la Secretaría Ejecutiva de Trata de Personas" (Setting up of the Executive Secretariat on Human Trafficking), June 5, 2025.

[1785] Government of Paraguay, "Mesa Interinstitucional impulsa acciones estratégicas contra la trata de personas" (The interinstitutional roundtable advances strategic actions against human trafficking), May 26, 2025.

[1786] UNFPA, "El 76% de las víctimas de trata en Paraguay son mujeres y la mitad tiene menos de 18 años" (76 percent of human trafficking victims in Paraguay are women and half are under 18 years of age), June 12, 2025.

[1787] State of Paraguay, National Congress, Ley Nº 7371/2025 (Law No. 7371/2025), which guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities, July 1, 2025.

[1788] State of Paraguay, Ministry of Justice of Paraguay, Actions *Report by the Ministry of Justice*, Note No. 281/25, September 2, 2025, Annex I, p. 3. On IACHR's files.

[1789] *El Observador*, "Juezas constatan inhumanas condiciones de los reclusos psiquiátricos en Tacumbú" (Enforcement women judges confirm inhuman conditions for psychiatric inmates at Tacumbú), April 7, 2025.

[1790] *ABC Color*, "Senado aprobó Convención sobre personas mayores" (Senate backs adherence to convention on older persons), September 24, 2025.

[1791] MNP, "Urgente fortalecimiento de políticas públicas de prevención de la tortura y malos tratos en hogares de personas adultas mayores" (Urgent strengthening of public policies to prevent torture and ill-treatment in homes for older persons), July 5, 2025.

[1792] Chamber of Deputies, "Tras denuncia de maltratos a un adulto mayor varias instituciones deberán informar" (Following report of ill-treatment of an older adult, several institutions must provide information), July 11, 2025.

[1793] State of Paraguay, Office of the Public Prosecutor, "Violación del deber de cuidado de adultos mayores: Central y Asunción concentran el 61% de las denuncias ingresadas en la Fiscalía durante el 2024 y 2025" (Breach of duty of care toward older adults: Central and Asunción account for 61 percent of complaints filed with the Office of the Attorney General during 2024 and 2025), June 14, 2025.

XXV. PERU[1794]

- **General considerations**

786. In 2025, Peru recorded some **progress** in reducing multidimensional poverty, reflecting government efforts to improve living conditions for people in vulnerable situations. These measures include policies targeting older people and families living in extreme poverty.[1795]

787. However, significant **challenges** persist in terms of democratic institutions and access to justice that may be attributed to actions by the National Congress, including disqualifications allegedly made on political grounds and the removal of President Dina Boluarte for "permanent moral incapacity," making her the sixth president to be removed from office since 2016. This situation is compounded by the enactment of a law granting amnesty to members of the security forces involved in serious human rights violations committed during the internal armed conflict, creating a blatant shield of impunity. This framework, endorsed by the Constitutional Court, is incompatible with the international obligations of the Peruvian State.

788. In light of the human rights situation in Peru and the challenges identified in this section, on July 29, 2025, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights requested the State's consent to conduct an on-site observation visit.[1796] On February 25, 2026, the State of Peru agreed to the IACHR's request to carry out the visit in the second half of 2026.[1797]

789. On September 17, 2025, the State sent information for the preparation of this section.[1798]

- **Specific issues**

790. With respect to **democratic institutions**, on October 9, the National Congress voted to remove President Dina Boluarte from office on grounds of "permanent moral incapacity," based on alleged acts of corruption and dereliction of duty.[1799] The head of state did not participate in the congressional session, and the Speaker of Congress subsequently assumed the presidency. This decision deepened a cycle of political instability marked by repeated recourse to removal from office on grounds of "moral incapacity," which, as the IACHR has noted, lacks a clearly defined list of actions that constitute punishable conduct.[1800] The IACHR also expressed its profound concern regarding the decision of Congress to disqualify Supreme Court Prosecutor Delia Espinoza from the serving in public office for 10 years, following a proceeding that reputedly disregarded the guarantees of tenure and due process applicable to justice operators.[1801] That disqualification, together with other decisions adopted by Congress against prosecutors and members of autonomous bodies, undermines the separation and independence of the branches of government when due process and the principle of legality are not upheld.[1802]

[1794] Commissioners José Luis Caballero and Andrea Pochak approved the report and issued a concurring vote. The vote is presented at the end of this chapter.

[1795] National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI), (2025) Informe de pobreza y desigualdad (Poverty and Inequality Report), Lima, Peru.

[1796] IACHR, Diplomatic Note No. 329-25/CIDH/SE/SEA-MPCT-VIL, July 29, 2025.

[1797] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister's Office, Letter No. 7-3-D/1, February 25, 2026.

[1798] Permanent Mission of Peru to the Organization of American States, Note No. 7-5-M/ 186, October 17, 2025.

[1799] Official Gazette *El Peruano*, Congressional Resolution No. 001/2025-2026-CR, October 10, 2025.

[1800] IACHR, Press Release No. 212/25, IACHR urges Peru to specify the scope of subjective constitutional tools that continue to destabilize its democracy, October 16, 2025.

[1801] IACHR [@CIDH], *#Perú: La #CIDH expresa su profunda preocupación ante la decisión del Congreso de la República de inhabilitar a la Fiscal Suprema Delia…* (#Peru: The #IACHR expresses its deep concern over the decision of the Congress of the Republic to disqualify Supreme Prosecutor Delia...) (tweet), X (formerly Twitter), December 6, 2025, 1999619289750389020, available at https://x.com/CIDH/status/1999619289750389020.

[1802] IACHR, Press Release No. 130/24, 2024, available at: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/jsForm/?File=/en/iachr/media_center/preleases/2024/130.asp.

791. In June 2025, the National Elections Board (Jurado Nacional de Elecciones) ratified two resolutions of the Congress that politically disqualified Martin Vizcarra for alleged conflicts of interest both during his tenure as minister and during his presidential term. These decisions, which prevent him from standing in the 2026 elections, were adopted in a context of increasing concern regarding the possible political weaponization of electoral bodies by Congress.[1803]

792. With regard to **access to justice and judicial independence**, the Peruvian Congress advanced proposed law No. 7549/2023-CR, which sought to grant amnesty to members of the armed forces, the Peruvian National Police, and the self-defense committees who "took part in the fight against terrorism between 1980 and 2000." Following its approval on first reading by the Plenary in June, the bill was ratified by the Standing Committee on July 9 and received presidential assent on August 13, when it was promulgated as Law No. 32.419.[1804]

793. The law grants amnesty to members of these three groups who have been denounced, investigated, or prosecuted for criminal acts arising from or connected with their participation in the internal armed conflict. In addition, it establishes a "humanitarian amnesty" for members of these groups over 70 years of age who are serving a sentence or have received a final custodial sentence for crimes arising from or connected with their participation in the "fight against terrorism" during that period.[1805]

794. Victims and human rights organizations indicate that the law halts ongoing criminal proceedings and relieves persons convicted of crimes under international law of responsibility, thereby affecting decades of efforts to secure justice. They say that hundreds of individuals investigated, prosecuted, or sentenced for extrajudicial executions, torture, forced disappearances, and sexual violence could benefit, placing in jeopardy more than 156 final judgments and approximately 600 ongoing proceedings.[1806] They further caution that the law could facilitate the release from prison of those convicted in cases such as La Cantuta, Barrios Altos, Accomarca, and Cayara, as well as in the murder of Hugo Bustíos. As of August 25, applications had been filed in at least four cases.[1807]

795. Similarly, the IACHR noted with concern the decision of December 5, 2025, by which the Constitutional Court declared unfounded the actions of unconstitutionality filed by the Lima Bar Association and the Public Prosecution Service against Law No. 32107, also known as the Statute of Limitations Law (Ley de Prescripción). The law passed in contravention of express orders issued in 2024 by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, prompting the IACHR to condemn it.[1808] Civil society organizations rejected the Constitutional

[1803] Portal of the Congress of the Republic, Congreso inhabilita por 10 años al expresidente Martín Vizcarra por cierre del Congreso (Congress disqualifies former President Martín Vizcarra for 10 years for the dissolution of Congress), June 11, 2025.

[1804] Congress of the Republic, , June 12, 2025; Congress of the Republic, , July 10, 2025; Congress of the Republic, Promulgan ley del Congreso que concede amnistía para miembros de FF.AA., Policía y comités de autodefensa (Congressional law enacted granting amnesty to members of the Armed Forces, National Police, and self-defense committees), August 13, 2025.

[1805] Republic of Peru, Law No. 32419 of August 14, 2025.

[1806] Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos, El Congreso premia a violadores de derechos humanos y niega justicia a las víctimas. Pronunciamiento (Congress rewards human rights violators and denies justice to victims, Public Statement), June 12, 2025; David Velasco, victims' representative, Public Hearing of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, cases of Barrios Altos and La Cantuta v. Peru, August 21, 2025; Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos, , July 9, 2025; CEJIL, Perú: proyecto de ley de Amnistía representa una seria amenaza al acceso a justicia de víctimas de graves violaciones de derechos humanos (Peru: Amnesty bill represents a serious threat to access to justice for victims of serious human rights violations), June 16, 2025; Ojo Público, July 11, 2025.

[1807] Carlos Rivera, victims' representative, Public Hearing of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, cases of Barrios Altos and La Cantuta v. Peru, August 21, 2025; CEJIL, , August 25, 2025; La República, Poder Judicial: jueces rechazan aplicar ley de amnistía a procesados por la masacre de Chumbivilcas (Judiciary: Judges Refuse to Apply Amnesty Law to Those on Trial for the Chumbivilcas Massacre), September 9, 2025.

[1808] The IACHR followed up on this matter in Chapter IV-A of its 2024 Annual Report. See also IACHR, Press Release No. 206/24, IACHR warns of impacts on access to justice following approval of Peru's law on crimes against humanity, Washington, D.C., United States, September 3, 2024; IACHR, Thematic Hearing, "Peru: Impunity for serious human rights violations during the 1980–2000 armed conflict," 190th session, July 10, 2024; X, CIDH [@CIDH], #Perú: #CIDH manifiesta preocupación por la aprobación en primera votación del Pleno del @congresoperu del Proyecto de Ley 6951/2023-CR, que establece la prescripción de todos los delitos de lesa humanidad y de guerra cometidos antes de 1 de julio de 2002, fecha de la entrada en vigor del Estatuto de Roma en el país. La iniciativa es contraria al derecho internacional y desobedece abiertamente sentencias emitidas por la @CorteIDH y otros instrumentos internacionales, incluido el Estatuto

Court's ruling, stating that it confirmed the Peruvian State's unwillingness to comply with the judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and favored impunity for serious human rights violations.[1809]

796. In connection with **judicial independence**, on June 12, 2025, the National Board of Justice (Junta Nacional de Justicia – JNJ), with its new membership, unanimously adopted resolution No. 231-2025-JNJ, declaring null and void the disciplinary proceedings that had culminated in the dismissal of Patricia Benavides. The decision also provided for her reinstatement not only as Supreme Court Prosecutor, but also as Attorney General, even though the Constitution confers that authority on the Board of Supreme Court Prosecutors (Junta de Fiscales Supremos).[1810] The decision, adopted without public consultation and on legal grounds considered insufficient by experts, was widely questioned by human rights organizations and constitutional law experts, who characterized it as interference in the functional autonomy of the Public Prosecution Service and as a worrying precedent for institutional independence.[1811]

797. Subsequently, in September 2025, the JNJ provisionally suspended Attorney General Delia Espinoza for her alleged refusal to comply with the reinstatement of Benavides; this measure was confirmed in October.[1812] Espinoza sought judicial relief, arguing that the JNJ lacked constitutional authority to appoint Benavides as Attorney General. On November 10, 2025, the Ninth Constitutional Court of Lima ordered Espinoza's immediate reinstatement as Attorney General.[1813] Judicial officials and civil society organizations informed the IACHR that the actions of the JNJ were intended to sow division within the Public Prosecution Service and pave the way for Congress to push through a reform that would weaken its functional autonomy and its capacity to combat corruption.[1814]

798. With respect to **citizen security**, in 2025, Peru recorded its highest levels of violence since 2017, with a sustained increase in homicides. Between July and September 2025, 575 murders were reported—the highest quarterly figure to that point in the year—according to the National Death Information System (Sistema Informático Nacional de Defunciones – SINADEF). That period is already considered the most violent compared with the same period in previous years. Since 2023, the number of homicides has regularly exceeded 400 per quarter, with an average close to 550 over the last six quarters. The escalation in violence reflects a

de Roma; por lo que se insta a las personas congresistas a detener el avance del mencionado Proyecto de Ley (#Peru: #IACHR expresses concern over the approval in a first vote by the Plenary of @congresoperu of Bill 6951/2023-CR, which establishes the statute of limitations for all crimes against humanity and war crimes committed before July 1, 2002, the date of the entry into force of the Rome Statute in the country. The initiative is contrary to international law and openly defies rulings issued by the @CorteIDH and other international instruments, including the Rome Statute; therefore, it urges members of Congress to stop the progress of said Bill), June 10, 2024.

[1809] CEJIL, Perú profundiza su incumplimiento internacional: decisión del Tribunal Constitucional favorece la impunidad, pero no afecta la imprescriptibilidad (Peru deepens its international non-compliance: Constitutional Court decision favors impunity but does not affect the non-applicability of statutes of limitations), Press release, available at: https://cejil.org/comunicado-de-prensa/peru-profundiza-su-incumplimiento-internacional-decision-del-tribunal-constitucional-favorece-la-impunidad-pero-no-afecta-la-imprescriptibilidad/.

[1810] Junta Nacional de Justicia, , June 12, 2025.

[1811] CNDDHH, Reincorporación de Patricia Benavides como Fiscal de la Nación es inconstitucional (Reinstatement of Patricia Benavides as Attorney General is unconstitutional), June 16, 2025. See also IDL, IDL presenta el Informe "Esa resolución no existe" sobre la viciada decisión de la JNJ de reincorporar como Fiscal de la Nación a Patricia Benavides (IDL presents the Report "That resolution does not exist" regarding the flawed JNJ decision to reinstate Patricia Benavides as Attorney General), June 26, 2025; LP, Tres irregularidades sobre la supuesta reposición de Benavides como fiscal de la Nación, según Luciano López (Three irregularities regarding the alleged reinstatement of Benavides as Attorney General, according to Luciano López), June 14, 2025; SERVINDI, Califican de inconstitucional reposición de Benavides (Reinstatement of Benavides described as unconstitutional), June 13, 2025.

[1812] Junta Nacional de Justicia, Resolución No. 163-2025-PLENO-JNJ (Resolution No. 163-2025-PLENO-JNJ), October 22, 2025. See also La República, JNJ no repone a Delia Espinoza como fiscal de la Nación y se niega a cumplir fallo del Poder Judicial (JNJ does not reinstate Delia Espinoza as Attorney General and refuses to comply with the Judiciary's ruling), October 22, 2025.

[1813] Infobae, Delia Espinoza vuelve como fiscal de la Nación: PJ advierte incumplimiento por parte de la JNJ y le ordena reponer a fiscal (Delia Espinoza returns as Attorney General: Judiciary warns of non-compliance by the JNJ and orders the prosecutor's reinstatement), November 10, 2025.

[1814] Meeting with the Attorney General of Peru, June 23, 2025.

worsening problem that warrants urgent attention, and pending data could confirm that 2025 will be the deadliest year in Peru's recent history in terms of homicides.[1815]

799. With regard to the situation of **human rights defenders**, in April 2025, the Peruvian State enacted Law No. 32301 and its implementing regulations, which significantly altered the operating framework of the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (Agencia Peruana de Cooperación Internacional – APCI). The reforms established stricter controls over civil society organizations receiving international funding, including prior authorization requirements, mandatory activity reporting, and comprehensive sanctions.[1816]

800. The reforms establish severe sanctions—including the suspension or cancellation of organizations that fail to comply with the rules governing the use of international funds—and criminalize the use of such resources to pursue judicial or administrative actions against the State. According to several organizations, this has had an intimidating effect, as the APCI has carried out inspections and issued formal requests to civil society organizations, affecting the work of human rights defenders and restricting access to international justice.[1817]

801. At a public hearing held during its 193rd session, the Inter-American Commission received information from civil society organizations warning of the impacts of this law. They include the fact that the law promotes a climate of self-censorship and fear among organizations, prompting many to suspend their participation in public hearings or before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. According to their testimony, even the mere possibility of being sanctioned for litigating human rights cases constitutes a form of institutional repression and a direct threat to the exercise of the right of defense.[1818]

802. With regard to the **rights of women**, progress was made with the consideration in the Congress of bills to provide protection against obstetric violence,[1819] as well as of the draft Law to Promote the Social, Economic, and Participatory Empowerment of Rural and Indigenous Women.[1820] The Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) announced the opening of 10 new Women's Emergency Centers (CEM) to provide services in regions with a high prevalence of violence.[1821] The State also reported on measures to address and investigate cases of sexual violence against Indigenous children and adolescents, including the adoption of an emergency decree allocating funds for the implementation of the National Specialized Justice System (SNEJ) in the province of Condorcanqui.[1822] In addition, the opening of three medical

[1815] Infobae, Perú registra su nivel más violento desde 2017: homicidios en 2025 podrían marcar un récord histórico, según SINADEF (Peru records its most violent level since 2017: homicides in 2025 could reach an all-time high, according to SINADEF), October 2, 2025.

[1816] Government of Peru, Law No. 32301, Law amending Law 27692 (Law creating APCI), April 15, 2025. IACHR, Peru: IACHR expresses serious concern over articles of the law modifying the international cooperation agency, May 12, 2025. See also Government of Peru, , September 13, 2025.

[1817] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Peru: Impacts of the law modifying the creation of the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation," 193rd regular session, July 21, 2025.

[1818] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Peru: Impacts of the law modifying the creation of the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation," 193rd regular session, July 21, 2025; I/A Court H.R., Case of Ramírez Mejía et al. v. Peru, Application of Article 53 of the Rules of Court, Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of July 2, 2025; Case of Mashco Piro, Yora and Amahuaca Indigenous People v. Peru, Application of Article 53 of the Rules of Court, Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of July 2, 2025; Case of Gamboa García et al. v. Peru, Application of Article 53 of the Rules of Court, Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of July 2, 2025; Case of Ramos Durand et al. v. Peru, Application of Article 53 of the Rules of Court, Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of May 2, 2025.

[1819] Proposed law prevent and eradicate institutional violence against women during gynecological and obstetric care. Congress of the Republic of Peru, Proyecto de ley N°11982/2024-CR, July 25, 2025; Proposed law to protect pregnant women against abuse and violence in reproductive health services, with special emphasis on gynecological and obstetric care. Congress of the Republic of Peru, Proposed law No. 12910/2025-CR, October 21, 2025.

[1820] Congress of the Republic of Peru, Propose law No. 04382/2022-CR, August 19, 2025.

[1821] Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, MIMP anuncia nuevas medidas para frenar la violencia contra mujeres y proteger a poblaciones vulnerables (MIMP announces new measures to curb violence against women and protect vulnerable populations), September 8, 2025.

[1822] Government of Peru, Note No. 7-5 M/186, Report of the Peruvian State in response to the request for information from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the preparation of the 2025 Annual Report, IACHR archive, September 17, 2025, p. 24; Government of Peru, Emergency Decree No. 005-2025, May 9, 2025; Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, MIMP refuerza

and legal units and two specialized prosecution units for violence against women and family members in Yutupis and Huampami was announced to investigate complaints against teachers.[1823] In this context, as of March 2025, 616 teachers and 52 administrative staff members had been reported for sexual violence.[1824]

803. In addition, based on the information provided by the State, the IACHR notes an alarming persistence of violence against women, girls, and adolescents.[1825] Between January and September 2025, Women's Emergency Centers (CEM) handled 107,524 cases of violence against women.[1826] The MIMP reported 114 cases with characteristics of femicides, most committed by the victim's partner or former partner;[1827] 211 attempted femicides;[1828] 44,805 cases of psychological violence;[1829] and 22,620 cases of sexual violence, the majority involving girls and adolescents.[1830] In addition, the Office of the Ombudsperson reported a 13 percent increase in alerts about missing women and girls during the first half of 2025, compared to the same period of the previous year,[1831] while the PNP recorded 6,177 reports of missing women of all ages.[1832]

804. Reports were also received of harassment, threats, and physical and sexual violence against migrant domestic workers—particularly of Venezuelan nationality[1833]—and against sex workers,[1834] as well as of obstacles to accessing services and protection mechanisms. The former were reportedly subjected to such violence by employers and landlords, while the latter suffered abuse at the hands of agents of the security forces, criminal groups, and private individuals. There were also reports of repression and physical violence perpetrated by security forces against demonstrators during marches commemorating International Women's Day.[1835]

acciones en Amazonas para enfrentar la violencia contra niñas y mujeres (MIMP strengthens actions in Amazonas to confront violence against girls and women), May 7, 2025.

[1823] Public Prosecution Service, Office of the Attorney General, Fiscalía Especializada en Violencia Contra la Mujer llegará a comunidad awajún en Río Santiago (Specialized Prosecutor's Office for Violence Against Women to reach Awajún community in Río Santiago), August 31, 2025; Official Gazette *El Peruano*, Crean Fiscalías Especializadas en Violencia contra la Mujer y los Integrantes del Grupo Familiar de Río Santiago - Yutupis y de Huampami - Cenepa, así como las Unidades Médico Legales I Santa María de Nieva, Yutupis y Huampami (Creation of Specialized Prosecutor's Offices for Violence Against Women and Family Members in Río Santiago - Yutupis and Huampami - Cenepa, as well as Legal Medicine Units I in Santa María de Nieva, Yutupis, and Huampami), July 1, 2025.

[1824] Ministry of Education, 616 docentes y 52 administrativos han sido denunciados por violencia sexual en Condorcanqui (616 teachers and 52 administrative staff have been reported for sexual violence in Condorcanqui), March 13, 2025.

[1825] Government of Peru, Note No. 7-5 M/186, Report of the Peruvian State in response to the request for information from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the preparation of the 2025 Annual Report, IACHR archive, September 17, 2025, p. 37. IACHR, 2024 Annual Report, Chapter IV.A, March 26, 2025, para. 720; Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Peru, January 31, 2025, para. 24; Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Peru, March 27, 2025, para. 36.

[1826] National Program Warmi Ñan, Statistical Portal, Características de los casos del CEM (Characteristics of Women's Emergency Center (CEM) cases) accessed October 21, 2025.

[1827] National Program Warmi Ñan, Casos con características de feminicidio, Enero-septiembre 2025 (Cases with characteristics of femicide, January-September 2025, accessed on October 21, 2025.

[1828] National Program Warmi Ñan, Casos de tentativa de feminicidio, Enero-septiembre 2025 (Cases of attempted femicide), accessed on October 21, 2025.

[1829] National Program Warmi Ñan, Casos de violencia psicológica, Enero-septiembre 2025 (Cases of psychological violence, January-September 2025), accessed on October 21, 2025.

[1830] National Program Warmi Ñan, Casos de violencia sexual, Enero-septiembre 2025 (Cases of sexual violence, January-September 2025), accessed on October 21, 2025; National Program Warmi Ñan, Casos de violación sexual, Enero-septiembre 2025 (Rape cases, January-September 2025), accessed on October 21, 2025.

[1831] Office of the Ombudsperson of Peru, Defensoría del Pueblo advierte incremento de feminicidios y desaparición de mujeres en primer semestre de 2025 (Ombudsman's Office warns of increase in femicides and disappearance of women in the first half of 2025), July 31, 2025.

[1832] Office of the Ombudsperson, Reporte Igualdad y No Violencia, ¿Qué pasó con ellas? (Equality and Non-Violence Report: What happened to them?) June 2025.

[1833] Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Peru,* 23 January 2025, paras. 51 and 67.

[1834] RedTrasex Perú et al., 193rd regular session, Request for Hearing on the Rights of Sex Workers in Peru, IACHR archive, April 23, 2025, p. 4; Corresponsables Clave, Nos están dejando solas": trabajadoras sexuales denuncian abandono en Lima y Callao ("They are leaving us alone": sex workers denounce abandonment in Lima and Callao), June 9, 2025; InSight Crime, Las mujeres que trabajan en la calle (Women working on the streets), February 13, 2025.

[1835] Infobae, Violencia y detenciones en el 8M: PNP reprime con gas pimienta y golpes a manifestantes en la Plaza San Martín (Violence and arrests on 8M: PNP represses protesters with pepper spray and physical force in Plaza San Martín), March 8, 2025.

805. In this context, initiatives continue to be promoted that seek to dilute the specialized approach required to combat violence and discrimination against women.[1836] For example, a bill was introduced to transfer Women's Emergency Centers (CEM) and their budget—currently under the MIMP—to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and to rename them Emergency Women and Family Centers (CEMF).[1837] In addition, the initiative entitled "New Law on Equal Opportunities between Women and Men" was introduced, which would replace the gender-based approach with a concept of equal opportunities based solely on sex.[1838] Similarly, bills were presented to criminalize alleged "false complaints" and the "simulation of aggression" in family violence proceedings.[1839] The IACHR emphasizes that such initiatives presuppose a biased assessment of survivors' credibility and may discourage them from seeking judicial protection, thereby leaving them in a situation of heightened vulnerability. Furthermore, information has been received concerning cases of judicial harassment against women who reported gender-based violence.[1840]

806. During the first half of 2025, 90 cases of maternal death among girls and adolescents were recorded.[1841] These figures occurred in a context of limited access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning methods, emergency oral contraception, gynecological and obstetric care, and postabortion care, especially for irregular migrants and other vulnerable groups.[1842] Furthermore, although the Technical Guide on Therapeutic Abortion was modified to include the consent of adolescents for the procedure and to govern the conscientious objection of medical personnel,[1843] the previous amendment that eliminated the grounds related to the mental health of the pregnant woman in cases of pregnancies resulting from rape or fetal malformations incompatible with life remains in force.[1844]

807. With respect to **LGBTI** persons, in 2025 the judiciary convicted an individual of the crime of discrimination against an LGBTI person, imposing a sentence of two years' imprisonment and the payment of civil reparations.[1845] In addition, the State reported the approval of the "Guide for the Use of Inclusive Language in Public Entities," adopted by Ministerial Resolution No. 125-2025-MIMP and published on April 2, 2025. The

[1836] Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, ¿Sabías que los Centros Emergencia Mujer (CEM) ahora se llaman Centros Emergencia Mujer y Familia? (Did you know that the Women's Emergency Centers (CEM) are now called Women and Family Emergency Centers?]), September 21, 2025; Infobae, Ministra de la Mujer anuncia que se cambiará de nombre el Centro de Emergencia Mujer "para atender también a la familia" (Minister of Women announces the renaming of the Women's Emergency Center "to also serve the family"), September 11, 2025.

[1837] Congress of the Republic of Peru, Proposed law 7466/2023-CR April 15, 2025; Infobae, Congreso aprueba traslado de los CEM al Ministerio de Justicia: alertan riesgo para víctimas de violencia de género (Congress approves the transfer of CEMs to the Ministry of Justice: experts warn of risks for victims of gender-based violence), May 22, 2025.

[1838] Congress of the Republic of Peru, Committee on Women and the Family, Opinion on Proposed law No. 8731/2024-CR, proposing, with a substitute text, the "New Law on Equal Opportunities between Women and Men," IACHR archive, October 2025, pp. 2 and 3; Caretas, Congreso avanza con nueva ley de igualdad entre mujeres y hombres (ongress advances with a new law on equality between women and men), October 5, 2025.

[1839] Congress of the Republic of Peru, Proposed law No. 11561/2024-CR June 12, 2025; Congress of the Republic of Peru, Proposed law No. 11786/2024-CR, June 30, 2025.

[1840] Proyecta Igualdad et al., 193rd regular session, Request for a thematic hearing titled "Abuso de herramientas judiciales contra víctimas y denunciantes de violencia de género" (Misuse of judicial mechanisms against victims and persons reporting gender-based violence), IACHR archive, April 22, 2025.

[1841] Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Peru, January 31, 2025, para. 34; Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Peru, March 27, 2025, para. 50; Office of the Ombudsperson, Huánuco: Defensoría del Pueblo exige atención urgente y coordinación eficaz tras muerte de adolescente que dio a luz en su Vivienda (Huánuco: Ombudsman's Office demands urgent attention and effective coordination following the death of an adolescent who gave birth at home), August 8, 2025; Ministry of HealthSalud, Situación de la mortalidad materna 2025 (Situation of maternal mortality 2025), June 28, 2025.

[1842] Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Peru,* 23 January 2025, para. 47; Infobae, Juez prohíbe abortar a menor de 16 años y dicta medidas de protección para feto: padre del nonato presentó denuncia (Judge prohibits 16-year-old minor from having an abortion and orders protection measures for the fetus: the unborn's father filed a complaint), April 4, 2025.

[1843] Ministry of Health, Ministerial Resolution No. 427-2025-MINSA, June 28, 2025.

[1844] National Maternal and Perinatal Institute, Resolución Directoral N.° 200-2025-DG/INMP, June 5, 2025; Infobae, Guía de aborto terapéutico es modificada en Perú: estos son los cambios que preocupan a expertos (Therapeutic abortion guide is modified in Peru: these are the changes that concern experts), June 27, 2025.

[1845] Infobae, Exintegrante de Zaperoko cumplirá condena por discriminar a un miembro de la comunidad LGBT (Former member of Zaperoko to serve sentence for discriminating against a member of the LGBT community), March 19, 2025; El Popular, Exintegrante de Zaperoko es CONDENADO por DISCRIMINACIÓN contra un miembro de la comunidad LGBT (Former member of Zaperoko is CONVICTED for DISCRIMINATION against a member of the LGBT community), March 19, 2025.

guide establishes guidelines for public entities to adopt language that makes women and historically excluded groups visible, thereby promoting institutional communication with a gender and diversity perspective. The resolution abrogates previous versions and provides that the MIMP (Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations) will supervise its implementation.[1846]

808. At the same time, in January the "Muñante" bill was introduced to eliminate the term "gender" from legislation, restricting its meaning to the biological difference between men and women and excluding interpretations based on gender identity or sexual orientation.[1847] In May, Law No. 32331 was enacted, prohibiting transgender persons from using public restrooms in accordance with their gender identity.[1848] That same month, Congresswoman Susel Paredes, an openly lesbian woman, reported having been verbally abused for promoting the rights of transgender persons. The Ethics Committee approved the opening of an investigation against her for advocating that transgender persons be allowed to use bathrooms in accordance with their gender identity.[1849] In addition, civil society organizations reported that official medical protocols continue to promote irreversible and non-consensual genital surgeries on intersex children.[1850] There were also reports of shortages of antiretroviral drugs, which disproportionately affect people living with HIV.[1851]

809. Regarding the **rights of persons with disabilities**, the Peruvian State reported progress in mainstreaming the disability perspective in public and private entities in order to provide comprehensive care to this population.[1852] Information was also provided on the modification of the *Guía Técnica para el Trato Adecuado a las Personas con Discapacidad* (Technical Guide for the Appropriate Treatment of Persons with Disabilities), incorporating concepts from the social model of disability, universal accessibility, and specific guidelines for people with deafblindness.[1853] The State also completed consultation processes for the implementation of the System of Supports and Safeguards for the Exercise of Legal Capacity and the Strategy for the Deinstitutionalization of Social Protection Services, ensuring the direct participation of organizations of persons with disabilities.[1854] In addition, the State reported on the activities of the National Council for the

[1846] Republic of Peru, Note No. 7-5 M/186, Report of the Peruvian State in response to the request for information from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the preparation of the annual report, 344-25/CIDH/SE/MPCT-IA, IACHR archive, September 17, 2025.

[1847] PL-10082-2024-CR, Law interpreting the fifth paragraph of Article 191 of the Political Constitution of Peru regarding the term "gender," submitted on January 30, 2025; IDEHPUCP, Proyecto Muñante: Los riesgos de eliminar el término "género" de la legislación peruana (The Muñante Bill: The risks of eliminating the term "gender" from Peruvian legislation), March 4, 2025; Infobae, "Que 'género' se use solo para hombre y mujer": Presentan proyecto de ley para interpretar término en la Constitución ("Let 'gender' be used only for man and woman": A bill is introduced to interpret the term in the Constitution), February 4, 2025.

[1848] Presentes, En Perú prohíben a personas trans usar baños públicos acordes a su identidad de género: «Es una ley transfóbica» (In Peru, trans people are prohibited from using public bathrooms according to their gender identity: "It is a transphobic law"), May 15, 2025; Infobae, Congreso aprueba norma que atenta contra el derecho de las personas trans a usar baños públicos (Congress approves a rule that threatens the right of trans people to use public bathrooms), February 20, 2025.

[1849] AVT, Comisión de Ética aprueba investigar a Susel Paredes por promover que personas transgénero usen baño de mujeres (Ethics Committee approves investigation of Susel Paredes for promoting transgender people's use of women's bathrooms), May 13, 2025; Infobae, Susel Paredes es denunciada ante la Comisión de Ética por permitir el uso de baños de damas por personas trans (Susel Paredes is denounced before the Ethics Committee for allowing the use of ladies' restrooms by trans people), April 12, 2025.

[1850] Presentes, Perú promueve la mutilación a infancias intersex (Peru promotes the mutilation of intersex children), June 19, 2025; Infobae, Perú promueve que infancias intersexuales sean sometidas a mutilaciones, denuncian activistas y expertos (Peru promotes that intersex children undergo mutilations, activists and experts denounce), June 18, 2025.

[1851] Infobae, Alerta por desabastecimiento de medicamentos contra el VIH: "Están quemando etapas del tratamiento antirretroviral" (Alert over HIV medication shortages: "They are burning through stages of antiretroviral treatment"), January 22, 2025; Infobae, Desabastecimiento de retrovirales en Perú: más de 150 personas con VIH denuncian vulneración a su derecho a la salud (Retroviral shortage in Peru: more than 150 people with HIV denounce the violation of their right to health), July 15, 2025.

[1852] Report of the Peruvian State in response to the request for information from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the preparation of the 2025 Annual Report, p. 36. Permanent Mission of Peru to the Organization of American States, Note No. 7-5-M/186, September 17, 2025. IACHR archive.

[1853] Report of the Peruvian State in response to the request for information from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the preparation of the 2025 Annual Report, p. 26. Permanent Mission of Peru to the Organization of American States, Note No. 7-5-M/186, September 17, 2025. IACHR archive.

[1854] Report of the Peruvian State in response to the request for information from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the preparation of the 2025 Annual Report, p. 26. Permanent Mission of Peru to the Organization of American States, Note No. 7-5-M/186, September 17, 2025. IACHR archive.

Integration of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS), which conducted research and technical oversight regarding access to the disability certificate.[1855]

810. In terms of challenges, recent research has found that 77 percent of persons with disabilities are unable to access formal employment due to the persistence of social, physical, and attitudinal barriers that limit their full participation in the labor market.[1856] Furthermore, concern was expressed regarding new amendments to the General Law on Persons with Disabilities, which tends toward the institutionalization of this population through the establishment of specialized temporary and permanent shelters.[1857]

811. Regarding the situation of **persons in the context of human mobility**, on September 15, 2025, the *Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones* (Migration Authority) initiated a migrant regularization process. The process will run until the end of 2025 and targets migrants who have overstayed their authorized period of stay, but it does not apply to those who entered the country irregularly.[1858] According to public information, the program could benefit 480,000 people residing in Peru with expired residence permits.[1859]

812. In addition, in the course of the year regulatory reforms were adopted that impact the rights of migrants. In June, Law No. 32.372 was enacted, amending the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Enforcement to facilitate expulsion procedures. In particular, the law limits guarantees of due process and access to justice, authorizes the director of the penitentiary facility to expel migrants deprived of liberty, and allows the confiscation of assets or the extinction of ownership of the assets of the expelled migrant for the purpose of civil reparation.[1860]

813. Likewise, the Nationality Law (No. 32.421), published in August, made it harder to obtain Peruvian nationality through naturalization.[1861] The regulation increases the required period of residence from two to five years and requires both general knowledge and language tests. In addition, applicants must demonstrate annual income equivalent to ten tax units (UIT). According to available information, this amount is equivalent to four minimum monthly wages, and no technical criteria have been identified to justify this requirement.[1862]

814. In the area of **human trafficking**, the State reported that, in the first half of 2025,[1863] activities such as a virtual course on human trafficking and cybercrime, and the publication of the Operational Guide for the Investigation of the Crime of Human Trafficking 2025 were carried out; both reached 3,512 public servants.

[1855] Report of the Peruvian State in response to the request for information from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the preparation of the 2025 Annual Report, p. 23. Permanent Mission of Peru to the Organization of American States, Note No. 7-5-M/186, September 17, 2025. IACHR archive.

[1856] PUC, El 77% de personas con discapacidad en el Perú no accede a puestos de trabajo (77% of people with disabilities in Peru do not have access to Jobs), August 9, 2025.

[1857] Human Rights Watch, New Peru Legislation Threatens Disability Rights April 24, 2025.

[1858] Peruvian State platform, Migraciones inicia proceso de formalización migratoria: no aplica para extranjeros con ingreso irregular (Migraciones begins migration formalization process: does not apply to foreigners with irregular entry), September 2, 2025.

[1859] SwissInfo, Perú busca regularizar a 480.000 extranjeros que viven en el país con permisos vencidos (Peru seeks to regularize 480,000 foreigners living in the country with expired permits), September 15, 2025; Infobae, Formalización de extranjeros: Migraciones inició proceso para migrantes que ingresaron al Perú de manera regular (Formalization of foreigners: Migraciones began process for migrants who entered Peru regularly), September 16, 2025.

[1860] Official Gazette *El Peruano*, Law No. 32.372 que modifica el Código Penal, Decreto Legislativo 635, y el Código de Ejecución Penal, Decreto Legislativo 654, para facilitar la expulsión de extranjeros y fortalecer la seguridad ciudadana (Law No. 32.372 amending the Penal Code, Legislative Decree 635, and the Penal Execution Code, Legislative Decree 654, to facilitate the expulsion of foreigners and strengthen citizen security), June 7, 2025.

[1861] Official Gazette *El Peruano*, Ley No. 32.421 de Nacionalidad (Nationality Law No. 32.421), August 15, 2025.

[1862] Infobae, Ley de nacionalidad peruana: extranjeros deberán ganar cuatro sueldos mínimos al mes para naturalizarse (Peruvian Nationality Law: foreigners must earn four minimum wages per month to naturalize), August 27, 2025; Instituto de Democracia ya Derechos Humanos PUCP, Nancy Arellano: "la migración es una lupa: revela las contradicciones que también viven los peruanos" (Nancy Arellano: "migration is a magnifying glass: it reveals the contradictions that Peruvians also experience"), August 19, 2025.

[1863] Republic of Peru, Report of the Peruvian State in response to the request for information from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the preparation of the 2025 Annual Report.

The Commission also takes note of the establishment of bilateral commitments with Ecuador[1864] and Bolivia[1865] aimed at enhancing the capacities of justice operators and judicial personnel, and strengthening strategies for criminal prosecution, as well as the protection, assistance, and reintegration of victims. At the same time, the IACHR welcomes the approval, in February, of the Annual Operational Plan 2025 of the Regional Government of Arequipa,[1866] which establishes actions focused on the prevention of human trafficking, the protection of victims, and support for witnesses.

815. In relation to the rights of **indigenous peoples**, the Commission recognizes the efforts undertaken to carry out the Fourth Census of Indigenous Communities in order to update and expand available statistics.[1867] However, indigenous organizations reported the lack of participation of their representatives in the multisectoral commission responsible for ensuring a culturally appropriate methodology.[1868]

816. The Commission is also concerned about the continued occurrence of conflicts arising from the expansion of extractive activities and their environmental impact, particularly the contamination of drinking water sources used by communities. The Commission took note of the strike and blockade organized in Loreto by the peoples of Bajo Tigre due to the presence of mercury in the Tigre River as a result of illegal mining;[1869] and of the modification of the environmental impact assessment submitted by the company Petrotal for the expansion of operations in Block 95, without conducting processes of prior, free, and informed consultation to obtain the consent of the communities concerned.[1870]

817. According to data from the National Penitentiary Institute (INPE), as of June 2025 there were 102,787 **persons deprived of liberty** housed in facilities with a combined capacity of 41,764. These figures indicate an overcrowding rate of 146 percent, an increase of 11 percentage points over the rate documented at June 2024.[1871] In this context, the Constitutional Court issued a ruling on May 23, 2025, extending until 2030 the deadline for adopting measures to overcome the unconstitutional state of affairs regarding the "permanent and critical overcrowding of penitentiary establishments."[1872] For its part, the State announced the continuation of the construction of a penitentiary facility in the district of Santiago, Ica, which will have capacity for more than 3,000 inmates.[1873]

818. In addition, in its most recent annual report the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (MNPT) indicated that structural corruption persists in Peruvian prisons, combined with the internal exercise of power by some detainees. In this context, decisions to place persons in isolation reportedly lack legitimacy in many cases, and individuals who are perceived as troublesome by pavilion representatives are reportedly kept there. In addition, these spaces, known as "latas" (cans), lack beds, have poor infrastructure

[1864] Government of Peru, Poderes Judiciales de Perú y Ecuador unen fuerzas contra la trata de personas (Judicial branches of Peru and Ecuador join forces against human trafficking), April 26, 2025.
[1865] Government of Peru, Perú y Bolivia renuevan compromiso de lucha contra la trata de personas (Peru and Bolivia renew commitment to the fight against human trafficking), April 28, 2025.
[1866] Government of Peru, Aprueban plan de trabajo 2025 para combatir la trata de personas en Arequipa (2025 work plan approved to combat human trafficking in Arequipa), February 13, 2025.
[1867] National Institute of Statistics and Informatics, En el año 2025 el INEI ejecutará los Censos Nacionales XIII de Población, VIII de Vivienda y IV de Comunidades Indígenas (In 2025, INEI will conduct the XIII National Population, VIII Housing, and IV Indigenous Communities Censuses), June 25, 2024.
[1868] Servindi, Pueblos indígenas excluidos del Censo 2025 (Indigenous peoples excluded from the 2025 Census), March 25, 2025.
[1869] Infobae, Loreto: comunidades indígenas del río Tigre reportan heridos en paro indefinido contra minería ilegal (Loreto: indigenous communities of the Tigre River report injuries in an indefinite strike against illegal mining), August 28, 2025; Office of the Ombudsperson of Peru, Reporte de conflictos sociales N° 258 (Social Conflicts Report No. 258), August 2025.
[1870] Information provided to the IACHR by indigenous organizations, IACHR archive; Office of the Ombudsperson of Peru, Reporte de conflictos sociales N°258 (Social Conflicts Report No. 258), Augst 2025.
[1871] National Penitentiary Institute – Prison Statistics Information System (SIEP), Government of Peru, Población Penal – Situación Actual de la Capacidad de Albergue y Sobrepoblación (Prison Population – Current Status of Housing Capacity and Overcrowding), June 2025; and Población Penal – Situación Actual de la Capacidad de Albergue y Sobrepoblación (Prison Population – Current Status of Housing Capacity and Overcrowding), June 2024.
[1872] Constitutional Court, Government of Peru, Exp. No. 05436-2014-PHC/TC, Judgment of May 23, 2025.
[1873] Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Government of Peru, MINJUSDH presentó ante empresas proyecto para continuar construcción del Megapenal de Ica (MINJUSDH presented project to companies to continue construction of the Ica Megaprison), June 12, 2025.

and hygiene conditions, and ventilation is almost nonexistent. Another area of concern is the lack of attention to the specific needs of women. This is reflected, among other practices, in stricter requirements for conjugal visits, as well as in the provision of social reintegration opportunities, which are limited to activities associated with roles traditionally assigned to women.[1874]

819. Cases identified by the Office of the Ombudsperson in 2025 reflect delays by the National Police in transferring to the competent courts persons held at judiciary jails, which are intended for temporary custody of up to 48 hours. It was even documented that a group of persons had not been brought before the authorities for more than 50 days, as a result of which their legal situation had not been resolved.[1875]

820. As of September 7, the Office of the Ombudsperson had assisted more than 26,000 minor children of persons deprived of liberty through its "Rompiendo Cadenas" program, aimed at ensuring the rights of children and adolescents whose parents, guardians, or caregivers are in prison.[1876] This has enabled their inclusion in social programs, health services, and education.[1877] However, the Commission notes with concern that, as documented by that body, children living with their mothers in prison face challenges in terms of access to health care, food, early stimulation, and adequate spaces for their development. In response to this situation, in August an interinstitutional working group was established with the participation of various ministries and the Office of the Ombudsperson.[1878]

XXVI. SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

- **General considerations**

821. As it relates to **progress**, the IACHR highlights the State's success in the reduction of homicides and the passage of new legislation to further suppress criminal activity. In addition, the IACHR takes note of the amendment of legislation to strengthen good governance. Moreover, the Commission welcomes legislation passed by the State which seeks to improve efficiency within the criminal justice system. The IACHR also notes the State's ratification the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

822. As it relates to **challenges**, the persistence of corporal punishment against children, as a lawful practice in the State; and notes that the minimum age of criminal responsibility is not aligned with international standards.

[1874] National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, Government of Peru, Noveno Informe Anual (Ninth Annual Report), May 2025.

[1875] Office of the Ombudsperson, Government of Peru, Loreto: Defensoría del Pueblo exige que personas detenidas en carceleta del Poder Judicial sean trasladadas a juzgados que ordenaron sus detenciones (Loreto: Ombudsman's Office demands that persons detained in the Judicial Power's lockup be transferred to the courts that ordered their detentions), July 15, 2025.

[1876] Office of the Ombudsperson, Government of Peru, Defensoría del Pueblo y Cuna Más evalúan situación de niñas y niños de 0 a 3 años que viven con sus madres en centros penitenciarios (Ombudsman's Office and Cuna Más evaluate the situation of children aged 0 to 3 living with their mothers in penitentiary centers), August 18, 2025; see also, Defensoría del Pueblo alerta sobre precarias condiciones de niños que permanecen con sus madres en Establecimiento Penitenciario de Mujeres en Huanta (Ombudsman's Office alerts about precarious conditions of children staying with their mothers in the Women's Penitentiary Establishment in Huanta), March 4, 2025.

[1877] Office of the Ombudsperson, Government of Peru, Defensoría del Pueblo: programa "Rompiendo Cadenas" logra importantes avances a dos años de su implementación para abordar derechos de sectores más vulnerables (Ombudsman's Office: "Rompiendo Cadenas" program achieves significant progress two years after its implementation to address the rights of the most vulnerable sectors), September 7, 2025.

[1878] Office of the Ombudsperson, Government of Peru, Defensoría del Pueblo y Cuna Más evalúan situación de niñas y niños de 0 a 3 años que viven con sus madres en centros penitenciarios (Ombudsman's Office and Cuna Más evaluate the situation of children aged 0 to 3 living with their mothers in penitentiary centers), August 18, 2025; see also, Defensoría del Pueblo alerta sobre precarias condiciones de niños que permanecen con sus madres en Establecimiento Penitenciario de Mujeres en Huanta (Ombudsman's Office alerts about precarious conditions of children staying with their mothers in the Women's Penitentiary Establishment in Huanta), March 4, 2025.

823. The State did not respond to the request for information to draft this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

824. With regards to **democratic institutionality**, the IACHR notes that in February, the Parliament passed the amendment to the Integrity in Public Life Act which seeks to strengthen good governance, transparency and accountability in the State by improving the consistency, and functionality in all State bodies and offices. This amendment includes refined definitions, strengthened requirements for financial disclosure by public officials, and extended discretion of the Integrity Commission to grant deadline extensions under justified circumstances.[1879]

825. Regarding **human rights institutions**, according to official information, the Attorney General's Office, in partnership with the Caribbean Community Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, hosted a training workshop for State attorneys to build capacity in integrating international human rights standards into their prosecutorial and civil advisory practice. The workshop focused on upholding legal safeguards during arrest and pre-trial procedures, ensuring fair trial rights and prosecutorial accountability, and maintaining the independence of justice actors.[1880]

826. Regarding **citizen security**, the IACHR notes that as of December 18, 2025, the State had recorded six homicides, representing a 78% decrease compared to the 28 homicides recorded during the same period in 2024.[1881] According to official sources, this reduction has been linked to the State's public health approach to crime and violence adopted in 2024, which focuses on the root causes of crime such as poverty, lack of education and mental health and treats crime as a symptom of deeper social imbalances rather than relying on punitive measures.[1882]

827. In addition, in relation to crime suppression measures, the State passed the Gang (Prohibition and Prevention) (Amendment) Bill, 2025 to further address the threat of organised crime violence. According to official information, the legislation seeks to strengthen the existing legal framework by expanding definitions, increasing penalties, introducing new offences, and clarifying procedures to combat gang-related crime. New offences under the Bill include impersonating a law enforcement officer and retaliating against those cooperating with authorities. The State emphasised that while the Bill introduces firm legal consequences, its focus is also preventative and rehabilitative.[1883]

828. With regards to **access to justice**, the Commission notes the passage of the Plea Negotiations and Agreements Bill, 2024, which seeks to improve efficiency within the criminal justice system. According to the State, this legislation prescribes a structured legal framework for just unbiassed plea negotiations and expedited case resolutions.[1884] Moreover, in July, the State successfully passed the amendment to Judge Alone Trials Act, which seeks to further modernize and strengthen its justice system. Among the key changes to the legislation is the clarification of procedures regarding when judge alone trials are mandatory and the expansions of the scope for either the prosecution or the defense to request a judge alone trial in non-scheduled

[1879] St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service, Federal Parliament Passes Integrity In Public Life (Amendment) Bill, 2025, to further strengthen Good Governance in Saint Kitts and Nevis, March 21, 2025.
[1880] St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service, Justice Ministry Builds Momentum on Human Rights-Based Justice Reform with UN Training for Crown Counsels, July 29, 2025.
[1881] St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service, Homicides in Saint Kitts and Nevis Fall Sharply as Public Health Approach to Crime Takes Hold, December 18, 2025.
[1882] St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service, Significant Reduction in Crime and Homicides in Saint Kitts and Nevis, July 7, 2025; IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "St. Kitts and Nevis", 2024, para. 739.
[1883] St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service, Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew urges Youth to choose a Better Path, as Government passes Stronger Anti-Gang Legislation, July 24, 2025.
[1884] St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service, Plea Negotiations and Agreements Bill, 2024, Successfully Passed Into Law, January 30, 2025.

matters, based on specific conditions such as the risk of jury tampering, undue trial delays, or case complexity.[1885]

829. With respect to the rights of **children**, the Commission takes note of the observations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the persistence of corporal punishment as a lawful practice in St. Kitts and Nevis. The Committee recommended updating the national strategy and adopting an Action Plan to prevent and eradicate this form of violence. It also recommended strengthening prevention and care mechanisms to ensure protection against sexual abuse. Furthermore, the Committee expressed concern about the minimum age of criminal responsibility, which allows for the prosecution of children as young as 10 years old in cases of serious crimes, and urged the State to raise this age to at least 14, in line with international standards.[1886]

830. Regarding **women's human rights**, the State reinforced its commitment to strengthening judicial response to cases of gender-based violence. Efforts are being made to encourage reporting, provide comprehensive support to survivors across legal, social and health dimensions, and promote unbiased trauma-informed approaches through gender-sensitive training for police, judicial officers and prosecutors.[1887] At the same time, the IACHR shares the Committee on the Rights of the Child's concern over ongoing challenges to adolescent health, particularly the limited availability of age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and education, the high incidence of early pregnancy, the criminalization of abortion, and limited access to contraceptives.[1888]

831. Regarding **trafficking in persons**, the IACHR takes note that in May, the State took steps toward modernizing its border management system with the passage of the Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Bill of 2025. The Bill aims to enhance national security, meet global aviation standards and facilitate international cooperation in areas such as human trafficking prevention.[1889]

832. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, according to available data, the State took steps to deepen Africa–Caribbean cooperation and to modernize security and mobility systems with potential benefits for Afro-descendant communities. In particular, the Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Nigeria on cultural exchange and to facilitate direct Africa–Caribbean trade.[1890] Also, Parliament passed the Industrial Designs Bill 2025, replacing a 1930 colonial law and creating local intellectual property protection to empower creators.[1891]

833. Regarding the rights of **LGBTI persons**, in a study on Police Interactions with LGBTI+ Persons in the Eastern Caribbean, with some respondents from St Kitts and Nevis, highlighted that some officers appeared to view LGBTI+ individuals as less deserving of protection, leading to mistrust and avoidance of law enforcement. The study also disclosed a lack of any formal LGBTI+ training programs for law enforcement officers, relying instead on generalized diversity training that does not address specific challenges faced by LGBTI+ persons.[1892]

[1885] St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service, Parliament passes Judge Alone Trials (Amendment) Bill, 2025, to Strengthen Justice System, July 24, 2025; Judge Alone Trials (Amendment) Bill, 2025, July 8, 2025.

[1886] UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Saint Kitts and Nevis*, CRC/C/KNA/CO/2, February 26, 2025.

[1887] Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs, in response to article 18 letter "REF: Situation of access to justice with a gender perspective. Regional study", submitted electronically on May 2025, p. 30, 35, 39 and 41. On IACHR´s files.

[1888] Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Saint Kitts and Nevis*, CRC/C/KNA/CO/2, January 31, 2025, p. 48.

[1889] Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Kitts and Nevis Strengthens Border Security with Passage of ETA Amendment Bill, May 22, 2025.

[1890] SKNIS, Saint Kitts and Nevis strengthens ties with Africa through landmark MoU with Warri Kingdom, April 7, 2025; SKNIS, Saint Kitts and Nevis signs MOU with Nigeria's Green Economic Zone to establish African-Caribbean Atlantic Cooperation, April 2, 2025.

[1891] SKNIS, Historic Industrial Designs Bill 2025 passed to empower creators and align Saint Kitts and Nevis with global IP standards, July 31, 2025.

[1892] ECADE in partnership with Caribbean Development Research Services, Police Interactions with LGBTQ+ Persons in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean: A Comprehensive Analysis (2024-25), April 25, 2025.

834. With respect to **persons with disabilities**, Saint Kitts and Nevis made significant progress in advancing the human rights of this population following its ratification of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.[1893] Additionally, a new Disabilities Bill is in the process of drafting, with both the policy and legislation expected to be completed by December 2025. This initiative aims to strengthen protections and empower persons with disabilities, addressing the unique challenges they face.[1894]

835. Regarding the rights of **older persons**, Saint Kitts and Nevis became a State Party to the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons in 2025 by depositing its legal instrument of ratification on May 28.[1895] Further, on the International Day of Older Persons, commemorated on October 1, State authorities highlighted older persons' contributions to national development by driving local and global action. The State noted that it continues to heavily invest in the well-being of older citizens, through strengthened health care services, senior recreational programs, and targeted social support to ensure that every older person enjoys a life of comfort, dignity, and respect.[1896]

836. With respect to **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission values the partnership between His Majesty's Prison and the St. Kitts and Nevis Defence Force, which provides inmates with training in automotive mechanics, welding, and agriculture, and includes supervised construction projects.[1897] The IACHR also welcomes the initiative of the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs and the Office of the Attorney General, which in July organized a two-day training workshop for prison officers on international standards and best practices regarding the rights of persons deprived of liberty. As part of the program, site visits were carried out to Her Majesty's Prison in St. Kitts and the Prison Farm in Nevis to assess current conditions and challenges in the facilities.[1898]

837. Regarding the **death penalty**, the IACHR notes that it remains a lack of progress related to the removal of the mandatory death penalty, despite the fact that no executions have been carried out since 2008. In addition, there is no person awaiting execution currently, and no new sentences of death have been imposed.[1899]

XXVII. SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

- **General considerations**

838. As it relates to **progress**, the Commission notes the launch of an initiative to improve child protection and mental health in schools nationwide. In addition, the IACHR takes note of the implementation of the agreement on the free movement of persons with specific countries of the Caribbean Community. Moreover, the Commission welcomes the proposed establishment of a dedicated Disability Unit and the implementation of a mental health program within His Majesty's Prison.

839. As it relates to **challenges**, the IACHR takes note that a National Human Rights Institution has yet to be established. Moreover, the Commission also highlights alleged incidents of excessive use of force by

[1893] IACHR, Press release No. 117, IACHR welcomes St. Kitts and Nevis' ratified two key Conventions on human rights on older persons and persons with disabilities, June 10, 2025.
[1894] Embassy of St. Kitts and Nevis to the USA and Permanent Mission to the OAS, Saint Kitts and Nevis Accedes to Key Inter-American Conventions on Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons, May 29, 2025.
[1895] IACHR, Press Release, No. 177/15, IACHR welcomes St. Kitts and Nevis' ratified two key Conventions on human rights on older persons and persons with disabilities, June 10, 2025.
[1896] WINN FM, NIA Health Minister says Older People Drive National Development in address, October 3, 2025.
[1897] St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service , Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, HMP and SKNDF Partnership Strengthens Inmate Rehabilitation Through Skill Training, June 6, 2025.
[1898] St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service – Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Justice Ministry Champions Human Rights with Site Visits and Training for Prison Officers, July 25, 2025.
[1899] World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Saint Kitts and Nevis, May 23, 2023; last visited: October 2025.

police. Likewise, the IACHR notes with concern the retention of laws which criminalize private consensual same-sex conduct amongst adults.

840. The State did not respond to the request for information to draft this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

841. With regards to **democratic institutionality**, the IACHR notes that the State held general elections on November 27 to elect 15 members of its House of Assembly. According to the official results of the Electoral Office, the main opposition party, the New Democratic Party (NDP), won 14 of the 15 seats to form a new majority government. While the incumbent Unity Labour Party's (ULP) secured 1 seat.[1900]

842. Moreover, the IACHR observes that the State is a party to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. In this context, the State has developed a draft Integrity of Public Life Act 2004,[1901] which would establish an Integrity Commission and require designated public officials to disclose their financial interests. However, as of the date of this report, there is no information to indicate that this draft legislation has been enacted. Additionally, the State has prepared a draft Prevention of Corruption Act 2004,[1902] which would establish mechanisms for preventing corruption in public office in line with the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. To date, there is no information available to indicate that this draft legislation has been adopted.

843. In relation to **human rights institutions**, the Commission highlights that while the State has a National Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism,[1903] a National Human Rights Institution has yet to be established in accordance with the Paris Principles.

844. In relation to **citizen security**, according to public information, 26 homicides were reported as of September 10.[1904] This represents a homicide rate of 22.1 per 100,000 inhabitants up to May 2025.[1905]

845. Concerning the rights of **children**, the IACHR notes that in May, the Ministry of Education in partnership with UNICEF, launched the national "Safe Schools, Initiative". According to public information, this initiative aims to strengthen school infrastructure to meet modern safety standards, provide training for educators and staff on child protection and mental health and to create secure, supportive and inclusive learning environments for children that are free of violence, abuse and neglect.[1906]

846. With regard to **persons in the context of human mobility**, the IACHR notes the progress achieved in the implementation of the agreement on the free movement of persons signed together with Barbados, Belize, and Dominica within the framework of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).[1907] According to available information, the agreement, which has been in force since October 1, guarantees the right of nationals of the four States to enter, move freely and reside in each other's territories, while ensuring equal access to economic, social and cultural rights in the host State, including the right to work.[1908] In this context,

[1900] Electoral Office of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Elections Dashboard, 2025.
[1901] Laws of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Integrity in Public Life Act, 2004.
[1902] Laws of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Prevention of Corruption Act, 2004.
[1903] IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "St. Vincent and the Grenadines", 2023, para. 739; Annual Report, Chapter IV.A "Saint Vincent and the Grenadines", 2022, para. 711.
[1904] iWitness News, Woman's death takes SVG's homicide count to 26, September 10, 2025.
[1905] The IACHR calculated the homicide rate based on the State's population of 100,616 according to data from The World Bank, Population total – St. Lucia, 2024.
[1906] St. Vincent Times, Minister Commits to Strengthening Child Protection Policies, May 5, 2025; NBC SVG, Government reaffirms commitment to child safety with launch of Child Month Activities, May 6, 2025.
[1907] Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Barbados, Belize, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines ready for full free movement on 1 October 2025, September 30, 2025.
[1908] Caribbean National Weekly, Barbados, Belize, Dominica and St. Vincent finalize systems for full free movement, September 20, 2025.

the IACHR emphasized that States should strengthen cooperation on human mobility and promote regular migration channels to prevent the risks and vulnerabilities exacerbated by irregular migration.[1909]

847. In relation to **trafficking in persons**, the Commission takes note that in May and June the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF) completed a training program in human trafficking[1910] and launched the annual 2025 Annual Summer Program, respectively. Both activities, provided specialized training on human trafficking, and educated youth during the academic-vacation period about human trafficking, child trafficking, and child labor. [1911]

848. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, the State reported advancements in cultural-rights and memory initiatives linked to Garifuna heritage. The state-owned utility VINLEC themed its 2025 calendar "We are Garifuna."[1912] Schools in Fancy incorporated daily Garifuna-language learning. [1913] Also, the State announced the purchase of the island of Baliceaux, a site historically central to the Garifuna people, with plans for preservation and recognition of its memory. In response, Garifuna leaders welcomed the step and expressed expectations of lasting heritage protection.[1914] Additionally, the tourism authority promoted actions recognizing Garifuna cultural heritage.[1915]

849. Regarding challenges, the IACHR received information that accountability concerns persisted regarding alleged excessive use of force by police, with a request being lodged to prosecute a police officer for an allegedly malicious shooting of a civilian.[1916]

850. Regarding the rights of **LGBTI persons**, civil society organizations held LGBTI pride events for a third consecutive year. The events included in-person and virtual activities, and represent a significant advancement in the visibility of sexual and gender diversity in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Human rights defenders called for the government to repeal the laws under the criminal code that criminalise private consensual same-sex conduct amongst adults and to create laws that explicitly protect LGBTI persons from discrimination in areas such as employment, education, housing, health and goods and services.[1917]

851. Regarding the rights of **persons with disabilities**, the State demonstrated its commitment to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities by establishing a dedicated Disability Unit within the Ministry of National Mobilization to address their specific needs.[1918]

852. On the matter of **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission notes the implementation of a mental health program at His Majesty's Prison led by the Ministry of National Security in September. The initiative seeks to address the mental health needs of persons deprived of liberty through structured interventions within the correctional system. In this framework, 42 inmates participated in the first activity, which included therapeutic techniques, group sessions for stress management and problem-solving, and supervised medication adjustments.[1919]

[1909] IACHR [@CIDH], (October 10, 2025), #IACHR welcomes the launch of the Enhanced Cooperation Protocol on free movement, which expands the #CARICOM Single Market and Economy programme. The Protocol, in force since last October 1, guarantees the right of nationals of the four States to enter, move freely, and reside in each other's territories, extending these rights to spouses, children, and dependent parents, while ensuring equal access to economic, social, and cultural rights in the host State, including the right to work. [X], X, https://x.com/CIDH/status/1976684951509549388.

[1910] Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, RSVGPF Officers Complete Specialized Training in Human Trafficking, Drug Trafficking, and Marksmanship, May 10, 2025.

[1911] Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, RSVGPF launches 2025 Annual Summer Programs, June 20, 2025.

[1912] Searchlight, Searchlight drone shot helping educate on Garifuna — VINLEC 2025 calendar, January 7, 2025.

[1913] Searchlight, Students of Fancy Government School now learning things Garifuna, January 10, 2025.

[1914] The Guardian, St Vincent and the Grenadines buys island central to Garifuna culture, March 6, 2025; Searchlight, Garifuna applaud Government of St Vincent & the Grenadines, March 13, 2025.

[1915] Searchlight, Tourism Authority launches Heroes & Heritage Month programme 2025, February 28, 2025.

[1916] iWitness News, Lawyer asks DPP to allow prosecution of cop who shot man 'maliciously', February 2, 2025.

[1917] Asberth News Network, Vincentians Celebrate Pride SVG for a 3rd Straight Year, July 10, 2025.

[1918] NBC Radio, Government to create disability unit to support Persons with Disabilities, March 21, 2025.

[1919] SEARCHLIGHT, Inmates with mental health issues grateful for new programme, September 26, 2025.

853. In relation to the **death penalty**, IACHR remains concerned with the State's lack of progress in abolishing this punishment. Although no executions have taken place since 1995 and no new death sentences have been imposed in recent years, one individual still remains on death row at least as of 2021.[1920]

XXVIII. SAINT LUCIA

- **General considerations**

854. As it relates to **progress**, the IACHR takes note of the continued anti-corruption efforts of the State. Additionally, the Commission notes a reduction in the number of homicides and legislative amendments which seek to increase the efficiency of the justice system and address the backlog of cases. Moreover, the IACHR notes the efforts taken by the State to develop and adopt a new framework for a national migration policy. Furthermore, the Commission highlights the landmark judgment which declared unconstitutional the criminalization of private consensual same sex relations.

855. As it relates to **challenges**, the IACHR notes the lack of establishment of a national human rights institution for the promotion and protection of human rights.

856. The State did not respond to the request for information to draft this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

857. With regards to **democratic institutionality**, the IACHR notes the holding of general elections and continued anti-corruption efforts. The State held general elections on December 1 to elect 17 members of its House of Assembly. According to the preliminary results published by the Electoral Commission of St. Lucia, the ruling party, the Saint Lucia Labour Party (SLP) received the majority of votes in 14 constituencies, while independent candidates won in two constituencies and the main opposition party, United Workers Party (UWP), secured one constituency.[1921] The Commission highlights the OAS Electoral Observation Mission Preliminary Report which noted that the election process proceeded in a generally orderly and peaceful manner. In addition, the Report recommended developing regulations for preventing and punishing political violence against women, establishing legal standards and practices to govern political electoral financing and assessing the potential benefits of expanding the membership of the Electoral Commission in order to strengthen institutional capacity.[1922]

858. Within the context of its second UN Convention Against Corruption review, the State revealed that it had already developed an anti-corruption policy through the collaboration of key stakeholders, including the Police Force, various government departments, and the Integrity Commission and is now finalizing witness protection legislation. The draft legislation was already circulated for stakeholder feedback, with public consultations to follow afterwards.[1923] In this regard, the Commission highlights the recommendations of the Review Group which include, developing a more comprehensive policy for the prevention of corruption; periodically evaluating relevant legal instruments and administrative measures against corruption; strengthening the independence and capacity of the Integrity Commission; and adopting legislative and administrative measures relating to campaign financing.[1924]

[1920] World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, May 23, 2023; last visited: October 2025.
[1921] Saint Lucia Electoral Department, Saint Lucia General Elections 2025, December 2025.
[1922] OAS, Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in St. Lucia for the 2025 General Elections, December 3, 2025.
[1923] Government of St. Lucia Information Service, Saint Lucia undergoes UNCAC review to strengthen anti-corruption measures, March 5, 2025.
[1924] Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC, State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption Executive summary, CAC/COSP/IRG/II/2/1/Add.39, July 1, 2025.

859. In relation to **human rights institutions**, the State has a Parliamentary Commissioner established under the Constitution. This Commissioner has similar authority and investigatory powers of an Ombudsman and is a member of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association and the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions.[1925] The functions of the Commissioner include investigating administrative and corruption complaints against government departments and public authorities. It is noted that the Commissioner is not barred from investigating complaints relating to fundamental rights and freedoms as enshrined under the Constitution.[1926] The State has yet to establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

860. In relation to **citizen security**, according to public information, 28 homicides were reported between January and June, compared to 40 homicides for the same period in 2024.[1927] This represents a 30% reduction in the number of homicides and a homicide rate of 10.01 per 100,000 inhabitants up to June 2025.[1928]

861. With regards to **access to justice**, the Commission notes the passage of legislation in the State's Parliament for the introduction of judge-alone trials. In March, the State amended its Criminal Code and Supreme Court Act to provide for judge-alone trials where an accused person so elects, where the prosecution makes an application on specific grounds or when a judge so rules.[1929] According to the State, the amendments seek to increase the efficiency of the justice system and address the backlog of cases by permitting expedited hearings.[1930]

862. Concerning the rights of **children**, the Commission highlights the refurbishment and relaunch of the Learning Resource Center at the New Beginnings Transit Home for Children. According to the State, the modernized facility is designed to protect and empower the most at-risk children across Saint Lucia by providing a safe, technology-enabled, and inclusive space dedicated to supporting the educational development of children in transitional care. The Centre will function as a hub for academic support, digital literacy training and will assist in bridging the learning gaps for children in State care.[1931]

863. Regarding the **human rights of women**, steps have been taken to strengthen the response to violence against women. At the end of 2024, with the support of UN agencies, the Government launched the National Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender-Based Violence, aimed at institutionalizing coordination and partnerships across sectors to address this issue.[1932] In May, a training workshop was held for key representatives from government agencies, civil society, and healthcare institutions to build national capacity on gender equality, social inclusion, and gender-based violence in the context of emergencies and climate-related disasters. During this workshop, Saint Lucia's Clinical Management of Rape Protocol was officially validated.[1933]

864. With regard to **people in the context of human mobility**, the IACHR notes the efforts taken by the State to develop and adopt a new framework for a national migration policy. In this regard, a training workshop for frontline officials has been carried out, among other measures, with the aim of improving migration and border governance.[1934] According to available information, with a view to achieving a comprehensive document, this migration policy will be developed through a consultative process which

[1925] Caribbean Ombudsman Association, Members, 2025; Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, St. Lucia, 2025.

[1926] Laws of St. Lucia, Constitution of St. Lucia, 1978, sections 112, 113.

[1927] The Voices, Police investigate homicide and intercept alleged drug traffickers, July 2, 2025.

[1928] The IACHR calculated the homicide rate based on the State's population of 179,744 according to data from The World Bank. The World Bank, Population total – St. Lucia, 2024.

[1929] Laws of St. Lucia, Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, 2025; Supreme Court (Amendment) Act, 2025.

[1930] Government of St. Lucia Information Service, Parliament debates introduction of judge-alone trials, March 14, 2025.

[1931] Saint Lucia Ministry of Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment, Renovated Learning Resource Center Opens at New Beginnings Transit Home, April 17, 2025.

[1932] The Voice, Saint Lucia Advances Gender-Based Violence Response, June 6, 2025; United Nations, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Saint Lucia Launches First-Ever National Inter-Agency GBV Task Force, December 17, 2025.

[1933] Web Portal of the Government of Saint Lucia, Saint Lucia advances Gender-Based Violence response, June 5, 2025.

[1934] International Organization for Migration (IOM), Government of Saint Lucia and IOM Partner to Develop, March 7, 2025.

involves government actors, ministries, civil society organizations, representatives of the diaspora and international agencies.[1935]

865. In relation to **trafficking in persons**, the IACHR takes note that in May, the State in partnership with the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, hosted the CARICOM Standing Committee of Chiefs of Immigration and Comptrollers of Customs to strengthen regional leadership, innovation, and collaboration in border security against trafficking in persons, among others areas of interest.[1936]

866. Regarding the rights of **LGBTI persons,** in August the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court declared sections 132 and 133 of the Criminal Code criminalizing Buggery and Gross indecency are inconsistent with various Constitutional Rights protected under the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of Saint Lucia. With this decision, Saint Lucia joins other nations whose courts have struck down criminalization provisions as human rights violations. In welcoming the decision, the IACHR noted that legislative provisions that criminalize private consensual same sex relations are against international human rights standards, as they violate human dignity, privacy, and freedom of expression and called upon States of the region that still maintain criminalizing legislation to repeal the laws.[1937]

867. Regarding the rights of **persons with disabilities**, in October, the State began a series of national consultations to gather public feedback on the Draft National Policy for Persons with Disabilities. According to the State, the draft policy envisions "an inclusive and accessible Saint Lucia where persons with disabilities can participate fully in every aspect of national life." It is guided by principles of dignity, equality, autonomy, and participation, outlining clear goals to protect human rights, eliminate discrimination, and expanding equitable access to services, employment, and justice. The national consultations aim to engage persons with disabilities, their families, representative organisations, and other stakeholders to shape a more inclusive and equitable national framework for disability rights and empowerment.[1938]

868. On the matter of **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission takes note of the inauguration of the Centralized Community Safety Centre in Castries in May. According to official information, the new facility includes eight modern detention cells designed for short-term custody. This measure seeks to reduce overcrowding in police stations, standardize conditions of detention, and improve the treatment of persons held in provisional custody.[1939]

869. In relation to the **death penalty**, the IACHR notes that no progress has been made towards its abolition, even though no executions have been carried out since 1995, and nobody is currently on death row.[1940]

XXIX. SURINAME

- **General considerations**

870. As it relates to **progress**, the IACHR welcomes the election of the first female President of the Republic. It also notes that the State launched the Children's Ombudsman Institute and established a National

[1935] IOM, Saint Lucia Strengthens Border Capacity Ahead of First National, 22 September 2025.
[1936] CARICOM, Strengthening Regional Border Security, May 13, 2025; CARICOM, CARICOM IMPACS convenes 28th CICC Meeting, May 13, 2025.
[1937] IACHR, Press release No. 160/25, IACHR welcomes decision to decriminalize consensual sexual relations between same sex adults in Saint Lucia, August 12, 2025; The Guardian, Caribbean LGBTQ+ activists celebrate as court strikes down colonial-era laws, August 1, 2025.
[1938] St. Lucia Times, National Consultations Begin on Draft Policy for Persons with Disabilities, October 13, 2025.
[1939] Ministry of Home Affairs – Government of Saint Lucia, Centralized Community Safety Centre opens, May 25, 2025.
[1940] World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Saint Lucia, May 23, 2023; last visited: October 2025.

Commission on the Elimination of Child Labor. Moreover, the Commission highlights the presentation by the government of the Draft Law on the Collective Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. Additionally, the Commission takes note of the inauguration of the Central Resocialization Center for the benefit of persons deprived of liberty.

871. As it relates to **challenges**, the Commission notes the concerns raised by Indigenous peoples regarding the lack of adequate protection for their rights and the exacerbation of social and economic inequalities. In addition, the IACHR takes note of the presence of structural racial discrimination which continues to negatively affect people of African descent.

872. The State did not respond to the request for information to draft this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

873. With regards to **democratic institutionality**, the State held general elections in May to elect 51 members of the National Assembly (DNA). According to the official results of the Central Polling Station, the National Democratic Party (NDP) won 18 seats, while the incumbent government under the Progressive Reform (VHP) secured 17 seats.[1941] This was the first general election after reforms were made to the Constitution and the Electoral Regulations in 2023, which amended the manner of electing members of DNA from a 10-constituency system to a system of proportional representation. As reported by the Commission, this reform followed a decision by the Constitutional Court in 2022 that ruled that the previous regulations violated the constitutional principles of equality and non-discrimination.[1942]

874. In addition, the IACHR notes the recommendations of the Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission which welcomed the electoral reform advancements undertaken by the State but also stressed the need for: i) devising a clear procedure for the presentation and investigation of complaints for election law violations; ii) enacting legislation on the financing of political parties and campaigns to include clear limits on campaign spending and the prevention of anonymous donations; and iii) adopting a legal and institutional framework to prevent, monitor and sanction political violence, with specific provisions addressing violence against women in politics, including online violence.[1943]

875. In relation to **human rights institutions**, in April, the State launched the Children's Ombudsman Institute (KOS) aimed at protecting children's rights in Suriname. According to the State, the independent institute will ensure that children's rights are guaranteed and respected. The Institute will conduct awareness campaigns in the districts and conduct independent research on request and on its own initiative. Further, it will also be empowered to make recommendations to government and social organizations about how best children's rights can be protected in Suriname.[1944] In addition, the Committee takes note of the concerns raised by civil society with regard to the Constitutional Court. According to public information, the terms of office of the President, the Registrar and several members of the Tribunal expired in May 2025 and had not been renewed, leaving the Tribunal without functions. At the time of writing, the Tribunal's executive had not yet been appointed.[1945]

876. Concerning the rights of **children**, the IACHR takes note of the establishment of the National Commission on the Elimination of Child Labor (NCUK) in May. According to official information, in line with Suriname's international human rights obligations, this Commission was established to develop interdepartmental policies to combat child labor, with special attention to eliminating the most severe forms of child labor in the State. This Commission includes representatives from various ministries, each responsible

[1941] Central Electoral Bureau, CHS stelt verkiezingsuitslag vast, June 11, 2025.
[1942] IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV.A "Suriname", 2024, paras. 765 – 767.
[1943] OAS Electoral Observation Mission, Preliminary Report of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Suriname for the 2025 General Elections, May 27, 2025.
[1944] Office of the President, Kinderombudsinstituut Suriname gelanceerd; betere behartiging kinderrechten, April 22, 2025.
[1945] Suriname Herald, Parlement luidt noodklok over vrijwel verlamd Constitutioneel Hof, November 21, 2025; ABC Surinam, SOVA vraagt wederom om invulling Constitutioneel Hof, October 6, 2025.

for parts of youth policy. It was emphasized that the creation of this Commission represents the State's ongoing commitment to actively pursuing policies to eradicate child labor in all forms.[1946]

877. Regarding **women's human rights**, Jennifer Geerling-Simons was historically elected as the first woman President of the Republic of Suriname, the highest office in the country.[1947] In addition, an internal Commission on Violence and Sexual Harassment was established within the Ministry of Labor, Employment & Youth Affairs to formulate policy and establish a clear complaint procedure.[1948]

878. Regarding the rights of **indigenous peoples**, the Government presented the Draft Law on the Collective Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples as a step toward the recognition of such rights.[1949] However, civil society organizations expressed their concern regarding the inadequate characterization of ancestral territories and of Indigenous Peoples as a legal and cultural concept, as well as the absence of processes to ensure free, prior, and informed consultation and consent in the drafting of the law.[1950]

879. Additionally, the IACHR held a thematic hearing on extractive projects in Suriname, within the framework of its 192nd Period of Sessions. On this occasion, Indigenous representatives denounced the lack of adequate protection for their rights, noting that mining operations have resulted in land dispossession, contamination of rivers, and the exacerbation of social and economic inequalities. They underscored the urgent need to guarantee free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) in all decisions affecting their territories. The State reiterated its willingness to cooperate with Indigenous communities to address longstanding challenges and described measures aimed at strengthening participation in decision-making processes. In this regard, the IACHR reminded States of their international obligations to protect Indigenous rights, lands, and territories and offered to collaborate with the State and communities to address human rights challenges.[1951]

880. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, Suriname recorded normative and cultural advances with potential positive impact on the collective rights and visibility of Afro-descendant tribal peoples (Maroons). The State announced the review of land concessions and its intention to permanently protect 90% of the forests and has pledged to update conservation laws in order to reduce deforestation and protect the ancestral lands of indigenous peoples and Maroons.[1952]

881. Likewise, the Commission notes the official standardization of orthographies for Sranan, Sarnami, Okanisi (Ndyuka), and Saamaka, which marked a milestone in the recognition and standardization of Suriname's four national languages.[1953] Moreover, organizations and international partners announced support for territorial protection, through Tenure Facility funding for community associations,[1954] trainings for community demarcation,[1955] and regional articulation via a joint manifesto with the Sarayaku people.[1956] Likewise, actions of memory and recognition were recorded.[1957]

[1946] Ministry of Labor, Employment and Youth Affairs, AWJ installeert commissies tegen kinderarbeid en seksueel molest, May 5, 2025.

[1947] Reuters, Suriname parliament elects Simons as first female president, July 6, 2025.

[1948] Republic of Suriname, AWJ installeert commissies tegen kinderarbeid en seksueel molest, May 5, 2025.

[1949] Office of the President, Regering levert historische bijdrage aan ontwikkelingen van grondenrechten, February 18, 2025.

[1950] Forest Peoples Programme, VIDS repudiates government U-turn in amended draft law for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' rights (Suriname), February 24, 2025.

[1951] IACHR, 192 Period of Sessions, Suriname: Indigenous peoples' rights in the face of extractive projects (Ex Officio), March 5, 2025.

[1952] Waterkant, Minister Soeropawiro van GBB: "Wie recht heeft op grond zal recht gedaan worden", August 20, 2025. Associated Press (AP), Suriname pledges to shield 90% of forests, far beyond global conservation goal, September 27, 2025.

[1953] Suriname Herald, Officiële spelling Sranan, Sarnami, Okanisi en Saamaka overhandigd aan minister Ori, May 14, 2025.

[1954] De Ware Tijd, U$ 1,4 miljoen voor VIDS en VSG voor behoud traditionele leefgebieden, May 15, 2025.

[1955] Suriname Herald, VIDS-project ondersteunt strijd voor erkenning inheemse landrechten, 12 May 2025.

[1956] Suriname Herald, VSG ondertekent manifest met Sarayaku in Ecuador voor bescherming inheemse rechten, 29 May 2025.

[1957] State of Suriname, Statement President Chandrikapersad Santokhi ter gelegenheid van Dag der Vrijheden 2025, 1 July 2025; Suriname Herald, President Santokhi op Keti Koti: Laat de geest van onze voorouders ons vandaag inspireren, 1 July 2025; Suriname Herald, Suriname presenteert 'Gron Nyan' op Wereldexpo in Japan, 20 June 2025.

882. However, structural racial discrimination continues to affect people of African descent—particularly Maroon, Creole, and Afro-Surinamese communities. The visit by the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD) documented persistent gaps in education, health, water and sanitation, employment, and political participation, as well as enduring stereotypes and a lack of social recognition.[1958]

883. On the other hand, organizations and media highlighted persistent risks regarding territorial recognition and non-discrimination. Despite the submission of a bill to the legislature, Suriname still lacks a law to formalize territorial rights of indigenous and Maroon communities, with controversies over extractive plans without adequate consultation.[1959] Saamaka leaders and other traditional authorities rejected "deep" changes to the *grondenrechten* draft due to lack of consultation and potential weakening of collective property rights.[1960]

884. Regarding the rights of **LGBTI persons**, the Constitutional Court of Suriname ordered the government to register the marriage of two same-sex couples in the registers of the Central Bureau for Civil Affairs (CBB). The Court found that to refuse to register same-sex marriages violates international treaties to which Suriname is a party. The Court also ordered the state to work on amending Surinamese legislation on this matter.[1961]

885. Relating to the rights of **persons with disabilities**, in April, the National Policy Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2025–2030 was presented to the Government. The policy, created in collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), focuses on the implementation of sustainable policy until 2030 for the benefit of people with disabilities including, making government buildings accessible, adjustments to traffic, and facilities for the reception and guidance of people with disabilities. The plan also includes the establishment of an authority to supervise its implementation at both national and international levels.[1962]

886. Regarding the rights of **older persons**, based on public information, the Commission notes that Suriname raised the basic old-age pension (AOV) to SRD 2,250 (approx. USD. 60.00) per month in March. People 60 and older also get "KKV", an additional allowance paid separately from the AOV, intended to cushion living-cost pressures. At the same time, media and older persons' groups have voiced concerns that, despite the increase, the AOV may still be insufficient to keep up with living costs, in part because the KKV is a separate payment, which can be eliminated, rather than part of the pension.[1963]

887. In relation to the right to care and dignified living conditions in old age, monitoring for this year underscored the need for adequate oversight of long-term care facilities. In this context, residents of Suriname's Ashiana home described serious infrastructure problems earlier in the year, including leaking roofs, damaged ceilings, clogged drains, and unusable toilets; by late August the facility reported that residents were "living again in a dignified environment," indicating that repairs had restored habitability and hygiene standards.[1964]

888. With respect to **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission takes note of the inauguration of the Central Resocialization Center under the Ministry of Justice and Police in April. According to available information, the center coordinates reintegration programs including internships, financial education, anger

[1958] United Nations, News Release: End of mission statement by the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent following its country visit to Suriname, April 2, 2025.
[1959] Dagblad Suriname, Quorum, politiek draagvlak en tijdsgebrek belemmerend bij behandeling wetproducten DNA, 3 January 2025; Mongabay, What's at stake for the environment in Suriname's upcoming elections?, May 23, 2025.
[1960] De Ware Tijd, Verbazing, afschuw en woede om ingrijpend gewijzigd wetsontwerp grondenrechten, 24 February 2025; Mongabay, Land rights bill in Suriname sparks outrage in Indigenous communities, February 28, 2025.
[1961] DWT Online, Rechterlijk vonnis: Staat moet homohuwelijk accepteren, February 14, 2025.
[1962] Office of the President, President Santokhi ontvangt Nationaal Beleidsplan voor Mensen met een Beperking, April 2025; UNICEF, UNICEF and Government of Suriname Advance Disability Inclusion, April 17, 2025.
[1963] Suriname Nieuws Centrale, President Santokhi blijft ouderen steunen – AOV-uitkering vijf keer verhoogd in 4,5 jaar, March 22, 2025; SRNieuws, Ouderen maken zich zorgen over ontoereikende AOV-uitkering, March 25, 2025.
[1964] SRNieuws, Senioren Huize Ashiana wonen weer in menswaardige omgeving, August 25, 2025.

management, and psychological support, as part of bilateral cooperation with the Netherlands through the Makandra Fund and operates in collaboration with the national penitentiary service.[1965]

XXX. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- **General considerations**

889. As it relates to **progress**, the Commission highlights efforts by the State to fight corruption and notes a decrease in homicides. Additionally, the IACHR welcomes the launch of the Central Registry on Gender-Based Violence's Umbono System and the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

890. As it relates to **challenges**, the Commission notes with concern the State's continued reliance on States of Emergency as a crime suppressing measure and high levels of domestic violence and femicide. Further, the IACHR observes with concern the situation regarding the right to education of migrant children, especially of Venezuelan nationality and a proposed "mass deportation" directive issued by the government. In addition, regarding LGBTI rights, the Commission notes the overturning of the 2018 judgment which had declared unconstitutional the criminalization of consensual sexual conduct between adults.

891. The State did not respond to the request for information to draft this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

892. With regards to **democratic institutionality**, the IACHR notes that the State held general elections on April 28 to elect 41 members of its House of Representatives. According to the official results of the Elections and Boundaries Commission, the main opposition party, the United National Congress (UNC), won 26 of the 41 seats to form a new majority government. While the People's National Movement (PNM) secured 13 seats and the Tobago People's Party (TPP) won 2 seats.[1966]

893. Regarding **human rights institutions**, the State has an Office of the Ombudsman, which is a member of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association, the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions,[1967] and the International Ombudsman Institute.[1968] Further, the Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago is a member of the Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies.[1969] In its 2024 Annual Report, published in June 2025, the Integrity Commission highlighted its ongoing efforts to fight corruption. It noted that as of December 2024, 78% of public officials had submitted their required financial declarations, an improvement of 17% compared to the same period in the previous year. These declarations are a legal requirement that every public official is required to abide by and are aimed at ensuring transparency in government.[1970]

894. With regards to **citizen security**, the IACHR notes that according to publicly available information, there were 349 homicides reported as of December 16, 2025, which represented 40.7% decrease

[1965] Ministerie van Justitie en Politie, Regering van Suriname, Centraal Resocialisatiecentrum biedt nieuwe kansen voor gedetineerden, April 28, 2025.
[1966] Election and Boundaries Commission, Parliamentary Elections 2025, April 30, 2025.
[1967] Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, Trinidad and Tobago, 2025.
[1968] International Ombudsman Institute, Members, 2025.
[1969] Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies, Members, 2025.
[1970] The Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago, 37th Annual Report 2024, June 16, 2025.

from the 589 homicides recorded over the same period in 2024.[1971] This represents a homicide rate of 25.5 per 100,000 inhabitants for the period.[1972]

895. Moreover, in its 2024 Annual Report, the Commission noted the declaration of a State of Emergency (SOE) in December 2024.[1973] In this context, in March 2025, the IACHR requested information regarding that SOE, particularly concerning the alleged detention of children. However, no information has been provided.[1974] The SOE came to an end on April 14, 2025 and resulted in 14 persons being charged under the Anti-Gang Act. According to publicly available information, 53 people in total were detained in connection with suspected gang activity and of those detained, 39 were released hours before the end of the SOE.[1975]

896. Furthermore, once again in July 2025, the State declared an SOE following the revelation of a coordinated and dangerous criminal network operating from within the nation's prison system.[1976] Under the SOE, freedom of speech was restricted, bail provisions were suspended and members of the police service had the authority to arrest without warrant persons on suspicion of involvement in illegal activities.[1977] According to public information, up to October 7, the Police Service had conducted a total of 5,828 operations which resulted in the arrest of 2,589 people and seizure of 154 firearms.[1978] On October 31, the SOE was extended for a further period of three months and will come to an end in January 2026.[1979]

897. On the other hand, the IACHR notes with concern states of emergency and increased police lethality affecting communities that are predominantly Afro-descendant. In 2025, The Police Complaints Authority (PCA) warned, in July, about the increase in deaths in police-involved shootings since the declaration of the SOE, expressing concern about the use of force and the need for effective investigations.[1980] In that regard, a 133% increase in deaths from police intervention was documented as of March 2025,[1981] with multiple lethal incidents under investigation.[1982]

898. In relation to **access to justice**, the Commission takes note of the intention of the State to establish the office of Lord Chancellor of the Judiciary. According to public information, the Lord Chancellor will be responsible for overseeing the daily logistics and functioning of the judiciary and it is hoped that the office will assist in combatting the current backlog of cases. Further, the State intends to conduct nationwide consultations to garner public feedback on the establishment of the office.[1983]

899. Concerning the rights of **children**, the Commission observes that in April 2025, civil society, in collaboration with UNICEF, assisted 149 Venezuelan children born in Trinidad and Tobago in receiving their birth certificates, thereby giving them legal identity and access to essential State services. UNICEF stressed the importance of legal identity and noted that without a birth certificate, children may be denied access to

[1971] Trinidad and Tobago Guardian, TTPS: Homicides down by 66% in PoS division, December 16, 2025.
[1972] The IACHR calculated the homicide rate based on the State's population of 1,368,333 according to data from The World Bank. The World Bank, Population total - Trinidad and Tobago, 2024.
[1973] IACHR, Annual Report Chap IV.A "Trinidad and Tobago", 2024, para. 790.
[1974] IACHR, Trinidad and Tobago – State of Emergency, Article 18 IACHR Statute, March 3, 2025, IACHR Archive.
[1975] Trinidad and Tobago Guardian, Gonzales, Benjamin say SoE was a 'success', April 15, 2025.
[1976] Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Legal Notice No. 240, July 18, 2025.
[1977] Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Legal Notice No. 241, July 18, 2025.
[1978] Trinidad and Tobago Express, Decrease in SoE arrests, seizures, October 12, 2025.
[1979] Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Extension of state of public emergency for a further period of three months, October 31, 2025.
[1980] Trinidad and Tobago Guardian, PCA raises alarm over increase in police killings since SoE, July 24, 2025.
[1981] Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Police killings up by 133% in 2025, March 21, 2025.
[1982] Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Marabella man shot dead by police, family wants answers, February 15, 2025; Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, 2 killed in police-involved shootings, March 16, 2025; Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Three killed by police in shootout in Tunapuna, March 20, 2025; Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Family of Chaguanas farmer killed by cops: 'Why they kill Boyie?', May 25, 2025; Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Shootout between men and police leaves 1 dead, 2 injured, May 27, 2025; Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Alleged contract killer fatally shot in stand-off with police in Marabella, May 30, 2025; Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Laventille man dead, another wounded in police-involved shooting, August 4, 2025; Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Man hospitalised after police-involved shooting in Claxton Bay, August 21, 2025.
[1983] Trinidad and Tobago Guardian, Govt to introduce Lord Chancellor of the Judiciary post, July 8, 2025.

education and healthcare, face greater risks of poverty and exploitation, and become vulnerable to statelessness.[1984]

900. Regarding **women's human rights**, in April two women were elected to occupy top governmental offices: Kamla Persad-Bissessar as Prime Minister, and Pennelope Beckles-Robinson as Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives.[1985] Other positive developments include the launch of the Central Registry on Gender-Based Violence's Umbono System, which tracks the survivor's journey through the judicial system and facilitates referrals to relevant organizations;[1986] and the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which provides a strategic framework to address the impact of armed violence, organized crime and gender-based violence.[1987]

901. However, domestic violence and femicide figures remain concerning.[1988] According to publicly available information, between January and July, at least 26 women were killed, many in horrifying circumstances.[1989]

902. With regard to **persons in the context of human mobility**, the IACHR observes with concern the situation regarding the right to education of migrant children, especially of Venezuelan nationality. In this regard, these children have faced difficulties in accessing the education system due to barriers, particularly relating to admission criteria which requires the possession of certificates translated into English, including birth and vaccination certificates.[1990] According to available information, this situation has led to an increase in illiteracy and child labor in the State.[1991]

903. Further, the Commission notes with concern a policy directive issued by the Ministry of Homeland Security which instructs the Immigration Division to ensure that all "illegal" migrants detained are held at the Immigration Detention Center until repatriation. In this regard, the directive reportedly prohibits the issuance of Orders of Supervision, which allows migrants to reside outside detention facilities, as the government considers a possible mass deportation exercise for all "illegal" migrants.[1992]

904. In addition, the Commission notes with concern the 82% reduction in work permit exemptions granted to Venezuelan migrants. According to publicly available information, the Ministry of Homeland Security decreased the number of work permit exemptions issued to Venezuelans from 4,275 permits in 2024 to 757 in 2025.[1993] These work permit exemptions allows holders to legally work in Trinidad and Tobago for a maximum period of 1 year for any employer.[1994]

905. With respect to **trafficking in persons**, the Commission takes note of efforts carried out by the Ministry of Homeland Security's Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU) in July and August which resulted in the disruption of two crime syndicates involved in human trafficking. In June, Operation G-Ride resulted in the detention of 45 persons across Trinidad and the recovery of 17 individuals: 12 women aged 18-26, two men,

[1984] UNICEF, Securing every child's right to legal identity in Trinidad and Tobago, April 30, 2025.
[1985] Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, The Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, n/d, accessed on October 8, 2025; Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, The Honourable Pennelope Beckles-Robinson, n/d, accessed on October 8, 2025.
[1986] Who's who in Trinidad & Tobago Business, Minister Launches the Umbono System to Address Gender-Based Violence , January 22, 2025; TTT.Live, 'Umbono' System Unveiled To Combat Gender-Based Violence In T&T, January 8, 2025.
[1987] United Nations in the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago becomes first Caribbean nation to launch a National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, March 26, 2025.
[1988] IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter IV.a, March 26, 2025, p. 796.
[1989] Trinidad Express, Stacy Gopaulsingh's husband charged with murdering her, January 13, 2025; Newsday, Man, 65, kills wife, then himself, at Williamsville home, January 27, 2025; Guardian, IWRN wants urgent action as 26 women killed so far this year, July 18, 2025.
[1990] UN News, Young Venezuelan refugees have a fresh start in schools in Trinidad and Tobago, January 3, 2025.
[1991] Swissinfo, Venezuelan children face exploitation and low schooling in Trinidad and Tobago, October 9, 2025.
[1992] Trinidad and Tobago Guardian, PM on "mass deportation": Only those in detention to be sent home, October 28, 2025.
[1993] Trinidad and Tobago Guardian, Govt cuts 3,518 Venezuelan work permits, November 2, 2025.
[1994] UNHCR, Trinidad and Tobago – Asylum Seeker Rights, 2025.

one 16-year-old girl, and to babies.[1995] While in August, Operation Triple Knock, rescued 13 females, one a 13-year-old girl, from two spa facilities.[1996]

906. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, the IACHR takes note of memory and recognition initiatives and decisions by local authorities to homage Pan-Africanist leaders.[1997]

907. Regarding the rights of **LGBTI persons**, civil society organizations hosted TT PRIDE parade 2025 where activists called on leaders in Trinidad and Tobago to pay attention to LGBTI persons.[1998] In addition, on March 25 a decision of the Court of Appeal overturned the 2018 ruling by the High Court in the case of Jones v. Trinidad and Tobago, which had declared Sections 13 and 16 of the Sexual Offences Act unconstitutional, illegal and of no effect insofar as they criminalized consensual sexual conduct between adults.[1999] As such, the crime of "buggery" is now punishable by up to five years' imprisonment, and gross indecency by up to two years' imprisonment.[2000] Trinidad and Tobago remains one of the few states in the American region which maintain criminalizing laws against LGBTI persons.

908. Regarding **persons with disabilities**, Trinidad and Tobago made notable progress by introducing the Persons with Disabilities Bill, which aims to ensure national inclusion, equality of opportunity, freedom from discrimination, and respect for diversity. The Bill is reportedly in its final stages of approval.[2001]

909. With respect to **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission takes note of the proposal to decommission the Port of Spain Prison after 268 years of operation. The closure, to be implemented in phases, responds to judicial findings that the facility was unfit to house inmates and had generated significant judicial action which resulted in numerous judgments awarding compensation to affected inmates. In this context, inmates will be transferred to the Maximum-Security Prison, with plans for a modern facility focused on rehabilitation and restorative justice.[2002]

910. Regarding the **death penalty**, the IACHR observes that no progress has been made in eliminating the death penalty from the country's statutes, even though the last known execution took place in 1999. According to most recent data, 48 individuals remain on death row.[2003]

XXXI. UNITED STATES

- **General considerations**

911. As it relates to **progress**, the Commission takes note of the passage of legislation prohibiting the distribution of intimate images without consent and highlights the launch of the *Access to Justice Prize* aimed at fostering innovative solutions to address critical gaps in access to justice. Moreover, the Commission takes note of legislation passed to close gaps that may allow human trafficking to persist in government contracting. In addition, there were positive judicial rulings in several states regarding LGBTI rights against regressive

[1995] Government of Trinidad and Tobago, Operation G-Ride, July 25, 2025.
[1996] Government of Trinidad and Tobago, Counter Trafficking Unit Launches Coordinated Raids on Trafficking Network Hidden Behind Spa Fronts, August 4, 2025.
[1997] Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Kambule festival looks at 'Africa in the Carnival', January 14, 2025. Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Columbus statue to be removed from PoS square, street to be renamed, August 1, 2025.
[1998] Trinidad and Tobago Newsday. Lively turnout for TT Pride parade 2025. July 20, 2025; Trinidad and Tobago Guardian Newspaper, *Pride TT calls for legislative reform to protect LGBTQI*, June 28, 2025.
[1999] The High Court of Trinidad and Tobago, *Jason Jones v The Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago*, April 12, 2018.
[2000] IACHR, *IACHR urges Trinidad and Tobago to respect LGBTI persons' rights and guarantee non-discrimination* May 9, 2025.
[2001] CNC3, Cox clears path for Persons with Disabilities Bill, March 22, 2025.
[2002] TTT News, Port of Spain Prison To Be Decommissioned After 268 Years, September 4, 2025.
[2003] World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Trinidad and Tobago, May 23, 2023; last visited: October 2025.

measures implemented by the federal government including to allow access to gender-affirming medical care for trans persons.

912. As it relates to **challenges**, the IACHR raised its concern over lethal operations against non-state vessels in the Caribbean Sea and the Eastern Pacific Ocean which have allegedly resulted in the deaths of at least 80 people. In addition, the IACHR observed with concern a series of measures and practices adopted by the United States throughout the year that have significantly impacted the rights of migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless persons. Moreover, the Commission notes changes in the federal budget for human rights protection programs and the reduction of personnel in offices dedicated to the protection of civil rights. The Commission also notes the withdrawal of guidance by the federal government designed to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

913. The State did not respond to the request for information for the drafting of this chapter.

- **Specific issues**

914. In terms of **democratic institutionality**, the Commission observed the issuance of a series of executive orders that introduced reforms with potential implications for civil and political rights, due process guarantees, citizen security, and access to justice. In particular, widespread and retrospective inquiries were mandated that could be construed as targeting political opponents. The inquiries would dive into the activities of law-enforcement and intelligence agencies and determined the revocation of security clearances for former government officials accused of improperly influencing the 2020 electoral process and disclosing sensitive information.[2004]

915. In 2025, the United States witnessed a renewed wave of redistricting efforts raising deep concerns over the integrity of electoral representation. The President's push for new congressional maps has prompted Republican-led redraws in states such as Texas, Missouri, and Indiana, among others.[2005] In Texas, a map adopted in August and signed into law would have increased the Republican-favored congressional seats, but a federal court blocked its implementation for the 2026 elections.[2006] The state's new map has nonetheless been reinstated by the U.S. Supreme Court via a stay on the lower court ruling.[2007] Meanwhile, in states like Wisconsin and Indiana, newly proposed congressional maps have triggered lawsuits and required judicial panels to evaluate challenges to their constitutionality.[2008]

916. In California voters approved Proposition 50, a constitutional amendment that temporarily bypassed the usual independent redistricting commission and authorized the state legislature to draw new congressional district boundaries. The re-drawn map is projected to shift as many as five House seats toward the Democratic Party and significantly reshape several competitive districts.[2009] However, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) joined a federal lawsuit filed by California Republicans, arguing that the new map is a violation of the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.[2010] As of late 2025, this litigation is pending before a three-judge panel in the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

917. With respect to **human rights institutions**, the Commission expresses concern over changes in the federal budget for human rights protection programs and the reduction of personnel in some offices of

[2004] The White House, Ending the Weaponization of the Federal Government, January 20, 2025; The White House, Holding Former Government Officials Accountable for Election Interference and Improper Disclosure of Sensitive Governmental Information, January 20, 2025.

[2005] AP News, Trump urged GOP-led states to redraw US House districts. Now other states also are gerrymandering, November 18, 2025. State Court Report, The Next Round of Partisan Gerrymandering Fights, September 25, 2025.

[2006] The Texas Tribune, Federal court blocks Texas from using new congressional gerrymander in 2026 midterms, November 18, 2025.

[2007] The Texas Tribune, Supreme Court lets Texas keep new congressional map while legal battle continues, December 4, 2025.

[2008] Democracy Docket, Indiana House Committee Advances Map, Despite Racial Gerrymandering Allegations, December 2, 2025. Wisconsin Examiner, Wisconsin Supreme Court says 3-judge panels will decide redistricting cases, November 25, 2025.

[2009] CalMatters, California voters approve Prop. 50, redrawing congressional maps to favor Democrats, November 4, 2025.

[2010] PBS, DOJ sues to block California map that could tip control of Congress to Dems, November 13, 2025.

the Department of Justice dedicated to the protection of civil rights. The Commission also notes with concern the elimination of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in government agencies. In a press release issued in March the Commission urged the State to adopt all necessary measures to guarantee the full and effective enjoyment of human rights for all persons under its jurisdiction. This includes protecting freedom of expression, guaranteeing equal treatment before the law, safeguarding due process, ensuring dignified treatment for all persons, and respecting the right to seek international protection.[2011]

918. The Commission also notes with concern the withdrawal of the United States from multilateral organizations dedicated to protecting human rights, including the withdrawal from the United Nations Human Rights Council, the World Health Organization, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as the review of UNESCO's membership and the imposition of sanctions on judges of the International Criminal Court and its staff.[2012]

919. In the area of **citizen security**, the Commissions noted with deep concern reports of lethal operations against non-state vessels (or boats) conducted by the United States in the Caribbean Sea and the Eastern Pacific Ocean since early September, which have allegedly resulted in the deaths of a high number of persons.[2013] According to publicly available and official information, approximately fifteen air and naval operations have been conducted by United States forces against boats which US authorities allege are linked to transnational criminal organizations, resulting in more than 80 people killed and three survivors. In a press release issued in December, the IACHR urged the State to ensure that all security operations, including those carried out beyond its borders, are consistent with international human rights obligations, particularly regarding the protection of the right to life, the use of force, due process guarantees, and accountability mechanisms.[2014]

920. In December, media information raised concerns about a "double-tap" attack that presumably took place in September, where survivors from an initial strike were reportedly killed in a follow-up strike.[2015] Legal experts and human-rights organizations argued that the targeting of shipwrecked or incapacitated individuals is prohibited under international humanitarian law, while Administration officials defended the strikes as lawful self-defense and asserted the United States acted within the authority of the law of armed conflict.[2016] Nevertheless, the lack of publicly disclosed evidence linking the vessels to an armed conflict, has intensified calls for congressional oversight and accountability.[2017]

921. The Commission is also concerned about the continued armed violence within the United States and measures adopted that could weaken efforts to address this critical issue. In 2025 the State revised federal policies on gun control, including the reduction of resources allocated to gun violence prevention programs and modifications to regulations on background checks for the acquisition of firearms.[2018] Between January and November, 374 mass shootings were recorded in the country.[2019] In this same period, 13,048 homicides were registered, both intentional and unintentional, including of 1,104 children.[2020] The Commission

[2011] IACHR, Press Release No. 065/25, IACHR Concerned About U.S. Measures That Impact the Effective Exercise of Human Rights, March 31, 2025.
[2012] OHCHR, The new US administration must recommit to human rights at home and abroad, February 27, 2025.
[2013] CNN, A timeline of US strikes on boats that have killed 87, December 5, 2025. USNI News, 4 Dead in Latest U.S. Strike on Suspected Narco Boat, December 5, 2025.
[2014] IACHR, Press Release No. 248/25, IACHR urges the United States to ensure respect for human rights in extraterritorial security operations, December 2, 2025.
[2015] The Guardian, Killing of survivors sparks outrage – but entire US 'drug boat' war is legally shaky, December 4, 2025.
[2016] Reuters, White House defends US attack on boat from Venezuela as lawful, December 2, 2025.
[2017] CBS News, Trump's Venezuela boat strikes fuel war crimes allegations. Are they legal?, December 4, 2025; The Guardian, Killing of survivors sparks outrage – but entire US 'drug boat' war is legally shaky, December 4, 2025.
[2018] The Trace, Trump Moves to Undo Biden's Gun Policies, March 3, 2025.
[2019] Gun Violence Archive. Gun Violence Registry 2025, November 19, 2025.
[2020] Gun Violence Archive. Gun Violence Registry 2025, November 19, 2025.

notes that firearms are the leading cause of death among children.[2021] As of November, 215 armed shootings incidents in educational centers caused the death of 148 victims.[2022]

922. On the other hand, the Commission is alarmed over the increased rhetoric that could power political violence in the country. In particular, the Commission condemned the killing of a conservative activist, who was fatally shot in September, during a public event. The IACHR urged the State to adopt comprehensive and human rights-based measures to prevent gun violence, protect the right to life, and guarantee an environment in which freedom of expression and democratic participation can be exercised safely.[2023] This incident also added to a series of violent attacks that have affected political figures with specialized investigators recording approximately 150 politically motivated attacks in the first half of 2025, almost twice as many as in the same period of 2024.[2024]

923. The Commission is also concerned about the deployment of the National Guard — and more broadly armed or militarized forces — for citizen-security tasks in U.S. cities. In 2025, the National Guard has been mobilized in multiple metropolitan areas including Washington, D.C., California and Tennessee.[2025] In Washington, D.C., for example, some 800 Guard members were activated in August under a "crime emergency" decree, marking the start of a broader federal takeover of local policing functions. The Commission notes that this pattern has occurred disproportionately in cities under administrations led by one major political party — raising concerns that federal military resources are being used in a politicized manner rather than solely for genuine public-safety emergencies. Several of these deployments — including federalization of state Guard units — are being challenged in court as potentially unlawful.[2026]

924. In relation to **access to justice**, the Commission recognizes the launch, by the Department of Justice, of the Access to Justice Prize 2025, a competition aimed at fostering innovative solutions to address critical gaps in access to justice, with an initial focus on rural communities.[2027] The Commission also highlights the interagency effort of the Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable to coordinate government resources for the benefit of victims and survivors of crime and other rights violations, as well as the continuity of this program until the end of September.[2028]

925. On the other hand, the Commission expressed concern over the increasing pattern of reprisals, intimidation, and violations of due process affecting justice operators and perceived political opponents. In particular, the increase in hostile political rhetoric against judges and prosecutors, as well as at the reassignment and dismissal of judicial officials without clear established procedures.[2029] The Commission received information regarding statements and measures adopted by State officials that appeared to target individuals as apparent retaliation for the fulfillment of their prosecutorial functions, based on perceptions of their political affiliation or perceived opposition to government policies. Reported incidents of public knowledge include statements by senior officials directing investigations or prosecutions against specific individuals, dismissals of career prosecutors and other public officials without established merit-based or procedural safeguards, and threats of job loss linked to political affiliation or perceived loyalty rather than merit or objective criteria. In a press release published in November, the Commission urged the United States to ensure that justice officials and public servants can perform their functions free from intimidation,

[2021] NPR, Gun deaths among children and teens rose during the pandemic and continued climbing, June 11, 2025.
[2022] K-12 School Shooting Database, All School Shootings from 1996 to the Present, November 2025.
[2023] IACHR [@CIDH], (September 12, 2025), #UnitedStates: #IACHR condemns the killing of Charlie Kirk during a public event in Utah and also expresses concern over the shooting that same day at Evergreen High School in Colorado which left two teenage students in critical condition. The Commission notes that more than 300 mass shootings have already been recorded this year in the United States. The IACHR expresses its solidarity with the families of the victims and urges the State to conduct a prompt, diligent, and impartial investigation to ensure accountability., [X post], X, https://x.com/CIDH/status/1966518642880761874.
[2024] CNN, Charlie Kirk's murder is the latest example of violence tearing through American politics, September 14, 2025.
[2025] ACLU, Dozens of Veterans Descend on Capitol Hill to Oppose Military Deployments to U.S. Cities, November 18, 2025.
[2026] Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, Complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief, September 4, 2025.
[2027] United States Justice Department, Justice Department Launches 2025 Access to Justice Prize to Address the Rural Justice Gap, February 6, 2025.
[2028] LAIR, LAIR Learning Agenda 2025, September 30, 2025.
[2029] OHCHR, United States: New administration must halt sweeping attacks on independent judiciary, March 7, 2025.

interference, or discrimination and further called upon the State to prevent the improper use of criminal law and proceedings to restrict judicial personnel from operating independently.[2030]

926. Moreover, the Commission notes that despite these actions against judicial officers, the judiciary continued to act independently in the fulfilment of its duties. While the Administration has issued numerous executive orders, more than 400 legal challenges have been filed in the courts which have resulted in approximately 130 precautionary measures that temporarily suspended their execution.[2031] However, the Supreme Court has progressively limited the availability of universal injunctions, resulting in the restricting of the ability of citizens to collectively challenge presidential orders that may affect broad segments of the population.[2032]

927. And finally, the IACHR takes note that the President granted general clemency to approximately 1,600 individuals convicted or awaiting trial for crimes related to the January 6, 2021, attack on the United States Capitol. Most people received full pardons, while the sentences of 14 members of the far-right groups Oath Keepers and Proud Boys were commuted.[2033]

928. Regarding the **rights of women**, the Commission notes the adoption of the "Tools to Address Known Exploitation by Immobilizing Technological Deepfakes on Websites and Networks Act", prohibiting the distribution of intimate images without consent, including AI-created "deepfakes".[2034] However, civil society organizations raised concerns over the Bill's broad and vague language.[2035] Conversely, the Commission notes with concern that several measures aimed at protecting women and other groups in situation of vulnerability from discrimination in the workplace, education and healthcare settings were rescinded by the current Administration.[2036]

929. This year, women's access to sexual and reproductive health services was further restricted through multiple federal and state actions,[2037] affecting family planning,[2038] contraception, cancer screenings,[2039] HIV care,[2040] and abortion.[2041] Ongoing legal uncertainty surrounding the provision of reproductive healthcare[2042] led providers to refrain from supplying abortion care as to avoid potential legal or administrative sanctions.[2043] This occurred even in extreme cases, such as that of a brain-dead pregnant woman kept on life support until the fetus was viable.[2044] In some States, physicians were criminally prosecuted for prescribing or supplying abortion pills, including a midwife for providing abortion care.[2045] As of October,

[2030] IACHR, Press Release 225/25, IACHR urges the United States to safeguard judicial independence and prevent retaliation against justice officials, November 5, 2025.
[2031] Just Security, Litigation Tracker: Legal Challenges to Trump Administration Actions, October 6, 2025.
[2032] Supreme Court of the United States, President of the United States, et al. v. CASA, INC., et al, June 27, 2025.
[2033] BBC, Proud Boys and Oath Keepers among over 1,500 Capitol riot defendants pardoned by Trump, January 20, 2025.
[2034] Congress of the United States of America, S.146 - Take it down Act, May 19, 2025.
[2035] AP, President Trump signs Take It Down Act, addressing nonconsensual deepfakes. What is it?, May 20, 2025.
[2036] Federal Register, Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions, January 20, 2025.
[2037] The White House, Enforcing the Hyde amendment, January 24, 2025; Federal Register, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity, January 21, 2025; Congress of the United States of America, H.R.1 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act, July 4, 2025; CMS, CMS Statement on Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), June 3, 2025.
[2038] Politico, Clinics begin closing as Trump admin continues freeze on family planning funds, April 22, 2025; KFF, Recent Policy Proposals Could Weaken the Reproductive Health Safety Net as More People Become Uninsured, July 28, 2025; NPR, Trump cuts threaten access to birth control for millions of women, August 7, 2025.
[2039] Planned Parenthood, Title X: The Nation's Program for Affordable Birth Control and Reproductive Health Care, May 2025.
[2040] Congress of the United States of America, Fiscal Year 2026 bill, August 26, 2025; HIV+HEP Policy Institute, House Republicans Go Way Beyond President's Budget by Ending all HIV Prevention & Slash AIDS Care by 20%, September 1, 2025.
[2041] NPR, Planned Parenthood in Wisconsin stops abortions due to rule that threatens funding, October 7, 2025.
[2042] IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter IV.a, March 26, 2025, p. 822.
[2043] NPR, Planned Parenthood in Wisconsin stops abortions due to rule that threatens funding, October 7, 2025.
[2044] BBC, Baby of brain-dead woman delivered in Georgia, woman's mother says, June 17, 2025.
[2045] NPR, Texas judge fines New York doctor for sending abortion pills to Texas, February 14, 2025; AP, Arrest warrant issued for New York doctor indicted in Louisiana for prescribing abortion pill, January 31, 2025; Texas Legislature, House bill 7, August 20, 2025; AP, Texas midwife accused by state's attorney general of providing illegal abortions, March 17, 2025.

abortion remained criminalized in 12 states[2046] and restricted in 11,[2047] while new Bills were introduced in several states to allow murder charges against women who undergo abortions, even in cases of pregnancy complications, with penalties some states including the death penalty.[2048]

930. In relation to **people in the context of human mobility,** the IACHR observed a series of measures and practices adopted by the United States that have significantly impacted the rights of migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless persons. These actions, framed within a restrictive approach to migration policy, include the interruption of access to asylum procedures, the suspension and reduction of refugee admission programs, a sharp increase in the deprivation of liberty for migration control purposes, among other concerns.

931. On January 20, the Administration issued several executive orders aimed at "protecting the country against invasion", through which it ordered the suspension of the entry into the territory of all migrants, through the southern border, until the alleged invasion ceases.[2049] The order restricts the invocation to any provision that could allow the permanence in the United States.[2050] According to available information, the Department of Homeland Security has resorted to this provision to deny access to asylum procedures and expel migrants of different nationalities, without carrying out an examination of the risk of *refoulement.*[2051] Additionally, the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) was restricted.[2052] An executive order suspended the processing and funding of refugee admission and resettlement programs, setting an admission limit of 7,500 people for the next fiscal year, which would prioritize South Africa's Afrikaner ethnicity.[2053] This amount would represent a 95% decrease in the number of people admitted under USRAP compared to the last fiscal year and the first time that the program will receive a number of people resettled below 60,000 people.[2054] In February, the Commission expressed concerns over these measures.[2055]

932. Throughout the year, there has been a reported increase in the deprivation of liberty of people in the context of human mobility for the purpose of migration control. According to the information available, as of September, a total of 59,762 people were in the custody of the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) office and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Service (ICE), which represented an increase of approximately 60% compared to the previous year; 71.5% of these people did not have a criminal record.[2056] According to public information, by the end of 2025, a total of 125 immigration detention centers are expected to open or expand and reach a housing capacity of 107,000 people.[2057] The Commission has received reports warning that detainees have not had access to legal assistance, to be heard by a justice administrator, or to suitable resources to review the detention measure.[2058] Moreover, in accordance with available information, families are being

[2046] Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. Center for Reproductive Rights, After Roe Fell: Abortion Laws by State, consulted on October 8, 2025.

[2047] Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Center for Reproductive Rights, After Roe Fell: Abortion Laws by State, consulted on October 8, 2025.

[2048] Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Ohio. Alabama Legislature, House bill 518, April 3, 2025; Indiana General Assembly, House Bill 1334, January 13, 2025; North Dakota Legislative Branch, HB 1373, January 13, 2025; Oklahoma State Legislature, SB 456, January 8, 2025; South Carolina Legislature, House bill 3537, January 14, 2025; Idaho State Legislature, Senate bill 1059, February 7, 2025; Georgia General Assembly, House bill 441, February 13, 2025.; Iowa Legislature, House bill 453, February 28, 2025.; Missouri House of Representatives, House bill 1072, January 27, 2025; Texas Legislature, House bill 2197, January 29, 2025; Ohio General Assembly, House Bill 370, June 19, 2025.

[2049] The White House, Presidential actions guaranteeing the States protection against invasion, January 20, 2025.

[2050] U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Section 208, Immigration and Nationality Act, 1952.

[2051] Human Rights First and Refugees International, "This is an order from Trump". Abuse, expulsions, and refoulement of people seeking asylum, May 2025, p. 4.

[2052] The White House, Presidential actions realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program, January 20, 2025.

[2053] Reuters, Trump administration planning 7,500-person refugee ceiling, sources say, Oct. 6, 2025.

[2054] Refugees International, Strong Majority of U.S. Voters Support Refugee Resettlement as Administration Plans to Slash Program by Nearly 95 Percent, October 9, 2025.

[2055] IACHR, Press Release 037/25, IACHR expresses concern over recent migration and asylum policies and measures in the United States, February 12, 2025.

[2056] Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), Immigration detention quick facts, September 21, 2025.

[2057] The Washington Post, ICE documents reveal plan to double immigrant detention space this year, August 15, 2025.

[2058] Human Rights First, Report to Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Follow Up to July 24, 2025 Public Hearing, "Human rights situation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers," October 14, 2025, pp. 26-36.

detained with minor children under ICE custody for prolonged periods[2059] and that the conditions of detention do not meet minimum standards.[2060]

933. The IACHR expresses concern over reported difficulties in locating persons deprived of liberty due to migratory reasons, a situation that may amount to short-term enforced disappearances during involuntary or compulsory removal procedures.[2061] In various cases, authorities have faced significant delays in providing information on individuals' whereabouts, the legal basis for their detention, or the reasons justifying the deprivation of liberty.[2062] The Commission has also received reports alleging that some arrests were carried out on the basis of racial profiling, affecting not only migrants but also lawful permanent residents and, in certain instances, U.S. citizens.[2063]

934. The Commission also observes with concern the increasing use of bilateral agreements aimed at facilitating the deportation, expulsion, or transfer of persons in situations of human mobility. According to available information, these instruments allow one State party to detain and expel migrants under its jurisdiction and remove them to the territory of the other signatory State; they also authorize the transfer of asylum-seekers to third countries for the processing of their claims, rather than examining such applications in the State where the individuals were initially present.[2064] Reports received indicate that under these agreements, migrants have been forcibly transferred to countries where they lack familial, legal, or linguistic support, and where no meaningful opportunity exists to seek asylum or other forms of international protection. In a press release publish in May, the IACHR urged the United States to guarantee the rights of returned, deported, or expelled people.[2065] In September, the Commission, together with the United Nations, reiterated that these agreements may contravene non-derogable human rights obligations and emphasized that States must guarantee due process in all deportation, expulsion, and transfer procedures, irrespective of a person's migratory status.[2066]

935. In relation to **statelessness**, the Commission regrets it regrets the State's decision adopted in June to rescind the updated guidelines governing the treatment of stateless non-citizens in the United States. This measure was adopted pursuant to the Executive Order "Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other Threats to National Security and Public Safety," which invokes national security considerations and directs U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to investigate and assess, to the maximum extent possible, all non-citizens seeking admission to, entering, or already present in the United States.[2067]

936. In relation to **trafficking in persons**, the Commission takes note that in February, a bipartisan and bicameral legislation known as the Dignity in Government Contracting Act of 2025,[2068] was presented to close gaps that may allow human trafficking to persist in government contracting while strengthening agency

[2059] Human Rights First, Report to Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Follow Up to July 24, 2025 Public Hearing, "Human rights situation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers," October 14, 2025, pp. 12-13.

[2060] Human Rights Watch, "You Feel Like Your Life Is Over" Abusive Practices at Three Migrant Detention Centers in Florida Since January 2025, July 21, 2025; Americans for Immigrant Justice, Immigrants Abused in Florida Detention Sites Pervasive Overcrowding, Medical Neglect, Degrading Treatment, July 22, 2025; Human Rights First and Refugees International, "This is an order from Trump". Abuse, expulsions, and refoulement of people seeking asylum, May 2025.

[2061] IACHR, Thematic hearing, "United States: Human rights situation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers," 193rd period of sessions, July 24, 2025.

[2062] The Guardian, Plane to purgatory: how Trump's deportation program shuttles immigrants into lawless limbo, September 10, 2025.

[2063] The Guardian, ICE agents detain US citizen as LA immigration raids continue: 'It's racial profiling', June 16, 2025.

[2064] Human Rights First and Refugees International, "This is an order from Trump". Abuse, expulsions, and refoulement of people seeking asylum, May 2025, p. 2.

[2065] IACHR, Press Release 102/25, IACHR urges States to guarantee the rights of returned, deported, or expelled people, May 15, 2025.

[2066] IACHR, Press Release 190/25, IACHR and United Nations Experts: States Must Protect the Rights of Persons in Human Mobility, September 18, 2025.

[2067] U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Rescission of the USCIS Statelessness Policy, June 5, 2025; see also: Press release No. 230/24 - IACHR calls on States to continue adopting measures to prevent and eradicate statelessness in the r..., September 27, 2024.

[2068] Government of the USA, Congressman Valado Introduces Bill to Prevent Trafficking in Government Contracts, February 6, 2025.

oversight, accountability, and reporting requirements. This Act will require contractors to provide anti-trafficking compliance plans for covered contracts to contracting officers, provide federal contracting officials with information they can use when developing plans to oversee contractors' trafficking prevention efforts, and require the Inspector General to investigate all credible information about potential human trafficking violation. In addition, the IACHR welcomes that, in July, the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act.[2069] This legislation reauthorizes and enhances existing anti-human trafficking provisions, strengthens investigations, and combat the growing threats of child exploitation and on-line abuse.[2070]

937. With respect to the rights of **Indigenous Peoples**, in May Arizona adopted the "Turquoise Alert" system which represented a significant step forward in addressing the alarming rates of disappearances among Indigenous persons. The legislation establishes a system that issues and coordinates alerts for missing tribal members of at least 18 and less than 65 years old.[2071] At the federal level, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a decision regarding gaming contracts which challenged Washington State's agreements negotiated under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), which allow federally recognized tribes to operate and regulate casinos on their lands. By declining to hear the case, the Court upheld the lower court's ruling that affirmed the legality of these agreements and the shared regulatory framework between states and tribes.[2072]

938. In March, several tribal nations and indigenous educators denounced mass layoffs within the Bureau of Indian Education, warning that the reductions would severely impact access to culturally grounded education and continuity of community-based schools.[2073] At the same time, in April, the National Endowment for the Humanities cut approximately 1.5 million dollars in grants intended for research and documentation related to the history of Indian Boarding Schools, curtailing ongoing truth and reconciliation efforts.[2074] Moreover, the United States revoked Native American issues from the Department of the Interior's Annual Human Rights Report, viewing it as a symbolic and practical regression in the visibility of Indigenous concerns within the federal policy agenda.[2075]

939. Regarding the situation of **Afro-descendant persons and the fight against racial discrimination**, the IACHR takes note of specific advances taken in January to correct discriminatory practices. The Department of Justice reached a settlement for alleged redlining with a non-bank mortgage company, as part of its strategy to expand access to credit in Afro-descendant communities.[2076] In addition, the Department of Justice sued Houston County, Georgia, over an electoral scheme that would affect the vote of Afro-descendant persons.[2077] Likewise, the Minneapolis City Council approved a police oversight and reform agreement arising from investigations into discriminatory practices following the George Floyd case,[2078] and the Department of Justice reported the federal conviction of two individuals for burning a cross in front of the campaign sign of an Afro-descendant candidate in Colorado.[2079] The Commission values the proposals by the State of Maryland to reduce the mass incarceration of Afro-descendant persons.[2080]

[2069] Government of the USA, On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Rep. Smith highlights progress in U.S. anti-trafficking fight, July, 30, 2025.
[2070] Government of the USA, On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Rep. Smith highlights progress in U.S. anti-trafficking fight, July, 30, 2025.
[2071] Arizona State Legislature, HOUSE BILL 2281, May 13, 2025.
[2072] National Indian Law Library, 2025 Tribal Sovereignty and Jurisdiction News Stories, July 10, 2025; The Daily World, Tribes hail U.S. Supreme Court dismissal of Maverick Gaming's lawsuit attacking sovereignty, October 7, 2025.
[2073] VOA News, Native American news roundup, March 15, 2025.
[2074] Friends Committee on National Legislation, National Endowment for the Humanities Cuts Grants to Investigate Indian Boarding Schools, April 29, 2025.
[2075] ICT News, Indigenous human rights abuses? Trump administration cut them from annual report, August 15, 2025.
[2076] United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Justice Department Secures Third Settlement with Non-Depository Mortgage Company to Resolve Redlining Allegations, January 7, 2025.
[2077] Reuters, U.S. sues Georgia's Houston County, says it violates Black voters' rights, January 17, 2025.
[2078] Reuters, Minneapolis council approves police oversight following George Floyd probe, January 6, 2025.
[2079] United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Defendants Convicted on Charges Related to Hate Crime Hoax, May 27, 2025.
[2080] The Washington Post, Maryland's 18 ways to stop the mass incarceration of Black people, March 16, 2025.

940. On the other hand, in January, the State issued executive orders to "end illegal discrimination" in the federal administration and to "prioritize military excellence."[2081] The Commission expresses concern that eliminating diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in government and universities may reinforce structural racism against Afro-descendant persons.[2082] In addition, a Department of Justice memorandum was reported requesting the suspension of civil-rights litigation initiated in the prior period, with an impact on the advancement of the rights of Afro-descendant persons.[2083] Likewise, cultural organizations and media reported the termination of federal grants to the Whitney Plantation Museum (Louisiana), an institution dedicated to the memory of slavery,[2084] and the Smithsonian Institution came under criticism and threats of federal reprisals due to its educational activities related to slavery in the United States.[2085]

941. These setbacks are especially concerning, given the persistence of labor gaps affecting Afro-descendant persons in the United States and their cumulative effects on intergenerational mobility and access to higher education.[2086] In 2025, state and sectoral indicators showed consistently higher unemployment rates for the Afro-descendant population and declines in homeownership, while credit and assessment barriers persisted.[2087] According to official data, maternal mortality rates for Afro-descendant women continue to be markedly higher than those of other groups,[2088] and at the same time press reports indicate setbacks in the Environmental Protection Agency's environmental-justice programs—including the cancellation of grants—that exacerbate health risks in majority Afro-descendant communities.[2089] In addition, legislative efforts to redesign districts, as mentioned above, could dilute the vote of Afro-descendant and Latino communities[2090] while the Supreme Court was asked to invalidate a central provision of the Voting Rights Act aimed at protecting against vote dilution in redistricting.[2091]

942. The State also recorded an increase in police lethality numbers, with aggravated impacts on Afro-descendant persons,[2092] as well as advances and setbacks in accountability processes for racial profiling. In Georgia, prosecutors announced they would not file charges against the officer who killed an Afro-descendant man exonerated of a prior conviction,[2093] and in the case of a Congolese immigrant killed in 2022 by a police officer after a traffic stop, an appeal vacated the jury-trial conviction.[2094] At the federal level, in February, the Department of Justice deactivated the database that tracked cases of misconduct by federal agents, a measure criticized for reducing transparency.[2095] The Commission also takes note of studies

[2081] The White House, Ending Illegal Discrimination and restoring merit-based opportunity, January 21, 2025; The White House, Prioritizing Military Excellence and Readiness, January 27, 2025.

[2082] IACHR, Press Release No. 065/25, IACHR concerned over United States' measures that impact the effective exercise of human rights, March 31 2025.

[2083] Reuters, US Justice Department freezes its civil rights litigation, January 22, 2025.

[2084] The Guardian, Trump cuts federal grants to plantation museum focused on reality of slavery, April 23, 2025.

[2085] CNN, Trump escalates attacks against Smithsonian museums, says there's too much focus on 'how bad slavery was', August 20, 2025; NBC News, Trump says the Smithsonian focuses too much on 'how bad slavery was', August 19, 2025.

[2086] Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP), Wealth, Race, and Higher Education: Behind the Making of IHEP's Newest Research Series, July 10, 2025.

[2087] Economic Policy Institute, 2025 Q2 - State Unemployment by Race and Ethnicity, August 22, 2025; Axios, HUD cuts come as Black homeownership falls, September 29, 2025; National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), The State of Equitable Homeownership 2025, June 25, 2025.

[2088] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Maternal Mortality Rates in the United States, 2023, Health E-Stats 100, February 1, 2025.

[2089] Reuters, As Trump's EPA ends 'environmental justice,' minority communities may pay a price, April 23, 2025.

[2090] The Associated Press (AP), A key court test begins for Texas' redrawn US House map that boosts the GOP, October 1, 2025.

[2091] SCOTUSblog, Group of Louisiana voters urges Supreme Court to strike down major provision of the Voting Rights Act, September 17, 2025; The Washington Post, Supreme Court justice pauses ruling weakening Voting Rights Act, July 16, 2025; United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Guidance under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. 10301, para redistricting and methods of electing government bodies, April 2024.

[2092] Axios, New data shows deadly police encounters hit decade-high in 2024, February 25, 2025; The Hill, Police killings set record in 2024, but with smallest increase in years: Report, February 26, 2025.

[2093] Reuters, Georgia sheriff's deputy who fatally shot Black man will not be charged, February 26, 2025.

[2094] Associated Press (AP), What to know about the trial of an ex-Michigan officer charged in the killing of a Black motorist, April 28, 2025; Associated Press (AP), No verdict, mistrial declared, in trial of Michigan police officer who killed Congolese immigrant, May 8, 2025.

[2095] Reuters, US Justice Department cuts database tracking federal police misconduct, February 21, 2025.

documenting the persistence of the overrepresentation of Afro-descendant persons in the prison system.[2096] Moreover, the Federal Bureau of Investigations published in August the national crime statistics for 2024, recording 11,679 hate-crime incidents reported by agencies.[2097]

943. Finally, the Commission recorded a worrying increase in episodes of discrimination and hate crimes against various populations, particularly against Asian, Jewish, Muslim, and Latino persons.[2098] In particular, the Commission expresses concern over a United States Supreme Court decision that could legitimize racial profiling by allowing ICE agents to stop Latino persons based solely on their appearance,[2099] and over the worsening of incidents of discrimination against Latino people.[2100]

944. Regarding the rights of **LGBTI persons**, several positive judicial rulings were issued against regressive measures implemented by the federal government. In February, a federal district court in Maryland issued a temporary restraining order blocking an executive order that limits access to gender-affirming medical care for trans persons under the age of 19.[2101] In June, a federal judge ruled that trans and intersex persons can obtain passports that align with their gender identity.[2102] Also, a court in California granted a preliminary injunction blocking implementation of three executive orders that limit health services for LGBTI persons.[2103] In July, a decision by the Wisconsin Supreme Court enabled the state to permanently enact a ban on conversion therapy.[2104]

945. In addition to the above, different state legislatures and governments advanced protections for the rights of LGBTI persons. In February, the governor of Kansas vetoed a proposed ban on gender-affirming care for trans children and adolescents,[2105] and California's Attorney General warned local hospitals not to withhold trans youth healthcare at the risk of violating state laws.[2106] In March, the House of Representatives of Montana rejected a Bill that would have allowed criminalizing parents and medical providers for ensuring

[2096] Prison Policy Initiative (PPI), Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2025, March 11, 2025; The Sentencing Project, Black Disparities in Youth Incarceration, August 12, 2025.

[2097] Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), FBI Releases 2024 Reported Crimes in the Nation Statistics, August 5, 2025.

[2098] United States Congress, Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2024, April 22, 2025; Stop AAPI hate, New data: Over Half of AA/PIs Experienced Hate in 2024, June 2, 2025; Axios, ADL: Antisemitic incidents hit record level in 2024, April 22, 2025; CAIR, CAIR's Civil Rights Report Shows Islamophobia Complaints at All-Time High, Viewpoint Discrimination Key Factor, March 11, 2025; Islamophobia, 2025 Civil Rights Report: Unconstitutional Crackdowns, s.d.

[2099] American Immigration Council, How the Supreme Court's Latest Decision Clears the Way for Racial Profiling During Immigration Raids, September 9, 2025; Equal Justice Initiative, Supreme Court Allows Stops Based on Race to Continue, September 17, 2025; USA Today, Rex Ruppke: Love racism? Great news! Supreme Court rules ICE racial profiling is totally fine, September 8, 2025.

[2100] Los Angeles Times, Latino tenants sued their landlord: A lawyer told them they would be 'picked up by ICE', July 23, 2025; NBC Chicago, Chicago landlord to pay $80K for threatening to call ICE agents on tenants, March 7, 2025.

[2101] ACLU, Federal Judge Blocks Trump Order Targeting Medical Care for Transgender Youth, February 13, 2025; District Court, D. Maryland, PFLAG, Inc. v. Donald J. Trump (8:25-cv-00337) ORDER granting 35 Motion for Temporary Restraining Order. Signed by Judge Brendan Abell Hurson on February 13, 2025.

[2102] The Guardian, Trans people can obtain US passport that aligns with their gender identity, judge rules, June 17, 2025; The Pink News, Judge blocks Trump's anti-trans passport policy, April 22, 2025; CBS News, Judge blocks Trump administration passport policy targeting transgender people, June 17, 2025; USA Today, Judge blocks Trump anti-trans passport policy, June 17, 2025.

[2103] Lambda Legal, Federal Court Blocks Trump Anti-Equity and Anti-Transgender Executive Orders Targeting LGBTQ and HIV-Serving Nonprofits, June 9, 2025; District Court, N.D. California, San Francisco A.I.D.S. Foundation v. Trump (4:25-cv-01824), ORDER granting in part and denying in part 47 motion for preliminary injunction. Signed by Judge Jon S. Tigar on June 9, 2025. (jstlc3, COURT STAFF), Filed on June 6, 2025.

[2104] KGET.com, Wisconsin Supreme Court clears the way for a conversion therapy ban to be made permanent, July 8, 2025; AP News, Wisconsin Supreme Court clears the way for a conversion therapy ban to be made permanent, July 8, 2025; CBS News, Wisconsin Supreme Court clears the way for a conversion therapy ban to be enacted, July 8, 2025.

[2105] Kansas Reflector, Kansas governor vetoes gender-affirming care ban for minors; Republicans ready for override, February 11, 2025; AP News, Kansas' Democratic governor vetoes a GOP-backed ban on gender-affirming care for trans minors, February 12, 2025; ABC News, Trans youth care ban vetoed by Kansas governor again, February 12, 2025.

[2106] Los Angeles Times, California AG warns L.A. hospital: Withholding transgender care could violate state law, February 5, 2025; The Guardian, California warns hospitals not to withhold trans youth healthcare, February 6, 2025.

gender affirming care for trans persons under 16.[2107] In June, the Maine Senate rejected legislation that would restrict transgender students' access to sports and bathrooms.[2108]

946. In contrast, during the first half of the year, the federal government issued Executive Orders[2109] which negatively affected the rights of LGBTI persons, particularly transgender, and nonbinary persons. These measures included declaring that there are only two biological sexes, suspending passport applications with an X gender marker,[2110] and halting diversity programs within federal agencies.[2111] An order, issued in January, prohibited transgender persons from serving in the military,[2112] which led to the cessation of gender-affirming procedures for service members and the potential discharge of approximately 15,000 personnel without retirement benefits. Subsequently, the pentagon stopped gender-affirming procedures for members of the military.[2113] In August, the U.S. Air Force released a memo stating that it would deny all transgender service members the option of early retirement and would instead separate them without retirement benefits.[2114]

947. In January, federal support for gender-affirming care involving surgeries or hormone treatments for persons under 19 was ended,[2115] resulting in the closure of major clinics across the country.[2116] An additional order targeted protections for transgender students and restricted educational content related to race, gender, and diversity in K–12 schools, affecting an estimated 300,100 transgender youth and prompting reports of censorship in medical and human rights research.[2117] The IACHR also notes reports of the removal of LGBTI human rights references from the State departments human rights reports.[2118] In February, another Executive Order prohibited trans women from competing in female sports categories,[2119] a decision later endorsed by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, which barred trans women from competing in women's events at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.[2120]

[2107] Mother Jones, Montana Republicans Say No to Prosecuting Parents for Trans Care, April 9, 2025; The Guardian, 'Stop these crazy bills': Republicans join Democrats to defeat anti-trans legislation in Montana, March 7, 2025.

[2108] Maine morning star, Maine Senate rejects effort to ban trans girls from sports, June 12, 2025; Glad Law, Maine Legislature Rejects Bills Targeting Transgender Student Athletes, June 17, 2025.

[2109] The White House, Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism And Restoring Biological Truth To The Federal Government, January 20, 2025; The White House, Protecting Children From Chemical And Surgical Mutilation, January 28, 2025; The White House, Restoring America's Fighting Force, January 27, 2025; The White House, Prioritizing Military Excellence and Readiness, January 27, 2025; The White House, Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports, February 5, 2025.

[2110] ABC News, State Department halts 'X' passport gender marker applications. January 24, 2025; CNN Politics, State Department suspends processing passport applications with 'X' gender marker, January 24, 2025; NBC News, Things to know about how Trump's policies target transgender people, February 3, 2025.

[2111] The White House, Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing, January 20, 2025.

[2112] The White House, Prioritizing Military Excellence and Readiness, January 27, 2025; NBC NEWS, February 10, 2025;, Pentagon to ban trans people from joining military, pauses gender-transition procedures, February 10, 2025; Reuters, Transgender US service members to be removed from military, Pentagon memo shows, February 27, 2025.

[2113] NBC News, Pentagon to ban trans people from joining military, pauses gender-transition procedures, February 10, 2025; NBC News, Hegseth orders immediate pause on gender-affirming medical care for transgender service members, February 10, 2025.

[2114] NBC News, Air Force denies early retirement for group of transgender service members, August 7, 2025; National Public Radio, U.S. Air Force to deny early retirement benefits to some transgender service members, August 8, 2025; PBS News, Air Force announces new policy to deny transgender troops hearings before discharges, August 18, 2025.

[2115] The White House, Protecting Children From Chemical And Surgical Mutilation, January 28, 2025; CNN Politics, January 28, 2025. Trump signs order to block federal support for minors' gender transitions. January 28, 2025.

[2116] AP News, The biggest gender-affirming care center for trans kids in the US is closing, prompting protests. July 9, 2025; NPR, Clinic for trans youth in LA closes, leaving some families struggling to find care, July 22, 2025; The Independent, Anger at closure of largest gender-affirming care center for kids in the US, July 9, 2025; NBC News, At least 21 hospitals have ended or restricted trans care for minors since January, August 24, 2025.

[2117] The White House, Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling, January 29, 2025; UCLA, The Williams Institute, Impact of Executive Order Imposing Restrictions on Transgender Students in K-12 Schools, February 2025.

[2118] U.S. Department of State, 2024 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, August 12, 2025; Al Jazeera, Key issues omitted in revised US State Department human rights report, August 12, 2025; Congressional Equality Caucus, Takano Blasts State Dept for Erasing LGBTQI+ Data from Annual Human Rights Reports, August 12, 2025.

[2119] The White House, Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports, February 5, 2025; BBC News, Trump signs order banning transgender women from female sports. February 8, 2025.

[2120] ABC News, US Olympic and Paralympic officials bar transgender women from competing in women's categories, July 23, 2025; The New York Times, US Olympic and Paralympic officials bar transgender women from competing in women's categories, July 23, 2025; The Guardian, US Olympics officials quietly bar trans women from competing in women's sports, July 23, 2025.

948. In the judiciary, the Supreme Court upheld Tennessee's ban on gender-affirming care for trans youth,[2121] allowed parents in Maryland to exempt their children from LGBTQ+ inclusive storybooks based on religious grounds,[2122] and ruled in favor of a woman claiming reverse discrimination based on her heterosexuality.[2123] The Court also heard arguments in *Chiles v. Salazar* concerning government bans on conversion therapy, with a decision expected in 2026,[2124] and received a formal request to overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the landmark ruling that recognized same-sex marriage rights.[2125] However, in November, the Court rejected the request to overturn the decision.[2126] In this context, civil society organizations tracked at least 616 Bills introduced across U.S. states that aim at limiting the human rights of LGBTI persons. Also, the FBI data indicated that hate crimes against LGBTIQ+ persons remained among the top three most reported categories, despite an overall decline in violent crime.[2127]

949. Regarding the rights of **persons with disabilities**, the federal government withdrew guidance designed to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, creating uncertainty for public and private institutions and weakening accountability mechanisms for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).[2128] Concurrently, cuts to federal service and benefit programs disproportionately affected persons with disabilities, limiting timely access to essential financial and healthcare support.[2129] Furthermore, the suspension of legal assistance for hundreds of immigrants with disabilities or mental health conditions severely restricted their access to justice and the effective protection of their rights under U.S. law.[2130]

950. Regarding the rights of **persons deprived of liberty**, the Commission welcomed the commutation of the federal death penalty sentences of 37 of the 40 individuals who were on federal death row by the end of December 2024. Among those sentences were four beneficiaries of precautionary measures granted by the IACHR.[2131] Related to social reintegration, the IACHR values the decision made by the State of New York Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) according to which, from August 1, phone calls made by incarcerated persons in state prisons will be free of charge to strengthen the connections between those individuals and their loved ones.[2132] Also, the IACHR takes note of the introduction in the Senate of a Bill that would require state facilities to report to the U.S. Attorney General data on pregnant and

[2121] U.S. Supreme Court, United States v. Skrmetti, 605 U.S. (2025) June 24, 2025; AP News, Supreme Court OKs Tennessee ban on gender-affirming care for kids, a setback for transgender rights, June 18, 2025; PBS News Hour, Supreme Court upholds Tennessee law banning gender-affirming care for transgender minors, June 18, 2025; FOX 32 Chicago, Supreme Court OKs Tennessee ban on gender-affirming care for kids, June 18, 2025.

[2122] Supreme Court of The United States, Mahmoud et al. v. taylor et al., January 27, 2025; Politico, Supreme Court OKs opt-out for LGBTQ+ materials in school, June 27th, 2025; CBS News, Supreme Court sides with parents who objected to kids' books on gender identity, sexuality, June 27th, 2025.

[2123] Supreme Court of the United States, Ames v. Ohio dept. of youth services, June 5, 2025; Scotus Blog, Supreme Court rules for straight woman who claims she was subjected to reverse discrimination, June 5, 2025; BBC, Supreme Court rules for heterosexual woman in discrimination case, June 5, 2025; NBC News, Supreme Court revives straight woman's discrimination claim, June 5, 2025. Supreme Court rules for heterosexual woman in discrimination case, June 5, 2025; NBC News, Supreme Court revives straight woman's discrimination claim, June 5, 2025.

[2124] NPR, The Supreme Court weighs conversion therapy in a case from Colorado, October 7, 2025; CNN, Supreme Court's conservative majority prepared to rule against conversion therapy ban, October 7, 2025.

[2125] ABC News, Supreme Court formally asked to overturn landmark same-sex marriage ruling, August 11, 2025; Newsweek, Supreme Court Faces Decision on Case Urging Overturn of Same-Sex Marriage, August 11, 2025; KFH News, Supreme Court Is Formally Petitioned To Reverse Same-Sex Marriage Ruling, August 11, 2025; Forbes, Will The Supreme Court Overturn Same-Sex Marriage? Maybe—But It Hasn't Done Anything Yet, August 12, 2025.

[2126] AP News, Supreme Court rejects call to overturn its decision legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide, November 10, 2025; CNN, Supreme Court declines to revisit landmark same-sex marriage precedent, November 10, 2025.

[2127] ACLU, The ACLU is tracking 616Anti-LGBTQ bills in the U.S., September 19, 2025; Human Rights Campaign, FBI's Annual Crime Report: Hate Crimes Against LGBTQ+ Community Remain Among Top 3 Most Reported Categories, August 5, 2025; U.S. Department of Justice, FBI Releases 2024 Hate Crime Statistics, August 5, 2025.

[2128] AP News, The Trump administration withdrew 11 pieces of ADA guidance. How will it affect compliance?, April 8, 2025.

[2129] Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2025 Budget Impacts: House Bill Would Cut Assistance and Raise Costs for People With Disabilities, June 9, 2025.

[2130] NBC News, Trump cuts off most help for immigrants with mental illness or cognitive disabilities, May 6, 2025.

[2131] IACHR, Press Release No. 002/25 - IACHR welcomes commutation of 37 federal death penalty sentences in the United States, January 3, 2025.

[2132] DOCCS, Government of the New York State, As New York's Correctional Facilities continue to recover, recruit and rebuild, DOCCS makes contact with families and loved ones more accessible to improve prison safety, reentry to the community and expand productive activities, July 2025.

postpartum prisoners. The Bill has been referred to the Judiciary Committee in February and is pending discussion.[2133]

951. However, the Commission expresses concern regarding the conditions of detention in some states. According to available information, jails in St. Louis (Missouri), Cleveland (Ohio), and Jackson (Mississippi), do not provide direct access to sunlight and fresh air due to old infrastructure, even though their own policies require it.[2134] In February in the State of New York, correctional officers led multiple strikes and protests motivated by unsafe conditions. When the strike ended, more than 2,000 guards were fired for refusing to return to work, worsening an existing staffing shortage. As of July, 35 out of the state's 42 prisons were operating with an average of 32% of guard positions unfilled. As a result, nearly 3,000 National Guard members were deployed into prisons to assist with basic tasks like supervision and head counts. However, given limited institutional training, they cannot fully replace correctional officers. This measure resulted in lack of officers available to transport inmates to medical appointments and for reintegration activities, and prisoners at some facilities spent over 17 hours a day confined to their cells. DOCCS launched a "recover, recruit and rebuild" campaign pursuing new officers through recruitment centers and new union agreements that offer sign-on and retention bonuses.[2135]

952. On the matter of the **death penalty**, the Commission continues to monitor its application and reiterates that the United States is the only country in the Americas that executes persons sentenced to death. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, as of November 14, a total of 43 prisoners have been executed in 11 states in the country in 2025. Of those executions, five were carried out using the nitrogen gas method and one using a firing squad.[2136]

XXXII. URUGUAY

- **General considerations**

953. In 2025, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay (hereinafter, "Uruguay") maintained a solid democratic and human rights institutional framework, with **progress** in transparency, access to justice, and the strengthening of policies on equality and non-discrimination. Uruguay achieved progress in the protection of the rights of women, Afro-descendants, older persons, persons with disabilities and the LGBTI population.

954. However, **challenges** persisted in terms of judicial independence, detention conditions, and the increase in prison population, as well as gender, ethnic-racial and socioeconomic gaps that continue to limit the full exercise of human rights in the country.

955. On October 2, 2025, the State submitted its response to the Commission's request for information to prepare this chapter.[2137]

[2133] Congress, Government of the United States of America, S.687 - BCRA of 2025, 2025; last visited: November 20, 2025.
[2134] The Marshall Project, The Unbearable Darkness of Jail, May 21, 2025; Missouri Independent, Why some jail detainees in Missouri can go years without seeing the sun, May 21, 2025.
[2135] The Marshall Project, New York's Prison Guard Strike Ended Months Ago. For Some, Life-Threatening Effects Persist., July 26, 2025; also, see: The Marshall Project, How a Guards' Strike Plunged New York Prisons Into Turmoil and Why the Timing Is Curious, February 22, 2025; and *En pelotas*, Crisis en las prisiones de Nueva York: violencia, encubrimiento y negligencia Estatal (Crisis in New York Prisons: Violence, Cover-ups, and State Negligence), April 16, 2025.
[2136] Death Penalty Information Center, Execution List 2025, November 14, 2025.
[2137] Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the OAS, Note No. 162/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, October 2, 2025. On IACHR´s files.

- **Specific issues**

956. During 2025, the State continued to strengthen **democratic institutionality** and **human rights institutions**. In August, the 2025–2029 Sixth Open Government National Action Plan was presented, the first of its kind with a four-year duration, developed by means of a participatory process that included public institutions, civil society organizations, academia, multilateral organizations and the private sector. This plan incorporates lines of action to strengthen transparency, access to public information, accountability and citizen participation, among others, and sets out 41 commitments, undertaken by 24 public institutions, in key public policy areas such as children and adolescents, public security and corruption.[2138]

957. In this context, a participatory process was initiated for the development of the 2025-2035 National Public Security Plan, the 2027–2030 Second National Human Rights Action Plan, and the 2026–2030 Gender and Climate Change Plan.[2139] Additionally, the Project on Strengthening Climate-Smart Competencies in Uruguay was launched, with the aim of strengthening the capacities of individuals and communities to address the effects of climate change.[2140] In the areas of transparency and accountability, noteworthy measures include the launch of digital platforms, such as the Portal de Transparencia Presupuestaria (Budget Transparency Portal), the Observatorio Territorio Uruguay (Uruguayan Territory Observatory) and the Base Normativa Digital Departamental (Departmental Digital Legal Framework Database) (under development),[2141] as well as the inclusion, in the new Administrative Procedural Code, of a second instance in jurisdictional proceedings initiated by private individuals against administrative acts of the State.[2142]

958. For its part, the Secretariat of Human Rights (SDH) of the Office of the Presidency took steps to mainstream the human rights approach within the public service. Within the framework of the national budget preparation, the SDH facilitated political and institutional dialogue with legislators to promote the observance of human rights as a cross-cutting priority in the allocation of resources.[2143] The SDH is also developing an Integrated Human Rights System that will articulate public policies, the international commitments undertaken and the resources available.[2144] In addition, in coordination with the National School of Public Administration (ENAP) of the National Office of the Civil Service (ONSC), the SDH is developing several human rights training courses aimed at public officials from various ministries.[2145]

959. Similarly, the Directorate on Human Rights of the National Public Education Administration (ANEP) redefined its strategic areas to strengthen a human rights approach in the field of education. In this regard, the following areas were created: i) Comprehensive Sexual Education (ESI), with the aim of addressing sexuality in a comprehensive manner within a human rights framework; ii) Interculturality and Diversity, to strengthen training and reflection in this area; and iii) Memory, to promote dialogue and the creation of shared understandings among all educational stakeholders regarding the memory of the recent past, thereby

[2138] Gub.uy, Agency for Electronic Government and Information and Knowledge Society, "Uruguay presenta el Sexto Plan de Gobierno Abierto" (Uruguay Presents its Sixth Open Government Plan), October 3, 2025.

[2139] Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the OAS, Note No. 162/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, October 2, 2025, pp. 12, 26, 29 and 46. On IACHR´s files; Gub.uy., "El Plan Nacional de Seguridad Pública: el camino hacia un Uruguay Más Seguro" (National Public Security Plan: The path toward a safer Uruguay), July 28, 2025; Gub.uy., Ministry of Social Development, "Uruguay profundiza su compromiso con la justicia climática y la igualdad de género en el Diálogo Regional Norte" (Uruguay deepens its commitment to climate justice and gender equality at Diálogo Regional Norte), August 2, 2025.

[2140] Gub.uy., Ministry of Environment, "Uruguay avanza en el fortalecimiento de competencias climáticas inteligentes" (Uruguay advances on strengthening smart climate competencies), August 13, 2025.

[2141] Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the OAS, Note No. 162/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, October 2, 2025, pp. 1-2. On IACHR´s files.

[2142] Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the OAS, Note No. 162/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, October 2, 2025, p. 61. On IACHR´s files; *Silvamanta*, "Nuevo Código de Procedimiento Administrativo en Uruguay" (New Administrative Procedural Code in Uruguay), January 16, 2025.

[2143] Gub.uy., Secretariat of Human Rights, "Encuentro por un presupuesto con enfoque en derechos humanos" (Meeting on a human rights–based budget), August 4, 2025.

[2144] Gub.uy., Secretariat of Human Rights, "Consejo Directivo de Derechos Humanos mantuvo primera reunión del período en Torre Ejecutiva" (Human rights council holds its first meeting of the term at *Torre Ejecutiva*), October 15, 2025.

[2145] Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the OAS, Note No. 162/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, October 2, 2025, p. 27. On IACHR´s files.

protecting the right to get to know it.[2146] In addition, the National Directorate of Education implemented various programs related to human rights, including the Education and Gender Program, the Intercultural Education and Migrants Program, the Education and Ethnicities Program, the Inclusive Education Program, the Environmental Education Program, and the Education in Prisons Program.[2147]

960. Regarding **access to justice**, the judiciary's 2025–2034 Strategic Plan established the following as priority objectives: to optimize the functioning of public defender offices, and to ensure a timely, equal, effective and efficient access to justice for everyone. In terms of the first objective, working meetings were held with the country's 317 public defenders, with the aim of planning strategic actions to improve the provision of services. With respect to the second objective, working meetings were held with all magistrates outside the capital to identify the main barriers to access to justice and to suggest concrete actions to overcome them. Furthermore, possible strategies were discussed to strengthen the presence of the Justice of the Peace within their respective jurisdictions, with the aim of resolving conflicts and social issues.[2148]

961. As for training in the justice sector, a course titled "Human Rights and the Scope of the State's Obligation to Prevent, Investigate, and Sanction Discrimination" was provided to all staff members of the Office of the Attorney General (FGN) and other justice system actors, with a particular focus on hate speech, discrimination against Afro-descendants, antisemitism, and discrimination against older persons.[2149] It should be noted that the FGN started the preparation of a draft bill to establish a Prosecutors' School, with the aim of raising training standards at the outset of the judicial career and targeted at new members of the Office of Public Prosecutor.[2150] For its part, within the judiciary, several courses were delivered to justice system operators, both as part of initial and continuing training, and workshops for discussion and exchange were held on human rights, violence against women, and a gender perspective.[2151]

962. Regarding **judicial independence**, the Commission observes that the head of the FGN has yet to be appointed, since this position has been filled by acting officials since 2021[2152] and is of critical importance to ensuring its proper functioning.[2153] In addition, the Inter-American Commission condemns the attack against the current Acting Attorney General, Mónica Ferrero, perpetrated at her private residence in the early morning of September 28, allegedly linked to the seizure of psychoactive substances.[2154] It also commends the prompt response of the national authorities to enhance the security of prosecutorial personnel handling drug trafficking-related cases, as well as to investigate the incident. According to public information, the material perpetrators have already been arrested, and investigations concerning the masterminds remain ongoing.[2155]

[2146] *Ibid*, pp. 30-31.
[2147] *Ibid*, p. 7
[2148] *Ibid*, pp. 58-59
[2149] *Ibid*, p. 42
[2150] *Ibid*, p. 60.
[2151] *Ibid*, pp. 33–34, 59.
[2152] Office of the Attorney General, "Estructura del Organismo" (Organizational Structure), accessed on October 30, 2025. See also: *La mañana.uy*, "Renuncia de Juan Gómez pone de nuevo en el tapete necesidad de designar un fiscal de Corte titular" (Juan Gómez resignation once again highlights the need to appoint a permanent Attorney General), August 21, 2024; *El País*, "Vacancia de cargo del fiscal de Corte adjunto genera preocupación en el sistema político" (Vacancy in the position of deputy attorney general raises concern within the political system), April 18, 2022.
[2153] IACHR, thematic hearing, "Uruguay: Impact on the independence of the Public Prosecutor's Office", 190 regular period of sessions, Washington D.C, United States of America, July 10, 2024.
[2154] OAS, Statement of the OAS General Secretariat on the Attack against the Public Prosecutor of Uruguay, September 29, 2025; *El País*, "Ministro Negro confirmó dos detenidos por ataque a la fiscal Mónica Ferrero: 'No nos moverán ni un centímetro y van a caer'" (Minister Negro confirmed two arrests in the attack against acting Attorney General Mónica Ferrero: "They will make us move not even an inch, and they will be brought to justice."), September 28, 2025; *El País*, "El atentado contra Mónica Ferrero implicó una explosión de granada: el estruendo fue escuchado por vecinos" (The attack against Mónica Ferrero involved a grenade explosion; the blast was heard by nearby residents), September 28, 2025.
[2155] Gub.uy., Ministry of the Interior, "Carlos Negro: 'Ninguna advertencia va a poder con la Fiscalía, con la Justicia ni con la Policía Nacional'" (Carlos Negro: "No threat will undermine the Office of the Attorney General, the judiciary or the National Police"), September 29, 2025; *El Observador*, "Amenaza a Mónica Ferrero: Orsi dijo que reforzarán seguridad de funcionarios que trabajan contra el narcotráfico y llamó a votar ley de lavado" (Threat against Mónica Ferrero: Orsi says security for officials working against drug trafficking will be

963. With regard to the situation of **Afro-descendants and the fight against racial discrimination**, actions were undertaken to highlight and reaffirm the history, struggles and identity of the Afro-descendant population, promote equal opportunities, and fight against racism. In this regard, the National Institute of Human Rights and Office of the Ombudsperson (INDDHH) approved a single general procedure for the implementation of affirmative quota laws in INDDHH recruitment processes[2156], carried out institutional education and awareness-raising activities during the Month for People of African Descent and announced the design of an observatory to monitor hate speech[2157]. For its part, the Ministry of Education and Culture organized a regional meeting on Afro-centered ethnic education,[2158] and the Ministry of Social Development reinstated the National Council on Racial Equity and Afro-Descendants in order to mainstream the ethnic-racial perspective in the ministry's work.[2159]

964. Likewise, at the departmental level, the Municipality of Montevideo inaugurated memorial plaques at Parque Capurro to mark the site where enslaved persons had arrived,[2160] presented a diagnostic report on Candombe and Afro-descendants,[2161] and implemented cultural agendas.[2162] Furthermore, civil society organizations pointed to tensions surrounding the management of the Caserío de los Negros memory site and called for the temporary suspension of excavations until a community-agreed destination for the remains was established.[2163] In this regard, the INDDHH issued recommendations to ensure inter-institutional coordination, scientific standards and social participation. [2164]

965. In addition, within the framework of Law No. 19.122, which establishes an 8 percent quota regarding the vacancies at the public sector assigned to Afro-descendants, the Banco de la República (Bank of the Republic of Uruguay [BROU]) launched a recruitment process aimed at hiring Afro-descendants and trans persons.[2165] At the same time, a study on compliance with the aforementioned law, which collected data between 2014 and 2024, revealed that the Afro-descendant population faces structural inequalities in employment access and conditions, that Afro-descendant households experience higher levels of poverty, and that the average hourly wage is 29 percent lower than that of the non-Afro-descendant population. It further revealed that the implementation of the law has been deficient, as labor gaps persist despite the adoption of labor market inclusion programs.[2166]

strengthened and calls for the passage of the anti-money laundering law), September 29, 2025; Gub.uy., Ministry of the Interior, "Ministro se refirió al avance en la investigación sobre el caso Ferrero y destacó profesionalismo policial" (Minister addresses progress in the investigation into the Mónica Ferrero case and highlights police professionalism), October 9, 2025.

[2156] Gub.uy., National Institute of Human Rights and Office of the Ombudsperson, "La INDDHH impulsa acciones estratégicas en el Mes de la Afrodescendencia" (The INDDHH promotes strategic actions during Afro-descendant month), July 28, 2025.

[2157] Gub.uy., National Institute of Human Rights and Office of the Ombudsperson, Press Release Día Internacional de las Personas Afro (International Day for People of African Descent), August 31, 2025.

[2158] Gub.uy., Ministry of Education and Culture, "31 agosto: Día Internacional de las Personas Afrodescendientes" (31 August: International Day for People of African Descent), August 31, 2025; Gub.uy., Ministry of Education and Culture, "Hacia una educación con mirada afrodescendiente: Primer Encuentro Regional de Etnoeducación Afrocentrada en Montevideo" (Towards an Afro-descendant–centered education: first regional meeting on Afro-centered ethnic education in Montevideo), July 23, 2025.

[2159] Gub.uy., Ministry of Social Development, "Responsabilidad transversal: reinstalación del Consejo Nacional de Equidad Racial" (Cross-cutting responsibility: reinstatement of the National Council on Racial Equity), June 9, 2025.

[2160] Municipality of Montevideo, "Inauguración de placas de la memoria en el Parque Capurro" (Inauguration of memorial plaques at Parque Capurro), June 3, 2025.

[2161] Municipality of Montevideo, "Se presentó diagnóstico sobre candombe y afrodescendencia" (Diagnostic report on Candombe and Afro-descendants presented), April 29, 2025.

[2162] Municipality of Montevideo, "Programa del paseo sur y palermo" (Paseo Sur and Palermo Program), August 4, 2025; Municipality of Montevideo, "Afrodescendencia" (Afro-descendants), August 13, 2025.

[2163] *La diaria*, "Atabaque pide detener excavaciones en Caserío de los Negros hasta encontrar un lugar para los restos" (Atabaque calls for excavations at Caserío de los Negros to be halted until a resting place for the remains is found), January 8, 2025; *Mundo Afro*, "Estudio bioarqueológico en el Caserío de los Negros reveló importantes hallazgos" (Bioarchaeological study at Caserío de los Negros reveals significant findings), March 31, 2025.

[2164] Gub.uy., National Institute of Human Rights and Office of the Ombudsperson, "Posición del Consejo Directivo: Caserío de la Real Compañía de Filipinas" (Position of the Managing Council: Caserío de la Real Compañía de Filipinas), January 14, 2025.

[2165] Banco de la República Oriental del Uruguay, "Nuevos Funcionarios en la Institución" (New staff members at the institution), July 8, 2025.

[2166] Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the OAS, Note No. 162/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, October 2, 2025, p. 32. On IACHR´s files.

966. Similarly, according to official data, the Afro-descendant population shows a significant incidence of poverty (particularly among children under the age of six) as well as higher rates of unemployment and educational dropout compared to the non-Afro-descendant population.[2167] Other challenges identified for the full exercise of their rights include food insecurity, the proportion of homelessness, physical and mental health issues, and the lack of up-to-date data on the Afro-descendant population that would enable the development of evidence-based policies.[2168] There are also persistent gaps in the political representation of Afro-descendant women.[2169]

967. With regard to the human rights of **women**, the National Gender Council was reinstated as an inter-institutional coordination space to promote substantive equality public policies across all levels of the State.[2170] At the Council's first session, the programmatic priorities of the 2025–2030 National Public Policy for Gender Equality were presented,[2171] which incorporates the 90 measures committed to by the Government's 14 ministries in the framework of International Women's Day.[2172] Among these measures, noteworthy commitments and progress include mainstreaming the gender perspective in the planning and management of public resources, in institutional structures and portfolios, and in the training of public officials.[2173] In addition, implementation of the Gender Policy for the Agricultural Sector began, which seeks to address inequalities in the agricultural sector by facilitating access to land, training and productive support.[2174]

968. Likewise, the Senate passed a bill aimed at systematizing, analyzing, and ensuring transparency of data on the gender pay gap, as a first step towards the adoption of evidence-based corrective public policies.[2175] At the same time, a recent ONSC's study found an overall gender pay gap of 10.48 percent in favor of men, as well as vertical and horizontal gender segregation within the public service: while women make up 55 percent of staff, they hold only 42 percent of leadership positions and a minimal share of senior-level posts, and are concentrated in sectors such as social services and justice.[2176] Similarly, studies by the Banco de Previsión Social (Social Security Bank, BPS) found that, while women's participation in the social security system has increased significantly,[2177] a marked trend persists whereby women receive lower salaries than men.[2178]

[2167] Gub.uy., Presidency of Uruguay, "Estudio sobre participación laboral de afrodescendientes permitirá rediseñar políticas" (Study on labor participation of Afro-descendants to enable the redesign of policies), July 25, 2025; Gub.uy., Ministry of Social Development, "Visibilizar desigualdades y fortalecer acciones: datos estadísticos de la población afrodescendiente en Uruguay" (Making inequalities visible and strengthening action: statistical data on the Afro-descendant population in Uruguay), July 2, 2025; *Montevideo Portal*, "El 46% de los niños afrodescendientes menores de seis años son pobres en Uruguay" (In Uruguay, 46 percent of Afro-descendant children under six live in poverty), July 1, 2025.

[2168] Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the OAS, Note No. 162/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, October 2, 2025, p. 54. On IACHR´s files.

[2169] *La diaria*, "El desafío de la inclusión afrodescendiente en la política uruguaya" (The challenge of Afro-descendant inclusion in Uruguay's politics), March 21, 2025; *El País*, "Las mujeres afro luchan por la inclusión en Uruguay, un país que se resiste a la paridad" (Afro-descendant women fight for inclusion in Uruguay, a country resistant to parity), March 11, 2025.

[2170] Gub.uy., Office of Planning and Budget, "Gobierno reinstala el Consejo Nacional de Género" (Government reinstates the national gender council), July 24, 2025.

[2171] Gub.uy., Ministry of National Defense, "Primera Sesión del Consejo Nacional de Género 2025-2030" (First session of the national gender council 2025–2030), November 7, 2025.

[2172] Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the OAS, Note No. 162/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, October 2, 2025. On IACHR´s files, Gub.uy, Ministry of National Defense, "Presentación de los Compromisos de Estado en materia de políticas de género" (Presentation of the State commitments on gender policies), March 10, 2025.

[2173] Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the OAS, Note No. 162/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, October 2, 2025, pp. 24, 36, 42. On IACHR´s files.

[2174] Gub.uy., Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, "Política de Género Agro" (Gender policy for the agricultural sector) n/d., accessed on November 7, 2025.

[2175] *El Observador*, "El Senado aprobó un proyecto de ley que busca crear un indicador sobre la brecha salarial de género" (Senate passes bill aimed at creating an indicator on the gender pay gap), August 5, 2025.

[2176] Gub.uy., National Office of the Civil Service, "Brecha de género en los puestos jerárquicos en el Estado uruguayo – 2024" (Gender gap in senior leadership positions within the Uruguayan State – 2024), March 31, 2025.

[2177] Banco de Previsión Social, *La seguridad social con mirada de género, actualización* (Social security from a gender perspective, updated edition), February 2025.

[2178] *El País*, "Adultos mayores: todos ven como algo 'muy común' la soledad y percepción cambia según el barrio en que se vive" (Older persons: everyone views loneliness as "very common," and perceptions vary depending on the neighborhood where they live),

969. Regarding the rights of **children and adolescents**, the Senate passed a bill raising the minimum age for marriage to 18, with the possibility of an exception subject to judicial authorization;[2179] it also resumed consideration of the initiative to eliminate the statute of limitations for sexual crimes against children and adolescents, which had remained stalled since it was submitted in 2020.[2180] Likewise, work began on the development of a pilot plan between the Food National Institute and the judiciary, under which the Specialized First-Instance Family Courts in the capital would provide food vouchers, under certain conditions, to women, children and adolescents in situations of economic vulnerability, within the framework of the judicial proceedings they manage.[2181]

970. Regarding **human trafficking**, the 2023–2028 National Plan for the Eradication of Commercial and Non-Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents was adopted.[2182] In addition, the National Directorate of Migration and the European Union signed a memorandum of understanding to create the Punto Atenas (Athens Point) space, which seeks to enhance coordination and articulation between national and international institutions with the aim of improving inter-agency interoperability for the prevention of cross-border crimes such as human trafficking.[2183]

971. As for the rights of **LGBTI persons**, actions were undertaken to promote visibility and the recognition of their rights. These actions included the appointment of a trans woman as Secretary of Human Rights;[2184] the recognition, by the SDH, of defenders such as Diana Mines, Karina Pankievich and Fernando Frontán for their work in the defense of the rights of LGBTI persons;[2185] and the sentencing of a man to seven years in prison for the murder of a trans woman.[2186] In contrast, in April the killing of a trans woman was

February 4, 2025; *Debate*, "Las desigualdades de género en la vejez: mujeres mayores en Uruguay enfrentan más soledad y menores ingresos" (Gender inequalities in old age: older women in Uruguay face greater loneliness and lower incomes), February 10, 2025.

[2179] *Medios Públicos Uruguay*, "Senado aprobó cambio para subir la edad mínima para casarse a los 18 años" (Senate passes amendment to raise the minimum age for marriage to 18), September 10, 2025.

[2180] *El Telégrafo*, "Presidente Orsi aseguró que reforzará las políticas de género para dar 'valor a la lucha de las mujeres'" (President Orsi states that he will strengthen gender policies to recognize women's struggles), March 11, 2025; *La Diaria Uruguay*, "Imprescriptibilidad de delitos sexuales y tipificación del suicidio femicida: dos proyectos de ley que ubican a las víctimas en el centro" (Elimination of the statute of limitations for sexual crimes and the criminalization of femicide-related suicide: two bills that place victims at the center), August 19, 2025.

[2181] Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the OAS, Note No. 162/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, October 2, 2025, p. 34. On IACHR´s files.

[2182] Gub.uy., Presidency of Uruguay, Decreto N° 48/025 Se aprueba el III Plan Nacional para la Erradicación de la Explotación Sexual Comercial y No Comercial de la Niñez y la Adolescencia, (Decree No. 48/025 on the adoption of the Third National Plan for the Eradication of Commercial and Non-Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents), February 20, 2025.

[2183] European Union, "Uruguay firma el Memorando de Entendimiento para la creación del Punto Atenas en el marco del programa europeo EUROFRONT" (Uruguay signs MOU for the creation of the Punto Atenas space within the framework of the European EUROFRONT program), June 11, 2025.

[2184] *Infobae*, "La secretaria de Derechos Humanos de Yamandú Orsi será la primera trans en llegar al Poder Ejecutivo" (Yamandú Orsi's Secretary of Human Rights to be the first trans woman to join the executive), February 7, 2025; *LatFem*, "Poder trans en el gobierno de Uruguay" (Trans power in Uruguay's government), February 17, 2025.

[2185] *Yahoo Noticias*, "Uruguay premia a tres activistas LGTBI que 'arriesgaron sus cuerpos' para 'abrir caminos'" (Uruguay honors three LGBTI activists who "put their bodies on the line" to "pave the way"), June 25, 2025; *Diario ABC*, "Secretaría de Uruguay premia a tres activistas LGTBI que 'arriesgaron sus cuerpos' para 'abrir caminos'" (The Secretariat of Uruguay honors three LGBTI activists who "put their bodies on the line" to "pave the way"), June 24, 2025; *La Diaria*, "Secretaría de Derechos Humanos de Presidencia homenajeó a referentes LGBTI+ y presentó lineamientos en diversidad para el quinquenio" (The Secretariat of Human Rights of the Office of the Presidency honors LGBTI+ leaders and presents diversity guidelines for the next five years), June 25, 2025.

[2186] *La Diaria*, "Justicia condenó a siete años de prisión al hombre que mató a una mujer trans en Jardines del Hipódromo" (The justice system sentences the man who killed a transgender woman in Jardines del Hipódromo to seven years in prison), August 6, 2025; *Subrayado*, "Condenaron a un hombre por el homicidio de una mujer trans asesinada de un disparo en la cabeza en Bella Italia" (A man is convicted for the killing of a trans woman after shooting her in the head in Bella Italia), August 1, 2025.

recorded in Canelones.[2187] In addition, a civil society study revealed that LGBTI migrants face expressions of xenophobia and difficulties in accessing healthcare or housing.[2188]

972. With regard to the situation of **persons with disabilities**, progress was made in terms of transparency and institutional strengthening, under the perspective of the social model of disability. Accountability actions regarding the implementation of affirmative action laws for persons with disabilities are noted,[2189] along with measures to ensure reasonable accommodation for persons with visual disabilities in the education and employment sectors.[2190] Nevertheless, civil society organizations reported barriers of access to public and private transportation for persons with disabilities. It was reported that a resolution under consideration would prohibit cash payments on certain means of transport, affecting this population, who, due to a lack of autonomous and accessible means, would be unable to manage payment and, consequently, move independently.[2191]

973. In terms of the rights of **older persons**, the Third National Plan on Aging and Older Persons is currently under development; it is designed as a public policy guiding, coordinating and monitoring instrument targeting this population.[2192] At the same time, actions were carried out over the year to promote and protect their rights. Among these measures were the following: i) a widespread 6.13-percent increase in periodic social security benefits in 2025, along with an additional adjustment for minimum pensions and retirement benefits;[2193] ii) the launch of the Observatory on Aging, Older Persons and Social Security of the BPS, aimed at strengthening existing social security policies, as well as generating input to foster innovation in the area;[2194] iii) the implementation of the Aprender Siempre (Always Learning, PAS) non-formal education programme, with specific activities for older persons in various territories;[2195] and iv) the launch of the campaign on the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, aimed at fighting against violence and age-based discrimination.[2196]

974. As for **persons in the context of human mobility**, the country extended the Tie-Based Residency Program until November 23. The program, launched in May 2024, aims to offer a regular stay and access to rights to 20,000 asylum seekers.[2197] In February, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) announced that 2,000 applications had been filed and that nearly half had already been resolved, benefiting nationals of Benin, Cuba, Haiti, Morocco, the Dominican Republic and Senegal.[2198] The program is based on the Inter-

[2187] *La Diaria*, Colectivos LGBTI+ repudiaron transfemicidio en Pinamar Norte y lo enmarcaron en una "ola de odio" global contra las identidades disidentes (LGBTI+ groups condemn the transfemicide in Pinamar Norte and frame it as part of a global 'wave of hatred' against dissident identities), April 21, 2025; *El Observador*, "Alexandra Ruiz, la primera mujer trans asesinada en 2025: reina de samba en Canelones, militante por los derechos LGTBI+ y una vida de sacrificios" (Alexandra Ruiz, the first trans woman murdered in 2025: samba queen in Canelones, LGBTI+ rights activist and a life of sacrifice), April 26, 2025.

[2188] IOM, UNFPA, Ovejas Negras, "Estado de situación sobre ejercicio de derechos de personas migrantes LGBTIQ+ en Uruguay" (Analysis on the exercise of rights of LGBTIQ+ migrants in Uruguay), 2025; *Diario ABC*, "Un estudio apoyado por la OIM señala que Uruguay debe mejorar la respuesta a migrantes LGTBIQ+" (A study supported by the IOM indicates that Uruguay must improve its response to LGBTIQ+ migrants), August 13, 2025; *La Diaria*, "Las personas migrantes LGBTI+ en Uruguay sienten más discriminación por su nacionalidad que por la orientación sexual o identidad de género" (LGBTI+ migrants in Uruguay face greater discrimination based on their nationality than on their sexual orientation or gender identity), August 13, 2025.

[2189] Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the OAS, Note No. 162/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, October 2, 2025, p. 26. On IACHR´s files.

[2190] *Ibid.*, pp. 10, 11 and 14.

[2191] Minutes of the meeting, IACHR, meeting with CLADH, May 15, 2025. On IACHR´s files.

[2192] Gub.uy., Agency for Electronic Government and Information and Knowledge Society, "Línea de acción: Enfoque de Gobierno Abierto en el diseño e implementación de las políticas públicas" (Line of action: Open Government approach in the design and implementation of public policies), n/d., accessed on November 7, 2025.

[2193] Banco de Previsión Social, "Montos y aumentos de pasividades" (Benefit amounts and increases), 2025.

[2194] Banco de Previsión Social, "Presentación del Observatorio de Vejez, Envejecimiento y Seguridad Social (OVESS)" (Launch of the Observatory on Aging, Older Persons and Social Security), February 4, 2025.

[2195] Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the OAS, Note No. 162/2025, Input for the IACHR's *2025 Annual Report*, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, October 2, 2025, p. 14. On IACHR´s files.

[2196] Gub.uy., Ministry of Social Development, "Campaña por la Toma de Conciencia del Abuso y Maltrato en la Vejez" (Campaign for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day), June 13, 2025.

[2197] Gub.uy., Ministry of the Interior, National Directorate of Migration, "Residencia por arraigo" (Tie-Based Residency).

[2198] Gub.uy., Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Avanza regularización de migrantes gracias a nuevos mecanismos para solicitantes de refugio" (New mechanisms for asylum seekers drive progress in migrant regularization), February 25, 2025.

American Principles developed by the Commission, upholds the commitments undertaken in the 2023 Global Refugee Forum and reinforces the principles of the 2022 Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection.[2199] Moreover, the Legal Citizenship and Nationality Working Group of the INDDHH submitted a report with key recommendations to ministerial authorities to ensure the right to nationality of migrants, refugees, stateless persons and children and adolescents.[2200]

975. Furthermore, there remains a lack of alignment in the passports issued to legal citizens to ensure that the corresponding Uruguayan nationality is duly recorded, notwithstanding the efforts undertaken by the government of Uruguay to find a solution. In this regard, the Inter-American Commission and other international bodies welcomed[2201] the decision to include the heading "Nationality/Citizenship" and the code "URY" on passports for both natural-born and legal citizens, in order to ensure consistency between the issuing country of the document and the citizenship of its holder. Likewise, the heading "Place of birth" was removed, as it is not considered mandatory under the regulations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).[2202] However, on 29 July, 2025, a joint statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior reported that, due to challenges in the stamping of long-stay visas, the issuance of the new passports would be discontinued, without further information.[2203]

976. In terms of **memory, truth and justice**, actions were carried out to preserve and ensure access to relevant archives for the clarification of grave human rights violations. Among these actions, particular emphasis is placed on the signing of an agreement for the digitization of historical files from police headquarters, police intelligence services and the military justice system; the publication of historical documents related to Operation Condor; and cooperation with Chile for the exchange of documentary information on human rights violations.[2204] Moreover, public sources point to challenges in the area of reparations arising from Law No. 18.033, due to the incompatibility between reparatory pensions and regular retirement pensions. At the same time, they indicate that there is openness to dialogue between the State and victims' organizations on the matter.[2205]

977. Regarding **persons deprived of liberty**, at the beginning of 2025 the second National Census of Persons Deprived of Liberty was conducted, which facilitated the collection of relevant data to support informed decision-making on penitentiary public policy.[2206] Likewise, various initiatives were implemented over the year to promote social reintegration. The following initiatives are particularly noteworthy: i) the adoption of the Assisted Inclusion Project, aimed at supporting the reintegration of people recently released

[2199] Gub.uy., Presidency of Uruguay, Decree No. 138/024, May 15, 2024.

[2200] Gub.uy. "Uruguay avanza en garantizar la nacionalidad a migrantes y refugiados tras informe de D.D.H.H" (Uruguay makes progress in guaranteeing nationality for migrants and refugees following a human rights report), April 22, 2025.

[2201] IACHR [@CIDH], (April 22, 2025), *#CIDH saluda la decisión del gobierno de adaptar los pasaportes de las personas extranjeras que adquirieron ciudadanía legal, siguiendo las directrices de la Organización de Aviación Civil Internacional* (#IACHR welcomes the decision of the government to adapt the passports of foreign nationals who have acquired legal citizenship, in line with the guidelines of the International Civil Aviation Organization) [X post], X. https://t.co/cSn9WU0fmN; UNHCR, "Uruguay: ACNUR celebra decisión del Ministerio del Interior que contribuye a prevenir la apatridia" (Uruguay: UNHCR welcomes decision by the Ministry of the Interior that helps prevent statelessness), April 17, 2025; IOM, "IOM congratulates the Government of Uruguay for protecting migrant populations through official passport modifications", April 18, 2025.

[2202] Gub.uy., Ministry of the Interior, "Ministerio del Interior actualiza información en pasaporte para cumplir con normativa internacional" (Ministry of the Interior updates passport information to comply with international regulations), April 15, 2025.

[2203] Gub.uy., Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of the Interior, Statement No. 61/25, Pasaportes – Comunicado conjunto (Passports – Joint statement), July 29, 2025.

[2204] Gub.uy., Presidency of Uruguay, "Secretaría de Derechos Humanos para el Pasado Reciente centraliza archivos sobre violación de derechos en dictadura" (Secretariat of Human Rights for the Recent Past centralizes archives on human rights violations during the dictatorship), May 21, 2025; *Prensa Latina*, "Cancillería uruguaya desclasifica documentos sobre Plan Cóndor" (Uruguayan Ministry of Foreign Affairs declassifies documents on Operation Condor), May 20, 2025; Gub.uy., Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Archivos emblemáticos del Plan Cóndor - Segunda etapa" (Emblematic archives of Operation Condor – Second stage), September 11, 2025; Gub.uy., Presidency of Uruguay, "Uruguay y Chile avanzan en cooperación en políticas de memoria, verdad y justicia" (Uruguay and Chile make progress in cooperation on memory, truth and justice policies), June 27, 2025.

[2205] *Caras y Caretas*, "Crysol y el Gobierno exploran salidas para compatibilizar pensión reparatoria y jubilación" (Crysol and the government explore options to reconcile reparatory pensions and retirement benefits), August 29, 2025.

[2206] Gub.uy., Ministry of the Interior, "Segundo Censo Nacional de Personas Privadas de Libertad" (Second national census of persons deprived of liberty), January 29, 2025.

after serving their sentences and who are in a situation of vulnerability;[2207] ii) the implementation of the National Literacy Plan to guarantee education for persons deprived of liberty;[2208] and iii) the adoption of an agreement between the National Rehabilitation Institute (INR) and Municipality "F", enabling men from Unit No. 6 and women from Unit No. 5 to participate in labor and community activities, both within the facilities and outside the prison setting.[2209]

978. Moreover, in June, a strategic plan and eight urgent measures were adopted to improve detention conditions at Unit No. 4 of the INR, which faces the most critical situation in terms of overcrowding.[2210] However, Uruguay remains the fifth country in the region with the highest detention rate,[2211] and the prison population continues to increase. According to official data, as of June 2025, there were 16,625 incarcerated persons. Out of that total, 15,197 were men and 1,428 were women, 66 of whom were mothers living with their daughters and sons. This figure nearly quadruples the 2020 figure of 4,369 incarcerated persons.[2212] In addition, the deaths of five persons deprived of liberty and the injuries suffered by three staff members were reported during two fires that occurred at the Santiago Vázquez Prison in March and June 2025.[2213]

[2207] Gub.uy., Ministry of Social Development, "Proyecto de Inclusión Asistida (PIA)" (Assisted Inclusion Project), April 25, 2025.

[2208] Gub.uy., Ministry of the Interior, "Autoridades impulsan Plan Nacional de Alfabetización para personas privadas de libertad" (Authorities promote the National Literacy Plan for persons deprived of liberty), June 20, 2025.

[2209] Gub.uy., Ministry of the Interior, "Convenios entre el INR y el Municipio F impulsan la reinserción social de personas privadas de libertad" (Agreements between the INR and Municipality F promote the social reintegration of persons deprived of liberty), August 18, 2025.

[2210] Gub.uy., Presidencia Uruguay, "Interior anunció medidas para atender la situación de la Unidad n.° 4 del INR" (Ministry of the Interior announces measures to address the situation at Unit No. 4 of the INR), June 27, 2025.

[2211] World Prison Brief, Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research, World Prison Brief data – Highest to Lowest – Prison Population Rate, 2025, accessed on September 10, 2025.

[2212] Gub.uy., Presidency of Uruguay, "Interior anunció medidas para atender la situación de la Unidad n.° 4 del INR" (Ministry of the Interior announces measures to address the situation at Unit No. 4 of the INR), June 27, 2025.

[2213] Gub.uy., National Institute of Human Rights and Office of the Ombudsperson, "Comunicado público - Tercer incendio con víctimas en el ex Comcar: urge una transformación estructural", (Public statement – Third fire with victims at the former Comcar: a structural transformation is urgently needed), June 16, 2025; *Montevideo Portal*, "Jornada negra en Comcar: un muerto y dos heridos en CTI por trifulca e incendio" (Tragic day at Comcar: one person dead and two injured in intensive care after a brawl and fire), March 4, 2025; and "Cuatro presos muertos en el módulo 11 del Comcar a causa de un incendio" (Four inmates die in a fire at Comcar's Module 11), June 16, 2025.

PARTIALLY DISSENTING VOTE OF COMMISSIONER CARLOS BERNAL PULIDO ON CHAPTER IV-A OF THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT "SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE REGION – OVERVIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION BY COUNTRY"

With due respect for my colleagues and in accordance with Article 19.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ("the Commission" or "the IACHR"), and exercising our right to freedom of expression I submit this partially dissenting vote on Chapter IV-A of the 2025 Annual Report: " Situation of Human Rights in the Region: Overview of the human rights situation by country", hereinafter "the Report".

I emphasize the relevance of this report in that it systematizes and consolidates information on the human rights situation in the region over the past year. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in this vote I will refer to the following: (i) the Report contains considerations that ignore the inter-American legal framework and pose a risk to pregnant women; (ii) contraceptive methods and the need to inform women; (iii) the inadequate approach to conscientious objection in the report; (iv) gender identity and other issues related to the LGBTI community; (v) inappropriate use of the term "sex workers"; (vi) sexual and reproductive education of children and adolescents and recognition of their identity; and (vii) so-called "conversion therapies".

1. The Report contains considerations that disregard the inter-American legal framework and pose a risk to unborn children

Paragraphs 14, 27, 90, 130, 175, 178, 178, 216, 257, 341, 398, 444, 525, and 544 refer to the absolute ban on abortion or to the difficulties of access to legal abortion, as well as to the regulations on the so-called "voluntary interruption of pregnancy". Here, I will address the following issues: (i) the erroneous use of the concept of "legal termination of pregnancy"; (ii) the non-existence of the right to abortion and state leeway to regulate on this matter; and (iii) the lack of protection for the unborn.

1.1 Misuse of the concept of "voluntary interruption of pregnancy"

I emphasize the importance of the IACHR using precise and appropriate language in its reports. In other words, it is imperative to use accurate and rigorous language to ensure that decisions are based on clear understandings. In fact, on several occasions the Commission itself has acknowledged the need for conceptual precision in documents it issues[2214] and has repeatedly stressed the importance of the correct use of language.[2215]

Language constitutes, in effect, a fundamental element for human communication and the expression of thought, functioning as a dialectical unit in which both are mutually conditioned.[2216] Language plays an essential part in decision making, especially through its representative or referential function, aimed at conveying information, describing facts, and expressing ideas in a clear, precise, and objective manner, so that they serve as a solid basis for the decisions to be made.[2217]

Therefore, the appropriate and rigorous use of language in IACHR reports ensures that the message is clear and understandable to all audiences. Beyond the simple transmission of data, this linguistic rigor legitimizes the technical-legal analysis and the conclusions drawn by the IACHR.

[2214] IACHR. Indirect violations of freedom of expression: The Impact of the Concentration of Media Ownership; IACHR. Chapter IV: Report on access to information in the Hemisphere: Access to information and economic development; IACHR. Guidelines for Preparation of Progress Indicators in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. 2008.

[2215] IACHR. The Right of Boys and Girls to a Family. Alternative Care. Ending Institutionalization in the Americas. 2013.

[2216] Juan Alberto Mena Lorenzo, Noemí Sarracino Alum. Professional technical language in the training of future workers. Mendive, ISSN-e 1815-7696, Vol. 6, No. 4, 2008 (Issue dedicated to: October-Dec.), pp. 234-241.

[2217] Ibid.

In light of the above, it is particularly problematic that the term "termination of pregnancy" or "voluntary interruption of pregnancy" is used in the report when these areas have to do with "abortion." Thus, it is essential to draw a precise conceptual distinction between the two expressions.

Abortion is a form of termination of pregnancy carried out with the **direct intention of causing the death of the fetus** or, in other words, ending prenatal life.[2218] Thus, it may involve termination before the fetus is viable or even the destruction of a viable fetus.[2219] Consequently, an abortion will only be successful when it causes the death of the human being in gestation.[2220]

The expression "*interruption of pregnancy*" may, on the other hand, induce the idea that the gestational process can be resumed at a later date. However, as indicated, abortion necessarily entails the termination of the pregnancy through the death of the human being in gestation.

I therefore consider it essential to use the appropriate terminology so as to avoid misunderstandings regarding the interpretation and decision adopted by the Commission. Consequently, in my vote I will expressly refer to the conduct of **abortion**.

1.2 Absence of a right to abortion in the ISHR

While noting regulatory changes adopted by some States, in this case Bolivia, that authorize access to abortion, I emphasize, as I have done in multiple opinions[2221], that there are no binding sources in international law — and especially in the American Convention or other treaties that make up the inter-American System — that contemplate (i) the — so-called right to abortion or (ii) a correlative obligation for States to provide abortion services. That said, states have ample leeway – by virtue of the principles of subsidiarity or complementarity and representative democracy – to take measures to protect the life of the unborn child[2222] including, although it is not the only means, the use of criminal law.

Regarding the non-existence of the right to abortion, former I/A Court H.R. Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi established in his opinion partially dissenting from the judgment in the case of Manuela et al. v. El Salvador:

[2218] Seeds JW. Direct Abortion or Legitimate Medical Procedure Double Effect? Linacre Q. 2012 Feb; 79(1):81-87. doi: 10.1179/002436312803571546. Epub 2012 Feb 1. PMID: 30082962; PMCID: PMC6027086.

[2219] Seeds JW. Direct Abortion or Legitimate Medical Procedure Double Effect? Linacre Q. 2012 Feb; 79(1):81-87. doi: 10.1179/002436312803571546. Epub 2012 Feb 1. PMID: 30082962; PMCID: PMC6027086.

[2220] Seeds JW. Direct Abortion or Legitimate Medical Procedure Double Effect? Linacre Q. 2012 Feb; 79(1):81-87. doi: 10.1179/002436312803571546. Epub 2012 Feb 1. PMID: 30082962; PMCID: PMC6027086. Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_4A_ENG.PDF; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_5_ElSalvador_ENG.PDF; Explanation of vote. Annua Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_ENG.PDF; Explanation of vote. Report on the Situation in Honduras - 2023. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter IV.A Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_4B_VEN_EN.PDF. Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_5_SLV_EN.PDF; Partially dissenting vote. Annual Report 2024 - Chapter IV.A Situation of human rights in the region - overview of the human rights situation by country. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_4A_EN.PDF#page201.

[2221] Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_4A_ENG.PDF; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_5_ElSalvador_ENG.PDF; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_ENG.PDF; Explanation of vote. Report on the Situation in Honduras - 2023.https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter IV.A Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_4B_VEN_EN.PDF Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_5_SLV_EN.PDF; Partially dissenting vote. Annual Report 2024 - Chapter IV.A Situation of human rights in the region - overview of the human rights situation by country. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_4A_EN.PDF#page201.

[2222] ACHR Article 4.

> "In this regard, it is indisputable that (...) there is no inter-American or international legal norm, whether conventional, international custom, or general principle of law, that recognizes abortion as a right. There are only resolutions of international bodies, most of which are made up of international officials and not representatives of States: decisions which, in addition to not being binding, are not interpretative of current international law but rather reflect aspirations for it to change in the direction they suggest."[2223]

In fact, it should be noted that the Inter-American Court recently heard the case of *Beatriz vs. El Salvador*, in which the alleged existence of a "right to abortion" was claimed by the IACHR and the victims' representatives. However, in the judgment, the Court did not establish the existence of such a right.[2224] This is further evidence of the non-existence of a binding legal source from which an alleged right to abortion is derived.

That said, I emphasize that this leeway derived from the non-existence of a right to abortion and the convergence of competing rights is increased thanks to the fact that it is incumbent upon States to define punishable conducts and their consequences, and to the automatic referral made, according to the I/A Court H.R., by Article 7.2 of the American Convention to domestic law in matters related to deprivation of liberty—legal exception principle — (*principio de reserva de ley*).[2225]

This is relevant if one bears in mind that, based on a close reading of Articles 31, 76, and 77 of the American Convention, it is only through consensus — provided by the States signing and ratifying amendments or treaties — that international obligations can arise that are in addition to those already contemplated in the ACHR.

In conclusion, international human rights law – and in particular the Inter-American System – does not recognize abortion as a right, nor does it impose an obligation on States to guarantee it or provide it as a service. On the contrary, the American Convention expressly protects life from conception, and grants the states leeway to adopt the measures they deem appropriate for its protection, within the framework of their democratic principles and legislative sovereignty. The true state response to violence, abandonment, or inequality suffered by girls, adolescents, and women cannot be the elimination of a human life, but the implementation of effective and comprehensive policies of prevention, support, and justice.

In conclusion, I emphasize that paragraphs 175, 205, 257, and 396 refer to the so-called sexual and reproductive rights. In this regard, in the inter-American human rights system there is no clarity regarding the scope of this category of rights, nor are they rights expressly enshrined in the American Convention on Human Rights. Therefore, I believe that the issues addressed under this category, such as abortion, should have been analyzed in light of the rights actually recognized in the Convention.

1.3 Lack of protection for the unborn in the Report

In this report, as in others in which I have cast my vote[2226], references to abortion ignore the other person whose right to life is also protected by conventions: the unborn person. Thus, they ignore the necessary balance that must exist between competing rights of all internationally protected persons. In this regard, it should be

[2223] Partially Dissenting Opinion of Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Case of Manuela et al. v. El Salvador: Judgment of November 2, 2021, (Preliminary Objection, Merits, Reparations, and Costs), paragraph 13.

[2224] I/A Court H.R. Case of Beatriz et al. v. El Salvador. Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of November 22, 2024. Series C No. 549.

[2225] I/A Court H.R. Case of Romero Feris v. Argentina. Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of October 15, 2019. Series C No. 391. Par. 77.

[2226] Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_4A_ENG.PDF; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter V. El Salvador. Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_ENG.PDF; Explanation of vote. Report on the Situation in Honduras - 2023. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter IV.A Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_4B_VEN_EN.PDF. Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_5_SLV_EN.PDF; Partially dissenting vote. Annual Report 2024 - Chapter IV.A Situation of human rights in the region - overview of the human rights situation by country. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_4A_EN.PDF#page201.

noted that pregnant women are also subjects of law and holders of the right to life. A pronouncement on abortion always implies a position on a practice that necessarily implies the termination of the life of a dignified human being and that Article 4 of the ACHR protects, so it is necessary to expressly recognize the rights of the unborn person as part of the weighing up of considerations required in any case of abortion.

In this regard, Article 1.2 of the ACHR clearly establishes that, for the purposes of the Convention, a "person" is every human being.[2227] Thus, in light of the Convention, human rights are not only recognized for persons who have already been born, but must be protected for all individuals from conception, who are to be considered human beings. Moreover, the I/A Court H.R. itself, in its advisory opinion 22, indicated that, unquestionably, the term "person" is equivalent to the term "human being" for the purposes of the ACHR.[2228]

Biologically and materially, a being in gestation undoubtedly constitutes a human being.[2229] Furthermore, the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights states that "the human genome underlies the fundamental unity of all members of the human family, as well as the recognition of their inherent dignity and diversity. In a symbolic sense, it is the heritage of humanity."[2230]

The consequence of recognizing the unborn as a person/human being is that he/she becomes a holder of rights. Thus, the ACHR establishes in its articles on rights the formula "Every person (...)".[2231] Likewise, the instruments for the protection of human rights generally recognize the possession of rights by members of the human species, especially the right to life.[2232]

Furthermore, in the Artavia Murillo judgment, the I/A Court H.R. determined that "the protection of the right to life under is not absolute, but rather gradual and incremental according to its development (of the human embryo)." This implies that, irrespective of the concepts of gradualness and incrementality (with which I take issue), the Court has already established that persons in gestation must be protected by the State in their "right to life." In the same vein, in the *Cuscul Pivaral* case,[2233] the I/ A Court H.R. applied the ACHR to a fetus (*persona en gestación*) and also applied Article 19 of the ACHR, thus recognizing the legal status of the fetus as a child.

Likewise, I emphasize that the preamble of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that the child needs protection and care both before and after birth.[2234] This implies that in light of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the unborn child is a child in need of special care. This was reiterated in the preparatory work for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[2235]

In short, a comprehensive interpretation of the Inter-American System and International Human Rights Law leads to the recognition of the unborn person as a subject of rights, particularly the right to life, protected from conception by Article 4 of the American Convention. Disregarding this protection entails arbitrarily excluding

[2227] ACHR Article 1.2 "For the purposes of this Convention, person means every human being."

[2228] I/A Court H.R. OC-22/16. Ownership of rights of legal persons in the inter-American human rights system. Advisory Opinion of February 26, 2016. Series A. No. 22. Par. 48.

[2229] Kaluger, G., and Kaluger, M., Human Development: The Span of Life, The C.V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1974, pp. 28-29.

[2230] Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights. Article 1.

[2231] American Convention on Human Rights. Articles 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24 and 25.

[2232] International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Preamble, par. 3; American Convention on Human Rights, par. 3. Preamble; African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights: Preamble, par. 6; Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child. Preamble, par. 1; American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man. Article 1; Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Preamble, par. 1; Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Preamble, par. 2; European Convention on Human Rights. Preamble, par. 2)

[2233] I/A Court H.R. Case of Cuscul Pivaral v. Guatemala. Judgment of August 23, 2018. "That said, the Court has indicated that extreme poverty and the lack of adequate medical care for women during pregnancy and postpartum are causes of high maternal mortality and morbidity. Therefore, States must implement appropriate health policies that allow it to provide assistance with suitably qualified personnel during births; policies to prevent maternal mortality by providing adequate prenatal and postpartum controls, and legal and administrative instruments relating to health policies that record cases of maternal mortality adequately. The Court has also recognized that, under Article 19 of the Convention, the State must assume its special position of guarantor with greater care and responsibility and take special measures focused on the principle of the best interest of the child."

[2234] Convention on the Rights of the Child. Preamble.

[2235] "The main reason for providing in paragraph 4 (now Article 6(5)) of the original text that the death penalty should not be applied to pregnant women was to save the innocent life of the unborn child." United Nations. General Assembly, Report of the Third Committee on the Draft International Covenants on Human Rights. A/3764. P. 40.

a human being from the legal community of persons, contravening the principle of human dignity, which is the foundation of the international human rights order.

Therefore, any decision or pronouncement regarding abortion requires a real weighing up of the competing rights – and not the suppression of one of them –, ensuring that the protection of prenatal life is combined with comprehensive care and the guaranteeing of the rights of the pregnant woman. Abiding by the American Convention requires a balanced and respectful approach to all the rights recognized therein.

1.4 Obstetric emergencies: violation of the principle of subsidiarity and lack of protection of the unborn child

Paragraphs 308 and 398 refer to the criminalization of women who suffered obstetric emergencies. In this regard, I reiterate that I fully agree that the State should not condemn women for obstetric emergencies or complications. What I disagree with is that a body such as the Commission should interfere in an intense manner in national criminal proceedings and decisions, without sufficient factual and legal grounds for doing so, and, moreover, through considerations that place the right to life of newborn children in serious danger.

That disregards the principle of subsidiarity, and (ii) paints a picture of illegitimacy with respect to all convictions imposed by the State in these cases – even when they may be properly substantiated.

Logically, the majority's rejection of the sentences imposed leads to the need to revoke those sentences. That is, it implies a pronouncement by which the majority position seeks to replace the national authority and considers that the persons convicted in the cases did not commit the crimes envisaged in domestic law, and therefore the State should not individualize or enforce any penalty against them. Therefore, the majority position far exceeded the limits on the inter-American Commission's sphere of confidence. In effect, the Commission acted like a *fourth criminal instance*, without any type of motivation and in a scenario in which such an assessment is not appropriate.

In this regard, the jurisprudence of the I/A Court H.R. recognizes that not even this Court, as the highest authority of the regional human rights system, can replace the national authority in assigning individual punishments for crimes envisaged under domestic law.[2236]

This erroneous position with which I take issue not only resulted in a manifest violation of the principle of subsidiarity or complementarity, but also severely jeopardized the legal right to life of newborn children. If the convicted persons really committed crimes, then the majority's rejection of those convictions would constitute a disastrous precedent of denying protection of human life.

As on other occasions, I recall that the State has a particular duty to protect the rights of children. From this duty derives the international obligation to investigate, prosecute, and punish human rights violations against children.[2237] This is a consideration that must be taken into account in the analysis of these cases, where there are serious concerns about the arbitrary deprivation of life of newborns.

[2236] I/A Court H.R. Case of Usón Ramírez v. Venezuela. Preliminary Objection, Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of November 20, 2009. Series C No. 207. Par. 87. I/A Court H.R. Case of García Ibarra et al v. Ecuador. Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of November 17, 2015. Series C No. 306. Par. 167.

[2237] I/A Court H.R. Case of Rochac Hernández et al. v. El Salvador. Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of October 14, 2014. Series C No. 285. Paragraph 135; I/A Court H.R. Case of V.R.P, V.P.C, et al. v. Nicaragua. Preliminary Objections, par. 292; I/A Court H.R. Case of Guzmán Albarracín et al. v. Ecuador. Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of June 24, 2020. Series C No. 405. Par. 120, Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of March 8, 2018 Series C No. 350. par. 164.

2. On contraceptive methods and the need to inform women

Paragraphs 14, 427, and 444 refer to access to contraceptive methods. In this regard, I emphasize[2238] that it is not enough that the use of contraceptive methods be approved to guarantee women's right to health; these measures must also be accompanied by education and awareness-raising measures on the use of contraceptive methods in general, information on the specific physical effects they entail, and their impact on the right to health. I emphasize that freedom in decision making is not limited to the provision of options. True freedom comes when sufficient information is provided to enable those decisions to be taken.

In these matters, it is essential to take into account the right of women to have access to comprehensive, truthful, and pluralistic information on their health, which is an essential dimension of the freedom of expression and the right to health recognized in international human rights law.[2239] As the IACHR has pointed out in its reports – including Merits Report No.72/14[2240] and the Beatriz case[2241] (reports that I do not agree with in their entirety) – access to information is an indispensable requirement to guarantee autonomy, personal integrity, and the possibility of making free and informed decisions with respect to health.

With regard to this matter, the World Health Organization has indicated that the choice of contraceptive methods will depend on "**the person's general state of health**", among other criteria.[2242] This is important, since it shows that **not every method is suitable for every person** and that, in this context, the supply of such methods may represent a health risk in specific cases. Thus, it is essential that people receive adequate guidance on existing contraceptive methods so that they can make an informed choice of the most appropriate option for them and are fully aware of the risks to their health.

Only with proper guidance can it be guaranteed that people who use contraceptive methods give their informed consent, an essential guarantee that derives from the text of the Convention.[2243] With respect to informed consent, the Inter-American Court has stated that:

> "the concept of informed consent consists in a prior decision to accept or to submit to a medical act in the broadest sense, which has been freely obtained – in other words, without threats or coercion, improper induction or incentives – and given after obtaining **adequate, complete, reliable, comprehensible and accessible information, provided that this information has really been understood, which would allow the individual to give their full consent**. Informed consent is the positive decision to submit to a medical act resulting from a decision process, or prior, free and **informed** choice, which constitutes a two-way mechanism of interaction in the physician-patient relationship."[2244] (Bold added)

In relation to this, in the case of I.V v. Bolivia, the Court criticized the fact that the victim never had the possibility of knowing and weighing up alternative contraceptive methods.[2245] In this case, the I/A Court H.R. emphasized the importance of people having the necessary data to make an informed decision. In this framework, the Court highlighted the importance of addressing the effects or impacts of the method to ensure free choice.[2246]

[2238] Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4A_SPA.PDF; Situation Report Honduras - 2023. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_ENG.PDF.

[2239] *Access to Information on Reproductive Health from a Human Rights Perspective*, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 61, November 22, 2022. Report 332/20.

[2240] IACHR. Report No. 72/14.

[2241] IACHR. Access to Information on Reproductive Health from a Human Rights Perspective.

[2242] Family planning. Contraception methods. https://www.who.int/es/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/family-planning-contraception.

[2243] I/A Court H.R. Case I.V. v. Bolivia. Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of November 30, 2016 Series C No. 329.

[2244] I/A Court H.R. Case I.V. v. Bolivia. Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of November 30, 2016. Series C No. 329.

[2245] Ibid.

[2246] I/A Court H.R. Case I.V. v. Bolivia. Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of November 30, 2016. Series C No. 329.

Thus, the autonomy of individuals in the choice of contraceptive methods can only be guaranteed when they have the capacity to consent based on the necessary information to decide whether or not to use them.

3. Inadequate approach to conscientious objection

Paragraphs 14, 90, and 132 refer to the abusive or improper exercise of conscientious objection in relation to abortion. Likewise, paragraph 47 refers to conscientious objection as a barrier.

In this regard, I reiterate that the exercise of the right to freedom of conscience[2247] through the right to conscientious objection cannot be considered as an obstacle, impediment, or challenge to other rights, such as the right to health, when access to abortion services has been granted at the national level. This view is particularly dangerous and **worrisome coming from an international human rights body such as the IACHR**, as it does not align with the OAS Assembly's intention to seek to ensure that member states fulfill their primary responsibility to respect, guarantee, and protect all human rights, "including the right to freedom of conscience and religion or belief for all."[2248]

The recognition of the full exercise of conscientious objection on the basis of Article 12 of the ACHR would be consistent with the high value that the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court has accorded to pluralism and the protection of cultural identity.[2249] Indeed, I point out that far from constituting an obstacle, the exercise of conscientious objection constitutes a vehicle for the protection of various rights, such as: the right to freedom of conscience and religion, the right to honor and dignity, and the right not to be subjected to forced labor. Moreover, the IACHR itself has recognized that conscientious objection acts as a guarantee of these rights.[2250] This position has indeed been upheld by the Human Rights Committee, which has construed conscientious objection as the realization or materialization of the right to freedom of conscience.[2251]

That said, conscientious objection, like any right, may clash with other fundamental guarantees. In this sense, although it is true that the exercise of freedom of conscience may be subject to limitations, it is also true that since it is a human right, its exercise cannot be stigmatized in a generalized manner, much less when it is being exercised in the context of abortion, where decisions on the limitation must be made on a case-by-case basis and in compliance with the requirements extensively developed by the ISHR, achieving an appropriate balance between freedom of conscience and other rights such as the right to life.[2252]

Here, I would like to clarify that by this I do not mean that abortion should be weighed up against conscientious objection or vice versa, since there is no right to abortion in the ISHR. In such a case, "weighing up" should be based on rights such as, where applicable, the right to health.

In any case, an interpretation that seeks to override conscientious objection in a generic manner in specific contexts and without taking into account the particularities of the cases: (i) would mean leaving freedom of conscience and religion without content; (ii) would imply consolidating a hierarchical vision of rights - far removed from the foundations of international human rights law; (iii) would completely depart from the logic of weighing up rights and (iv) would represent, consequently, a very serious attack on one of the most important guarantees of the inner core (*fuero interno*) of every person.

4. On gender identity and other issues related to the LGBTIQ+ community

In paragraphs 64, 139, 207, 242, 274, 421, reference is made to: (i) the right to gender identity; (ii) the matching of identification documents to gender identity; (iii) the right to marriage for same-sex couples; (iv) the right to

[2247] ACHR Article 12.
[2248] IACHR. General Assembly, Resolution 2991 of the October 7, 2022
[2249] Ibid.
[2250] IACHR. Sahli Vera vs. Chile Alfredo Díaz Bustos v. Bolivia and Xavier Alejandro León Vega.
[2251] Human Rights Committee. General Comment No. 22.
[2252] I/A Court H.R. Jurisprudence Compendium No. 26: Restriction and Suspension of Human Rights.

adoption; and (v) the prohibition of state funding for hormonal treatments for trans children and treatments aimed at modifying gender identity.

In view of this, I will now refer to: (i) the non-existence of a right to gender identity and the obligation to guarantee the rectification of the sex marker in identity documents for LGTBIQ+ persons; (ii) some considerations on the recognition of the gender identity of children and adolescents; (ii) the need to prevent discrimination based on sex in contexts of deprivation of liberty; and (iii) the need for more information and academic and scientific rigor regarding gender affirmation therapies and hormone treatments.

4.1 The non-existence of the right to gender identity and of the obligation to guarantee the rectification of the sex marker on identity documents for LGTBIQ+ persons

Paragraphs 310, 397, 479, and 514 refer to decisions on changes in identification documents based on self-perceived gender identity. In this regard, I reiterate[2253] that, without disregarding domestic regulatory modifications, this in no way can be interpreted to mean that there is an obligation in the ISHR for States to guarantee that identification documents match the self-perceived gender identity. The American Convention does not expressly contemplate a right to gender identity, nor is there a binding instrument in the inter-American system that establishes an obligation to adapt identification documents to gender identity.

As I have previously pointed out, recognizing new rights that are not in the Convention through an interpretation that does not follow the procedures established in the Convention itself would undermine Articles 31, 76, and 77, ignoring the original will of the States that ratified the Convention.

Therefore, any pronouncement in which any of the organs of the IHRS applies a right that is not established in the binding instruments of international law that govern its activity will be an act violating the literal meaning of the American Convention and will exceed the scope of the competencies of the IACHR or the I/A Court H.R., as the case may be. Such an irregular constituent act (*acto constitutivo*) would also undermine the principles of good faith and *pacta sunt servanda*.[2254]

In light of the above, given that there is no right under the Convention to gender identity that is binding on States, it is possible to affirm that there are no correlative obligations to recognize this right either. On the other hand, although I am not unaware that OC-24/17 asserted the existence of the so-called "right to gender identity" and a supposed obligation to adapt identification documents to self-perceived gender identity in the terms indicated in this Chapter, I emphasize that the Advisory Opinions of the I/A Court H.R. are not entitled to contemplate rights or obligations other than those expressly contemplated by the American Convention.[2255]

In this regard, first, Article 68 of the Convention expressly affirms that states are obliged to comply with the decisions rendered by the Court, "in any case in which they are parties." This provision is important in that (i) it is the only one that refers to the legal value of the Tribunal's pronouncements and (ii) it expressly limits the binding nature of those pronouncements to the States party to a case, thus limiting the addressee of the obligations – the State party to a case – and the context in which the pronouncement is issued – that is, litigation

[2253] Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_4A_ENG.PDF; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_5_ElSalvador_ENG.PDF; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter IV.A Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_4B_VEN_EN.PDF; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_5_SLV_EN.PDF; Partially dissenting vote. Annual Report 2024 - Chapter IV.A Situation of human rights in the region - overview of the human rights situation by country. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_4A_EN.PDF#page201; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter IV. B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_4B_VEN_EN.PDF.

[2254] Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Article 26.

[2255] I/A Court H.R. Gender identity and equality and non-discrimination of same-sex couples. State obligations in relation to name change, gender identity, and rights derived from a same-sex relationship (interpretation and scope of Articles 1(1), 3, 7, 11(2), 13, 17, 18, and 24, in relation to Article 1 of the American Convention on Human Rights). Advisory Opinion OC-24/17, November 24, 2017. Series A, No. 24.

–. This position has also been maintained by some exponents of legal doctrine (*sectores de la doctrina*), also based on the principle of State consent as the foundation of conventional law.[2256]

Secondly, specifically regarding OC-24/17, consideration should be given to Article 64 of the ACHR, which limits the competence of the Court to issue advisory opinions regarding the Convention or treaties of the inter-American system. Thus, given that OC-24/17 establishes alleged rights not contemplated in the ACHR, nor in any other treaty of the ISHR, their binding nature is even more questionable.

Thirdly, to derive obligations or so-called rights not contemplated in the Convention, based exclusively on an advisory opinion, would contravene the principle of *pacta sunt servanda* that governs international treaty law, by virtue of which States are only bound to comply with that to which they have expressed their consent.[2257]

Fourth, although the I/A Court H.R. has affirmed that advisory opinions are parameters of conventionality control,[2258] I emphasize that an open and transparent inter-American dialogue is still needed to further discuss this position, which is not expressly derived from the American Convention, or any other international instrument that is binding upon states. I draw attention to the fact that there is still no consensus regarding this matter, either in states of the region or in academic circles; for that reason, important constitutional courts still refrain from invoking the notion of conventionality control and from incorporating advisory opinions as a parameter.[2259]

Finally, I note that some authors have indicated that broadening the effects of advisory opinions could trigger distortions in the way the inter-American system operates and, thus, weaken it, since (i) it entails equating decisions issued as part of the Court's advisory functions with the text of the convention itself,[2260] and (ii) it blurs the differences between the jurisdictional and advisory functions of the Court. Some have even pointed out that these interpretations by the Court generate legal uncertainty, since there is no certainty as to the effects with which advisory opinions are issued.[2261]

On the contrary, as I have stated in previous explanations of my votes, gender identity, based on *self-determination* or *self-perception*, poses serious risks to the rights of individuals, in general, and, in particular, to population groups with special inter-American protection, such as women. Insisting that States change even the sex markers on identity documents increases these risks, as it completely dilutes gender differentiation and hampers implementation of affirmative measures for women.

The Commission must deliberate deeply on this matter, from a human rights perspective and with a differential approach, in order not to harm or frustrate affirmative measures in favor of women or other population groups with special inter-American protection.

If it is enough for a person to state that he/she perceives himself/herself as a woman for the State to automatically recognize her as such, without any additional regulation or reasonable requirement, affirmative measures in favor of women will most likely lose their effectiveness, and the States will end up erasing the very identity of women and of any other population group.

On this, the then Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito was clear, explaining that:

[2256] Systematization of the criticisms in: González Domínguez, P. (2017). The doctrine of conventionality control in light of the subsidiarity principle. Constitutional Studies, 15(1), 55-98.

[2257] Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

[2258] I/A Court H.R. Rights and Guarantees of Children in the Context of Migration and/or in Need of International Protection. Advisory Opinion OC-21/14 of August 19, 2014. Series A No. par. 41. 31.

[2259] Ramírez, F. G. (2023). A critical look at conventionality control. Journal of Law and Social Sciences, (28), 101-142; Palacios, D. L. (2017). Inter-American conventionality control at the national level: a notion still under construction. Revista Direito e Práxis, 8, 1389-1418.

[2260] Colombo, I. (2022). A critical analysis of the doctrine of conventionality control. Omnia. Law and Society, 5 (1), pp. 83-116.

[2261] Colombo, I. (2022). A critical analysis of the doctrine of conventionality control. Omnia. Law and Society, 5 (1), pp. 83-116.

> "(...) the central subject of feminism (and, in this case, of violence against women because they are women) is women and the specific oppression they suffer, its origin and impact. If we confuse the feminist struggle and replace the subject of feminism, if the subject of feminism is no longer the biological woman and becomes a strange and confused variable of subjective identities, we should reflect on and raise the issue of the highly likely negative impact that it would have on decades of feminist theory and struggle. Moreover, not only would feminism disappear, but also the theory of human rights that is also based not on sentiments or self-perception but on objective and scientific categories. Thus, we should ask ourselves: if sex, as a substantive and scientific category disappears, absorbed by "gender identity," an individual subjective perception, what would gender violence be based on? And what would the feminine sex be reduced to? How would rape and other crimes of sexual violence against women be documented? How would the violence suffered by trans people be documented if the change of sex is something confidential that cannot be documented? And salary differences? And discrimination in access to formal and informal education at all levels? And numerous questions remain. But these few are sufficient to reveal the chaos and regression that we are facing."[2262]

I take advantage of the considerations of then Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito to insist on the defense of the value that exists in being biologically female or male, which is not equivalent to *reducing* the identity of a person only to his or her biological sex.

The elimination of the sex marker in public records entails significant risks for public administration and the effective guarantee of rights, particularly in the areas of health, statistics, and public policy formulation. Sex is an essential variable for the epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of specific diseases – including those that may affect people who self-identify as transgender according to their biological needs – as well as for the correct interpretation of clinical examinations, pharmacological dosage, and planning of health services.[2263]

Likewise, the elimination of sex weakens the production of reliable demographic data needed to design equality policies, affirmative actions, social programs, licenses, social security, and institutional organization, including sensitive areas such as the penitentiary system.[2264] Consequently, erasing this marker makes the differentiated needs of the population invisible, hinders the exercise of the administrative function, and can directly affect effective access to fundamental rights and essential state services.

Therefore, if international human rights law erases biological sex and measures with a differential approach based precisely on the criterion of biological sex, it would deprive the protection of population groups such as women of any rational basis. If the majority position is maintained in the promotion of absolute legal recognition of *self-perceived* or *self-determined* gender identity, it will hinder – if not nullify – the effectiveness of countless special protection measures.

4.2 The need to prevent sex-based discrimination in prison

Paragraph 28 stated "In terms of challenges, the prohibition of gender affirmation treatments and surgeries for persons under 18 years of age was observed; the approval of Decree 61/2025, which prevents the **prison reassignment of trans persons based on their gender identity, establishing accommodation according to the sex consigned at the time of the commission of the crime**" (Bold added).

[2262] I/A Court H.R. Case of Vicky Hernández et al. v. Honduras. Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of March 26, 2021. Series C No. 422. Partially dissenting opinion of Judge Odio Benito, Par. 15.

[2263] VV. AA. Rare diseases. JANO, Medicina y Humanidades 2008, nº 1679; González-Lamuño, D., & García Fuentes, M.. (2008). Genetically based diseases. Anales del Sistema Sanitario de Navarra, 31(Suppl. 2, 6, 105-126).

[2264] Public Prosecutors' Office, Attorney General's Office of Panama, Resolution No 11.11 of February 11, 2016. "Which regulates breastfeeding leave"; Agenda de Salud de la Mujer Gestante V.2021. Chile Crece Contigo; United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention; United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules); United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders and their Commentaries (Bangkok Rules); Third Geneva Convention.

In this regard, I emphasize that, although protection measures should be adopted for people who self-identify as transgender in prisons, the truth is that, in relation to women-only spaces, comparative contexts have shown that it is essential to maintain separate spaces based on sex. In particular, in prison contexts where gender separation has been blurred to include male inmates in female facilities, there have been significant cases of sexual, physical, and psychological violence against women.[2265]

By this I do not mean that all people who identify themselves as trans gender women are violent, but rather that there are people with violent intent who take advantage of policies that have blurred separation on the basis of sex to carry out violent acts against women. For this reason, separation in prison facilities based on sex has been a constant and reiterated obligation of international law, as a positive measure to protect women.

I reiterate[2266] that Article 5.5 of the American Convention establishes the principle of separation of places of detention for men and women and the Court has considered, based on the Convention and the pronouncements of other human rights bodies, "that all women deprived of liberty must be placed in a physically separate space from men and, moreover, in blocks or sections that are less restrictive and have a lower level of security, which responds to the low level of risk that the women represent, and with sufficient space to meet their specific needs".[2267]

This rule of separation is also found in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules)[2268], the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules)[2269], and even for armed conflicts in the Third[2270] and Fourth[2271] Geneva Conventions.

Recently, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes, and consequences noted in her report "Sex-based violence against women and girls: new frontiers and emerging issues" that:

> "Healthcare settings also present acute risks for females. The provision of single-sex hospital wards plays an essential role in safeguarding females from sexual assault and harassment while receiving medical care, including females with physical or intellectual disabilities. **Women and girls in refugee camps and detention centres are also at specific risk of violence, including sexual harassment and rape**".[2272] (Bold added)

Thus, states and international bodies have the duty to promote this separation, which implies that male inmates should not be present in women's prisons. Especially when, as in the Report that is the subject of this opinion,

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[2265] D. Shaw, 'Transgender Inmate in Prison for Rape of Young Girls is Accused of Sexual Assaults on Female Inmates' (1 June 2018) Women are Human, https://www.womenarehuman.com/transgender-man-who-rapedyoung-girls-housed-in-womens-prison-jessica-winfield-nee-martin-ponting/; K. Finlay 'Transgender Inmate Charged with Sexual Assault at a Women's Prison' (24 August 2020) Women Are Human, https://www.womenarehuman.com/transgender-inmate-charged-with-sexual-assault-at-a-womensprison/; UK High Court of Justice (2021) CO/4198/2019, https://fairplayforwomen.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/FDJ-v-SSJ-judgment-approved-as-handed-down-on-02.07.21-002.pdf; Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes, and consequences, Reem Alsalem. AL USA 30/2023. December 21,2023; Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem. Violence against women and girls in sport. A/79/325, August 27, 2024; Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem. Sex-based violence against women and girls: new frontiers and emerging issues. A/HRC/59/47. June 16, 2025.

[2266] Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_ENG.PDF.

[2267] I/A Court H.R. Advisory Opinion OC-29 of 2022; Bangkok Rules, supra, Rules 12 and 41.d., and Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Rashida Manjoo, Pathways to, conditions and consequences of incarceration for women, A/68/340, supra, par. 85.

[2268] Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Rule 2 and 11.

[2269] United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules). Rule 1.

[2270] III Geneva Convention. Article 25.

[2271] IV Geneva Convention. Article 76.

[2272] Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes, and consequences, Reem Alsalem. Sex-based violence against women and girls: new frontiers and emerging issues. A/HRC/59/47. June 16, 2025.

no safeguards are included to prevent the forms of violence against women that can arise from these prison models that stress gender self-identification.
I call for appropriate measures to be taken to prevent all forms of violence, including violence against people who themselves as transgender women, but these measures cannot understate women's rights, nor expose them to situations of risk that violate their right to live free from all forms of violence, especially in contexts of profound vulnerability such forms of violence, especially in contexts of profound vulnerability such as those of deprivation of liberty.

4.3 The need for more information and academic and scientific rigor regarding gender affirming therapies and hormonal treatments

Paragraphs 27, 28, 101, and 143 refer to access to hormone therapies for persons under 18 years of age or so-called gender affirmation treatments. In this regard, I reiterate that there is a need for the Commission to deepen these discussions with scientific arguments in order to address them comprehensively. In particular, there are studies that indicate the harm that may result from having undergone hormone treatments in adolescence.[2273]

In addition, in the case of children and young people, it is essential that their capacity to consent to hormone treatments be taken into account and assessed. For that reason, it is necessary to have an in-depth discussion on the negative effects linked to these treatments and to align this information with the statements made by the Commission.

Indeed, academics argue that there are long-term studies that show that - in individuals who have undergone gender affirming or hormonal treatments - an increase in morbidity and mortality and a risk of suicide after transition.[2274]

For its part, the Cass report[2275] indicates that, in people of female biological sex, the possible adverse effects of these treatments include changes in sexual maturation, consequences for neurocognitive development, impacts on bone density, and an increase in body weight. The same report highlights the increase in the number of adolescents seeking transition treatments and the adverse health effects of these treatments, including the lack of certainty about the positive effects of this approach on mental health. In fact, England[2276] and at least 27 states in the United States[2277] have restricted or banned gender affirming treatments in children and adolescents due to lack of conclusive evidence regarding their effects.

These elements cannot be ignored by the Commission; especially when this body has the mandate to promote and defend human rights in the region, including the right to health.

Regarding the same matter, paragraph 144 states: "In addition, the Chilean Medical Association (COLMED) denounced parliamentary groups for persecution and threats to professionals who provide health and gender affirmation services to trans people", due to complaints filed by parliamentarians for conduct such as bodily injury against doctors who practice these procedures. In these matters, freedom of expression and the use of legal means must be taken into account with respect to conduct that could constitute a crime. This requires analysis on a case-by-case basis, also taking into account the effects of this type of treatment.

5. Inappropriate use of the term "sex workers"

[2273] 'Trust the Experts' Is Not Enough: U.S. Medical Groups Get the Science Wrong on Pediatric 'Gender Affirming' Care. https://media4.manhattan-institute.org/sites/default/files/how-to-respond-to-medical authorities_claiming_gender_affirming_care_safe.pdf.

[2274] Levine, S.B., Abbruzzese, E. Current Concerns About Gender-Affirming Therapy in Adolescents. Curr Sex Health Rep 15, 113-123 (2023). https://doi-org.ez.unisabana.edu.co/10.1007/s11930-023-00358-x.

[2275] Independent report commissioned by the UK Department of Health to determine the effects of gender affirmative health care on children: https://cass.independent-review.uk/home/publications/final-report/.

[2276] CNN. England's health service to stop prescribing puberty blockers to transgender kids.2024.

[2277] CNN. 27 states have passed laws restricting gender-affirming care for trans youth. 2025.

Paragraph 307 refers to the term "sex workers". In this regard, I disagree with the use of this expression to refer to women who are subjected to prostitution. As mentioned by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, in her May 2024 report on prostitution, this term "is neither recognized nor defined in international law,"[2278] but also "erroneously describes prostitution as an activity as dignified as any other work. It does not take into account the serious human rights violations that characterize the prostitution system and involves a psychological manipulation of the victims and their experiences."[2279]

The expression "sex workers" introduces an interpretative framework that normalizes and legitimizes prostitution as a form of work, ignoring the fact that it is a system of violence that reduces women and girls to commodities.[2280] This approach shifts attention away from the structural conditions of inequality, coercion, and violence that typically characterize this practice, turning it into a form of violence in itself, of which women and girls, in particular, are victims.[2281] Thus, the use of this terminology is not neutral from a legal or human rights perspective, since it draws attention away from the power relations, the lack of real alternatives, and the contexts of socioeconomic vulnerability that lead to prostitution.[2282]

Prostitution results in serious and systematic violations of the human rights of women and girls, who are often dehumanized, treated as commodities, and perceived as persons without rights.[2283] It constitutes a direct violation of the right to dignity[2284] and, in many cases, involves torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. Forms of physical, sexual, and psychological violence include individual and group rape, beatings, mutilations, burns, forced, and degrading sexual practices, kidnappings, disappearances, homicides, and death threats, as well as extreme abuse in contexts of prostitution and pornography.[2285] This violence leads to permanent physical sequels, deep trauma, and a high risk of death, in addition to particularly affecting pregnant women and those subjected to conditions of slavery or sexual servitude, including situations of control by armed groups or procurement networks.[2286]

Likewise, prostitution involves economic, social, and structural violence, expressed in extreme labor exploitation, non-payment or minimum payment, extortion, debt bondage, financial control by pimps and buyers, and the systematic denial of basic rights such as health, education, food, and housing. Victims often lose their autonomy, their freedom of movement, their right to privacy and family life, and are subjected to constant surveillance, withholding of documents, and arbitrary detention.[2287] The psychological and health consequences are severe and long-lasting, including post-traumatic stress disorders, depression, dissociation, substance abuse, suicidal tendencies, sexually transmitted diseases, forced abortions, sterilizations, and a significant reduction in life expectancy, even after leaving prostitution.[2288]

For all of the above reasons, instead of "sex workers" I suggest that, in line with the aforementioned report, the term prostituted persons, women, or girls be used as a recognition of the magnitude of the harm experienced by women and girls subjected to prostitution. I recall that in international law, there is no binding treaty in the inter-American system that establishes that prostitution should be recognized as a form of work.

[2278] Report A/HRC/56/48, Prostitution and violence against women and girls - Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem. May 7, 2024.
[2279] Ibid.
[2280] Ibid.
[2281] Ibid.
[2282] Ibid.
[2283] Ibid.
[2284] Report A/HRC/56/48, Prostitution and violence against women and girls - Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem. May 7, 2024; European Parliament, Directorate-General for Internal Policies, "Sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on gender equality".
[2285] Report A/HRC/56/48, Prostitution and violence against women and girls - Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes, and consequences, Reem Alsalem. May 7, 2024; Communications sent to Prajwala Rapporteur and Elly Arrow.
[2286] Report A/HRC/56/48, Prostitution and violence against women and girls - Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes, and consequences, Reem Alsalem. May 7, 2024; United Nations Development Programme, "Sex Work and the Law in Asia and the Pacific," 2012; Communication submitted to the Just Planet Rapporteurship.
[2287] Report A/HRC/56/48, Prostitution and violence against women and girls - Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes, and consequences, Reem Alsalem. May 7, 2024.
[2288] Ibid.

Thus, although it is essential that progress be made in the Americas towards guaranteeing the rights of prostituted persons, this does not prevent us from recognizing that the prostitution system is in itself a violation of human rights, as it commercializes the body of prostituted persons. Therefore, I strongly urge that the term "sex work" not be used, but rather that there be open and transparent deliberation, respectful of human rights, on the best ways to address the system of prostitution in the region that causes so much harm to women and girls.

6. In relation to sexual and reproductive education for children and adolescents and recognition of their identity

Paragraphs 28, 215, 396, 515, and 558 refer to comprehensive sex education for children and adolescents. At the same time, paragraph 258 indicated "Progress was also made in the validation of the protocol for supporting recognition of gender identity for children and adolescents, in compliance with Judgment No. 95-18-EP/24".

In this regard, I will refer to: (i) the need to attend to the best interests of children and adolescents and avoid their hypersexualization, and (ii) exercise of the right of parents to choose the education of their children.

6.1 The need to address the best interests of children and adolescents and avoid their hypersexualization

In view of the restrictions imposed in relation to sexual and reproductive education, as well as education on sexual and gender diversity for children and adolescents, I reiterate[2289] that it is vital to recognize that it is also essential to take into account the role of the family, society, and the State in the protection of children's rights, and therefore there should be ample discussion recognizing the needs of children based on their stage of development. Sex education without recognition and mitigation of these risks can cause serious violations of children's rights.

I underscore that the best interests of children and adolescents is a guiding principle that should govern all state actions. Indeed, this principle is enshrined in binding instruments of the Universal Human Rights System (UHRS),[2290] the inter-American human rights system (ISHR),[2291] and the European Human Rights System (EHRS).[2292]

In the UHRS, the best interests of the child are enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Indeed, the CRC provides in Article 3.1 that "(i)n all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration." and the CEDAW, in Article 5.b, enshrines the obligation of States parties to "(e)nsure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children, it being understood that the interest of the children is the primordial consideration in all cases."

In the inter-American system, the American Convention on Human Rights establishes that "(e)very minor child has the right to the measures of protection required by his condition as a minor on the part of his family, society, and the state."

[2289] Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2024/chapters/IA2024_5_SLV_EN.PDF.

[2290] Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 3.1; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Article 5.b).

[2291] American Convention on Human Rights. Article 19.

[2292] ECtHR. R.L and others v. Denmark.

This principle has been extensively developed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in General Comment 14. In that Comment, the Committee held that the best interests of children is an umbrella term that encompasses three dimensions, namely: (i) a fundamental right of the child, (ii) a basic and interpretative principle, and (iii) a procedural rule.[2293]

Regarding the content of this principle, the Committee held that it implies that any action involving a child or adolescent must consider his or her best interests as a primary consideration.[2294] Hence, according to the Committee, the application of this principle means that not only should the interests of the child be considered, but also that his or her interests should take precedence whenever they conflict with other principles or interests.

Accordingly, all public policies implemented by States within the framework of their functions must take into account the interests of children and adolescents as an essential consideration. As a public policy, Comprehensive Sexuality Education must also be governed by the best interests of the child.

In this regard, I would like to point out a growing concern regarding sex education policies, that is, the hypersexualization of children and adolescents. Hypersexualization represents a risk that disproportionately affects the childhood population. This has been recognized by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in General Comment 20, which states that "(t)he digital environment can also expose adolescents to risks, such as(...) **over-sexualization**."[2295] This has been reiterated by the Committee in several reports, in which it has stated that hyper sexualization is a problem that must be addressed by States, since it jeopardizes the rights of children and adolescents.[2296]

Sex education, therefore, should be a means to prevent the hypersexualization of children and adolescents[2297] and not a mechanism to promote it. In the same vein, the ECtHR has established that for sex education to be in keeping with the Convention, it must aim to provide children with **correct, accurate, objective, and scientific knowledge on the subject, presented in an age-appropriate way**.[2298]

By virtue of the above, the ECtHR has pointed out that a sex education policy aimed at children and adolescents should: (i) be based on the principle of objectivity;[2299] (ii) approach the issues in a neutral manner;[2300] (iii) offer an accurate and scientific approach to the subject matter[2301] and (iv) ensure the presentation of the issues in a manner appropriate to the age and cognitive development of the child or adolescent.[2302] In this connection, the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ESCR) has indicated that sex education," entails a right education on sexuality and reproduction that is comprehensive, non-discriminatory, **evidence-based, scientifically accurate and age appropriate**"[2303] (Bold added).

Thus, the Inter-American Court has defined a purpose to be pursued that cannot be overlooked. Specifically, it pointed out that: "This education must ensure that children have an adequate understanding of the implications

[2293] Committee on the Rights of the Child. General Comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (art. 3, par. 1). CRC/C/GC/14.
[2294] Committee on the Rights of the Child. General Comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (art. 3, par. 1). CRC/C/GC/14.
[2295] General Comment No. 20 (2016) on the implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence.
[2296] Consideration of the reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention. Fifth periodic reports of States parties due in 2012; Committee on the Rights of the Child. Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2015.
[2297] Universidad de la Sabana. The hyper sexualization of childhood. https://www.unisabana.edu.co/portaldenoticias/al-dia/la-hipersexualizacion-de-la-infancia/.
[2298] ECtHR. Case of Macatė v. Lithuania.
[2299] ECtHR. Bayev and Others v. Russia. 2018, Par. 72; Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen, and Pedersen v. Denmark. 1976. Paragraph 53.
[2300] ECtHR. Macatė v. Lithuania. 2023. Par. 68.
[2301] ECtHR. Macatė v. Lithuania. 2023. Par. 207; Bayev and Others v. Russia. 2018. Par. 72
[2302] ECtHR. Macatė v. Lithuania. 2023. Par. 68.
[2303] Committee on ESCR, General Comment No. 22 on the right to sexual and reproductive health (Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), paras. 9 and 49.

of sexual and emotional relationships, particularly in terms of their consent to such relationships, so that they can freely exercise their sexual and reproductive rights".[2304]

However, the report completely omitted any analysis or consideration of the relationship and impact that this type of education may have on the best interests of children and adolescents and the need for safeguards to prevent the hypersexualization of children and adolescents.

In short, sexual education must be implemented with strict respect for the best interests of the child, guaranteeing an objective, scientific approach that is appropriate to the child's age and level of development. This implies that states, in the exercise of their leeway (*margen de configuración*), adopt measures aimed at protecting children and adolescents from hypersexualization and from any practice that ignores their level of maturity or their right to an all-round education. Likewise, educational policies should recognize the primordial role of the family and promote values such as responsibility, self-control, and the protection of human life from conception.

6.2 Application of the right of parents to choose their children's education in these matters

I reiterate[2305] that in all discussions related to sexual and reproductive education of children and adolescents, the right of parents to choose the education of their children, recognized in Article 12.4 of the ACHR, must be safeguarded. The aforementioned article states that "**(p)arents or guardians, as the case may be, have the right** to **provide** for the religious and **moral education** of their children or wards that is in accord with their own convictions." (Bold added)

The same guarantee has been provided for in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2306] the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights,[2307] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[2308] and the Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights.[2309] According to the ECtHR, the **right of parents to choose their children's education, including sex education**, is an aspect of the right to respect for private and family life protected by the ECHR.[2310]

Thus, there is a consensus in international human rights law regarding the existence and recognition of this parental right. The Inter-American Commission has understood that the right of parents to choose the education of their children (i) must be interpreted in conjunction with the rights of children and adolescents, especially the right to education[2311] and (ii) must respect the provisions of the inter-American instruments that establish that education must be geared to training children to respect human rights, public freedoms, and tolerance.[2312]

Of course I agree with those criteria. However, it must not be forgotten that: (i) all types of education must be respectful of the best interests of children as a guiding principle, and (ii) the right of parents to choose the education of their children is derived from the right to education of children itself; therefore, there is a false dilemma in considering that these two rights are incompatible.

[2304] I/A Court H.R. Case of Guzmán Albarracín et al. v. Ecuador. Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of June 24, 2020. Series C No. 405, paragraph 139.

[2305] Explanation of vote on the report "Social Cohesion: The Challenge to Consolidate Democracy in Bolivia". https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/CohesionSocial_Bolivia_SPA.pdf; Explanation of vote. Report on the Situation in Honduras - 2023. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_ENG.PDF; Explanation of vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A. https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/chapters/IA2023_Cap_4A_ENG.PDF.

[2306] Article 18.4.

[2307] Article 13.3.

[2308] Article 14.2.

[2309] Article 2.

[2310] ECtHR, Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen, and Pedersen, par. 53; Dojan et al, cited above, paras. 78–83.

[2311] IACHR. Report on Inter-American Standards Concerning Freedom of Religion or Belief.

[2312] IACHR. Report on Inter-American Standards Concerning Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Thus, the ECtHR, in its interpretation of Article 2 of Protocol No. 1, has stated that[2313] the right of parents to respect for their philosophical and religious convictions is based on the fundamental right to education. According to the European Court of Human Rights, although it is the parents who are entitled to this right, children are also entitled to it, because they have the right to education and teaching.[2314]

Undoubtedly, this right affects sex education for like any other type of education, it must be framed within the scope of protection of conventional law, recognized by international human rights law, which grants parents the right to choose the education of their children, in accordance with Article 12.4 of the Convention.

Issues related to sexuality, reproduction, and sexual and gender diversity are closely related and have a major impact on people's value systems. Therefore, sex education is an integral part of the moral education of children and adolescents. The broad social discussions on the subject, and the diverse visions that may arise from different value systems in a region as pluralistic as ours, cannot be ignored. Therefore, it cannot be interpreted that it is the State, or the ISHR- that is in charge of choosing the moral education of children, forgetting that it is the parents who possess this right.

7. Regarding so-called "conversion therapies"

Paragraph 449 refers to the term "conversion therapies" and the criminal liability that has been attributed to these practices. In this regard, I categorically reject any form of violence against LGTBIQ+ people. However, I emphasize that, with regard to the so-called "conversion therapies," it is essential that the IACHR define what that term means.

In addition, the impact of the right to religious freedom, enshrined in Article 12 of the ACHR, must be taken into account, and how this may include the voluntary choice of LGTBIQ+ persons to live and exercise their spirituality according to their convictions. According to the IACHR, this right includes "the freedom to worship or hold meetings in connection with religion or beliefs in places designed for such purposes".

An extremely broad interpretation of the concept of conversion therapies could interfere in the legitimate private sphere of individuals, such as decisions about their sexual orientation, their sexual expressions, and behaviors, or the support and guidance they seek in these areas.

Furthermore, I emphasize that, as explained by the Commission on previous occasions[2315] and by the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression[2316], freedom of expression is not limited to the protection of the issuer, but also guarantees the rights of those who receive or seek information, thus reaffirming its essentially democratic nature. However, this right to receive information is subject to special obligations when it involves procedures relating to personal integrity and health. Thus, in its Report on the Merits No. 72/14, the IACHR expressly stated:

> "The IACHR has recognized that **the right of access to information is essential to the protection of the rights to personal integrity, autonomy and the right to health of individuals**. In particular, it has recognized that the right of access to information is crucial in order for **individuals to be able to make free and well-founded decisions** regarding private aspects of their health, bodies, and autonomy, including decisions regarding medical procedures or treatments."[2317] (Bold added)

[2313] The general principles enunciated by the ECtHR are mainly derived from the judgments handed down in the following cases: Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen, and Pedersen v. Denmark (ECtHR 1976/5); Campbell and Cosans v. United Kingdom (ECtHR 1982/1); Valsamis v. Greece (ECtHR 1996, 70), and Folgero et al. v. Norway (ECtHR 2007/53).

[2314] Case of Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen, and Pedersen v. Denmark (STEDH 1976/5 of December 7, section 52).

[2315] Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.116 Doc. 5 rev. 1, 2000, Principle 1, available at: https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/expression/showarticle.asp?artID=25&lID=1.

[2316] Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Inter-American Legal Framework on the Right to Freedom of Expression: SRFE/INF. Last updated 2025, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, (OEA/Ser.L/V/II CIDH/RELE/INF.29/25).

[2317] IACHR. Report No. 72/14.

In this regard, it is essential that, in matters of this nature, people are guaranteed access to clear, truthful, and complete information on the effects, scope, and possible risks of any therapeutic approach or support. This is the only way to ensure effective respect for personal autonomy, freedom of choice, and freedom of conscience, religious freedom, and the right to make free and informed decisions, without disproportionate impositions or prohibitions by the State.

This dissenting vote is also my last as Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. I cast it in the conviction that separate opinions - even if they are uncomfortable for those who would like to see unanimity in international bodies - fulfill an irreplaceable institutional function: they make the reasons for disagreement transparent, preserve the integrity of legal debate, and contribute to the evolution of inter-American standards. I trust that the views I have presented throughout my tenure, and in particular the recurring concerns I have expressed in them, can serve as input for critical and rigorous reflection on issues that continue to arise in the work of this system. With that final consideration, and with respect for the majority decision, I hereby place my dissent on record.

CONCURRING VOTE OF COMMISSIONER ANDREA POCHAK AND COMMISSIONER JOSÉ LUIS CABALLERO OCHOA

We issue this concurring vote to underscore the grave situation affecting the rule of law and human rights in Peru. For several years, the IACHR has warned of the progressive weakening of the democratic system and its impact on the enjoyment of human rights. More recently, this critical panorama has been consolidated through a State policy aimed at ensuring impunity for serious human rights violations.

In particular, the Inter-American Commission must not normalize the Peruvian State's open disregard of the decisions of the inter-American human rights system. In that connection, the enactment of Laws 32107 — authorizing the application of statutes of limitations to crimes against humanity — and 32419 — granting amnesty to members of the armed forces and security services involved in such crimes — together with the prior pardon granted to former President Alberto Fujimori, contravened established inter-American standards and reiterated decisions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. This cycle of impunity is compounded by the fact that these laws have been upheld and applied by the highest judicial authority in the country, the Constitutional Court.

This deliberate State policy to reestablish impunity for serious human rights violations and to undermine the legitimacy of the inter-American human rights system — even by advancing initiatives that envisage Peru's withdrawal from the system — must be clearly denounced, since it not only affects victims, their relatives, and the Peruvian people as a whole, but also has adverse repercussions for the region.

In the course of its continuous monitoring, the Inter-American Commission has identified official discourse characterized by questioning of and confrontation with the human rights agenda, as well as limited or nonexistent participation of civil society organizations and victims in the design and implementation of public policies on human rights. Law 32301 and its implementing regulations — which amend the legal framework governing the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation and significantly restrict the work of human rights organizations, thereby undermining democratic civic space — form part of this pattern of action.

In light of this troubling context, the Inter-American Commission has taken due note of the strong call by Peruvian human rights organizations to include the country in Chapter IV.B of the Annual Report, pursuant to Article 59 (paragraphs 6.d.ii and 6.d.iii) of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR. We agree that this section of the Annual Report is intended to identify, document, and examine national contexts in which serious violations of the essential elements of representative democracy are verified, as well as systematic noncompliance with international human rights obligations, such as those clearly observed in Peru in the course of 2025.

However, the recent approval formally given by the Peruvian Government for the Inter-American Commission to conduct an on-site visit in 2026 ultimately explains its inclusion in that section of the Annual Report. The decision is, therefore, grounded in a broad interpretation of Article 59 (8) of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR and in the priority objective of promoting constructive dialogue with the State, taking into account its openness to on-site observation.

In this regard, we are mindful that the regression in the rule of law and the consolidation of impunity have been accompanied by an increasingly restrictive relationship between the Peruvian State and international human rights oversight mechanisms. Therefore, the State's consent to an on-site visit by the IACHR assumes heightened significance.

We trust that, under the guidance of Commissioner Marion Bethel, in her capacity as country rapporteur, the Inter-American Commission will be able to conduct the on-site visit as soon as possible and with full scope, in order to observe and assess the principal challenges pending on the human rights agenda in Peru. We hope that this will enable the establishment of a constructive dialogue with the Peruvian State — particularly with the authorities who will take office following the 2026 elections — with a view to supporting the State in fulfilling its international obligations.

Today, more than ever, it is essential to recall that the raison d'être of the inter-American human rights system, and what must guide the mandate of the Inter-American Commission — as it did 67 years ago — are the victims. It is to them, and to each and every human rights defender who, with courage and commitment, confronts these injustices and continues to strive for justice, that we must remain accountable for our decisions.

IV.b

Cuba

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CHAPTER IV-B

CUBA[1]

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights once again reiterates that it is competent to examine the human rights situation in Cuba, and it has monitored that situation as well as processing individual petitions submitted by Cuban citizens. The Commission considers that the exclusion from the inter-American system occurred with respect to the Government of Cuba, not the State. The State of Cuba is party to international instruments on human rights in the Hemisphere, such as the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the Charter of the Organization of American States; it also signed resolution VIII of the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Santiago, Chile, 1959), which established that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is "charged with furthering respect for such rights." Therefore, the international obligations entered by the State of Cuba have legitimized the competence of the IACHR.

2. Furthermore, with respect to the States that have not ratified the American Convention on Human Rights, the Commission has been granted the power "to pay particular attention to the observance of the human rights referred to in Articles I, II, III, IV, XVIII, XXV and XXVI of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man," as established in Article 20(a) of the Statute of the IACHR. Accordingly, it is incumbent on the IACHR to monitor human rights in Cuba. It is worth pointing out, too, that the Commission has respected the State of Cuba's right to defense, since it communicates to its representatives, at the appropriate time, each of the actions that should be brought to their attention.

3. In light of the above, in exercising its competence to promote and protect human rights in the Americas, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR or the Commission) monitored the human rights situation in Cuba, in particular the events of 2025, which could have a bearing on the full enjoyment of human rights.

4. In 2020, the IACHR released its most recent country report on Cuba, focusing on the human rights situation between 2017 and 2019.[2] Since then, the Commission has continued to monitor the Cuban context and has found that the main concerns encountered then have not only remained, but have deepened over time.

5. The IACHR continued to receive information on violations of fundamental rights in Cuba, especially since the protests of July 2021 and which have continued in the following years.[3] In this context, its attention has been drawn to acts that seriously compromise the freedom, personal safety, and physical integrity of the population. These violations have mainly affected social leaders, political opponents, activists, and independent journalists, as well as human rights defenders, women, Afro-descendants, and LGBTI people, among other particularly vulnerable groups.[4]

6. In April 2023, the IACHR published a thematic report on labor and trade union rights in Cuba. In that report, the IACHR and its Special Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights (for its Spanish acronym REDESCA) were able to identify patterns of violation of labor and union rights, related to the following: a) discrimination and persecution for political reasons in the workplace; b) workplace harassment; c) impediments to access to justice in labor-related matters; d) violations of due process; e)

[1] Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido approved the report and issued a partial reasoned vote. The partial reasoned vote appears at the end of this chapter.
[2] IACHR, Situation of Human Rights in Cuba, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 2, February 3, 2020.
[3] IACHR, 2024 Annual Report, Chapter IV. Section B: Cuba, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 39 rev. 2, March 26, 2025, par. 42.
[4] IACHR, 2024 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B, Cuba, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 39 rev. 2, March 26, 2025, par. 9.

insufficient wages to meet basic needs; f) unjustified obstacles to freedom to choose a profession; g) gender discrimination; h) violation of academic freedoms; i) lack of trade union and professional association freedoms; and j) abusive disciplinary measures.[5]

7. In addition, during 2025, the IACHR continued to take notice of various facts that constituted obstacles to the enjoyment of the rights of persons under the jurisdiction of the Cuban State, such as arbitrary restrictions on the rights to assembly and association, and on freedom of expression and dissemination of thought, particularly in the context of the various social protests that have occurred in the country since July 2021, and that continued in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

8. Furthermore, the IACHR notes that Cuba continues to face structural challenges in relation to human rights. These challenges are rooted in the aforementioned absence of the essential elements of representative democracy, especially the continuity of a single-party model, the absence of free elections and political pluralism, and the prohibition of association for political purposes.

9. This political model of the State has a negative impact on human rights in two main ways. On the one hand, there is an active tendency on the part of the State to systematically intimidate and repress those who express disagreement with the government or are considered opponents/dissidents of the Communist Party. On the other, it prevents implementation of the reforms needed to reestablish the separation and independence of branches of government, improve living conditions, and combat impunity in cases of human rights violations.

10. Thus, in evaluating the human rights situation in Cuba in 2025, the IACHR decided to include the country in Chapter IV-B of its annual report, given that it considers that the country's situation falls within the provisions of Article 59, paragraph 6(a)(i) of its Rules of Procedure, which refers to:

> (a) a serious breach of the core requirements and institutions of representative democracy mentioned in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which are essential means of achieving human rights, including:
>
> (i) whether there is discriminatory access to or abusive exercise of power that undermines or denies the rule of law, such as systematic infringement of the independence of the judiciary or lack of subordination of State institutions to the legally constituted civilian authority.

11. Furthermore, the IACHR also found that the foregoing situation meets the criteria set forth in Article 59(6)(c) of the Rules of Procedure, which provides that:

> (c) The State has committed or is committing massive, serious and widespread violations of human rights guaranteed in the American Declaration, the American Convention, or the other applicable human rights instruments.

12. In accordance with article 59.5 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure, for preparing this chapter of its report, the Commission has relied on information provided by international agencies, civil society organizations, and the government itself via its official media. The IACHR has also relied on information obtained through its other monitoring and protection mechanisms, such as, inter alia, the system of petitions and cases, precautionary measures, and public hearings. The IACHR analyzes the information received in light of inter-American human rights norms and standards and issues recommendations to the State. It also takes this opportunity to report on activities carried out during 2025 with respect to Cuba.

13. The IACHR approved this report on December 2, 2025. On January 23, 2026, the Commission sent the Cuban State a copy of the preliminary draft of this report in accordance with Articles 59(7) and 59(10)

[5] IACHR, Labor and Union Rights in Cuba, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 53, April 5, 2023.

of its Rules of Procedure, giving it one month to submit its comments. The State did not submit any observations.

II. DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND THE RULE OF LAW

14. Article XX of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (1948) establishes that: "Every person having legal capacity is entitled to participate in the government of his country, directly or through his representatives, and to take part in popular elections, which shall be by secret ballot, and shall be honest, periodic and free."[6]

15. Moreover, upon adopting the Inter-American Democratic Charter in 2001, the OAS member states recognized that representative democracy is the system through which stability, peace, and development in the region can be achieved, and that it is fundamental for attaining the full exercise of fundamental rights. Article 3 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that:

> Essential elements of representative democracy include, *inter alia*, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to and the exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law, the holding of periodic, free, and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people, the pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, and the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government.[7]

16. For its part, by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.), in the case of San Miguel Sosa et al. v. Venezuela (2018), indicated that the Inter-American Democratic Charter "is a rule of authentic interpretation of the treaties to which it refers, since it reflects the interpretation that the OAS Member States themselves, including the States Parties to the Convention, make of the norms pertaining to democracy in both the OAS Charter and the Convention." Thus, the I/A Court H.R. concluded that "the effective exercise of democracy in the American States is, therefore, an international legal obligation and they have sovereignly agreed that such exercise is no longer a matter solely for their domestic, internal or exclusive jurisdiction."[8]

17. At the same time, the IACHR, as it has been reiterating in its annual reports, teaches that the exercise of the right to political participation implies "the right to organize parties and political associations, which through open discussion and ideological struggle, can improve the social level and economic circumstances of the masses and prevent a monopoly on power by any one group or individual."[9] Likewise, the Commission has considered that:

> Governments have, in the face of political rights and the right to political participation, the obligation to permit and guarantee: the organization of all political parties and other associations, unless they are constituted to violate fundamental human rights; open debate of the principal themes of socioeconomic development; the celebration of general and free elections with all the necessary guarantees so that the results represent the popular will.[10]

18. Accordingly, as reflected in its annual reports, the IACHR has postulated a direct relationship between the exercise of political rights and the concept of democracy as a form of governmental organization,

[6] OAS, American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, adopted at the Ninth International Conference of American States, Bogotá, Colombia, 1948.

[7] OAS, Inter-American Democratic Charter, Article 3.Adopted at the Twenty-eighth special session, Lima, Peru, September 11, 2001.

[8] I/A Court H.R., Case of San Miguel Sosa et al. v. Venezuela, Merits, Reparations, and Costs, Judgment of February 8, 2018, Series C No. 34818, par. 114.

[9] IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV, Cuba, "a. Political Rights", 2002, par. 12.

[10] IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV, Cuba, "a. Political Rights", 2002, par. 12.

which, in turn, implies the exercise of other fundamental human rights.[11] Indeed, for the IACHR, the concept of representative democracy is based on the principle that political sovereignty resides with the people and that, in the exercise of that sovereignty, they elect their representatives to exercise political power. These representatives are also elected by citizens to implement specific policy measures– which in turn implies that there has been broad debate on the nature of the policies to be applied – freedom of expression – among organized political groups – freedom of association – that have had the opportunity to express themselves and meet publicly – right of assembly. [12] The exercise of political rights is therefore inseparable from other fundamental human rights

A. Serious violation of the fundamental elements and institutions of representative democracy

19. Pursuant to Article 59, paragraph 6(a)(i) of its Rules of Procedure, the IACHR considers that there exists in Cuba a serious violation of the fundamental elements and institutions of representative democracy, including an abusive exercise of power that contravenes the rule of law through systematic infringement of the independence of the Judiciary. There are three structural reasons for this: 1) continuity of a single-party political model; 2) concentration of faculties and powers in the management of public affairs; 3) subordination of the administration of justice to political power.

1. Continuity of a single-party model

20. The current Cuban Constitution of 2019 continues to establish the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) as the superior political driving force of society and the State and, currently, the only party in Cuba.[13] The Commission notes that this results, formally and in practice, in the non-existence of opposition political parties and of diverse schools of thought.[14]

21. Likewise, although Cuba's electoral law establishes active and passive suffrage for Cuban citizens without ideological restrictions[15]; in practice, according to the testimonies received by the IACHR, the Candidacy Commissions[16] act as an ideological filter so that people who do not identify with official state views and the PCC do not hold public elective positions.

22. Thus, the Commission notes that, although *de jure* the law allows free political participation of citizens, *de facto* the Communist Party reportedly continues to regulate, control, and direct electoral processes in the country. Furthermore, the Commission points out that the official departure of former President Raúl Castro from the leadership of the Communist Party in 2021 did not result in changes with respect to political participation or in openness to party and ideological pluralism.[17]

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[11] IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV.B Cuba, par. 16.

[12] IACHR, Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Haiti, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.77.rev.1, doc. 18, May 8, 1990, Chapter 1. "Political Rights," par. 15.

[13] Specifically, Article 5 of the current Constitution establishes: "The Communist Party of Cuba, unique, Martiano, Fidelista, and Marxist-Leninist, the organized vanguard of the Cuban nation, sustained in its democratic character as well as its permanent linkage to the people, is the superior driving force of society and the State." Cuba, Official Gazette, Constitution of the Republic (GOC-2019- 406-EX5), April 10, 2019. Available at: https://www.gacetaoficial.gob.cu/sites/default/files/goc-2019-ex5_0.pdf.

[14] IACHR, Situation of Human Rights in Cuba, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 2, February 3, 2020, par. 141.

[15] 11 Cuba, Official Gazette, Law No. 127 "Electoral Law" (GOC- 2019-735-O60), August 19, 2019. Available at: https://www.gacetaoficial.gob.cu/.

[16] According to the Cuban Constitution, the Candidacy Commissions are the bodies in charge of preparing and presenting the draft candidacies of deputies to the National Assembly of People's Power and filling the positions elected by the National Assembly of People's Power and the municipal assemblies of People's Power. Cuba, Official Gazette, Law No. 127 "Electoral Law" (GOC- 2019-735-O60), August 19, 2019. Available at: https://www.gacetaoficial.gob.cu/es, Article 152.

[17] Granma, Elegido Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez como Primer Secretario del Comité Central del Partido Comunista de Cuba (Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez elected as First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba), April 19, 2021; Los tiempos, Raúl Castro se va, pero seguirá presente en decisiones estratégicas en Cuba (Raúl Castro leaves, but will still be present in strategic decisions in Cuba), April 20, 2021; El país, Miguel Díaz-Canel asume el mando del Partido Comunista cubano tras la salida de Raúl Castro (Miguel Díaz-Canel assumes command of the Cuban Communist Party after Raúl Castro's departure), April 19, 2021.

23. In response to anti-democratic practices, in April 2025[18], the IACHR warned that Cuba continues to face structural challenges in the area of human rights. These challenges derive from the absence of the essential elements of any representative democracy, especially the continuity of a single-party model, the absence of free elections and political pluralism, and the prohibition of association for political purposes. The IACHR has been documenting how the lack of independence among the branches of government and the hegemonic control of the single party seriously impair the functioning of institutions and violate minimum guarantees for the respect of human rights.

24. On the other hand, and according to official information, the Commission observed that in May, in the municipality of "10 de Octubre" in the province of Havana, the electoral process to elect the new delegates of the People's Power began, which involves the organization of grassroots assemblies in each community with the nomination of citizens who are elected by secret and universal ballot.[19] It also noted that in July, the Havana Provincial Electoral College, in the municipality of "La Lisa", began elections to fill vacancies in the 29th constituency, as part of actions to strengthen the People's Power system.[20]

25. In this regard, as of the date of this report, the IACHR does not have updated information on how these processes were carried out and whether they were conducted in a manner that guaranteed the alternation of power, that is, with the support of free and fair elections.

26. As indicated by the I/A Court H.R. in the case of Castañeda Gutman v. Mexico of 2008, although the inter-American system does not impose a specific electoral system or a specific means of exercising the rights to vote and to be elected, there are general guidelines that determine a minimum content of political rights that must be observed.[21] Consequently, as highlighted by the Court in the case of Yatama v. Nicaragua of 2005, "the full scope of political rights cannot be restricted in such a way that their regulation or the decisions adopted in application of this regulation prevent people from participating effectively in the governance of the State or cause this participation to become illusory, depriving such rights of their essential content."[22]

27. In the case of Cuba, the IACHR observes that the limitations to the exercise of political participation, derived from the single party system and the monopoly of power in a single political group, result in the destruction of the essence (minimum content) of political rights. This, in turn, fosters a political structure characterized by the absence of democratic institutions.

28. Likewise, the Commission notes that on July 16, the Fifth Regular Session of the National Assembly of People's Power (ANPP)[23]began and addressed, among others, issues related to the Government Program for the current year and amendments to the Constitution. In this regard, the IACHR notes that, on July 18, the National Assembly approved a constitutional reform aimed at abolishing the age limit of 60 years to run for the presidency of the country in a first term, a provision contemplated until now in Article 127 of the Constitution in force since 2019.[24]

[18] IACHR, Situation of human rights and individual freedoms in Cuba, Subcommittee on Human Rights, European Parliament, Speech, April 8, 2025.

[19] Government of Cuba, Inicia en 10 de Octubre con el apoyo de pioneros la elección de delegados del Poder Popular (Election of delegates of the People's Power begins on October 10 with the support of pioneers), May 19, 2025.

[20] Government of Cuba, Consejo Electoral Provincial, acciones de fortalecimiento del sistema del Poder Popular (Provincial Electoral Council, actions to strengthen the People's Power system), July 15, 2025.

[21] I/A Court H.R., Case of Castañeda Gutman v. Mexico, Preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs, Judgment of August 6, 2008, Series C No. 184, par. 166.

[22] I/A Court H.R., Case of Yatama v. Nicaragua, Preliminary objections, merits, reparations and costs, Judgment of June 23, 2005, Series C No. 127, par. 204.

[23] Government of Cuba, Inició hoy Quinto Periodo Ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular, en su X legislatura (Today saw the start of the Fifth Regular Session of the National Assembly of People's Power, in its X Legislature), July 16, 2025.

[24] Government of Cuba, Reforma constitucional suprime límite de 60 años de edad para ser elegido Presidente de la República (Constitutional amendment abolishes age limit for election to the office of President of the Republic), July 18, 2025; DW, Cuba suprimime límite de edad para ser presidente del país (Cuba abolishes age limit to become President of the country), July 19, 2025. It should be noted that the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man does not establish any age limit for exercising political rights. Although

29. According to dissidents, the aforementioned amendment ratifies the role of the Assembly as legal guarantor of the *status quo* and not of the will of the people. This is because the measure could be interpreted as a legalistic adjustment to allow the permanence of historical figures or those close to the leadership in positions of power. In other words, its purpose is to perpetuate the regime and tight control of the succession process within the ranks of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC).[25]

30. In this regard, the procedure required by the Constitution for an ordinary reform requires that the initiative be presented by the President, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, at least one third of the deputies, or by citizen petition, and subsequently approved by an absolute majority in the National Assembly. However, the speed, lack of effective public debate, and unanimity in voting would reflect a process lacking social control and discussion.[26] The constitutional reform file did not include citizen consultation or pluralistic discussion, thereby failing to comply with a democratic procedure.[27]

2. Concentration of powers and authority for the conduct of political affairs

31. As mentioned earlier, according to Article 3 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government are essential elements of democracy. In this regard, the I/A Court H.R. specified, in Advisory Opinion No. 28 of 2021, that:

> "The separation of State powers into different branches and organs is linked closely with the aim of preserving related freedoms, with the understanding that concentration of power leads to tyranny and oppression. At the same time, the separation of State powers allows for the efficient fulfillment of the various aims entrusted to the State."[28]

32. In the same vein, the I/A Court H.R. considers that "the separation and independence of powers (branches of government) assumes the existence of a system of controls and oversight to constantly regulate the balance of powers."[29] This system of "checks and balances" would therefore require the existence of guarantees that allow the branches of government to act freely and autonomously, without interference or subordination to one another.[30]

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international human rights law admits the regulation of political rights based on criteria such as nationality or age, any form of restriction must be necessary and proportional, and avoid practices based on bias or stereotypes based on age.

[25] DemoAmLat, La vieja guardia del Partido Comunista de Cuba cierra la puerta a la renovación (Cuba's Communist Party old guard closes the door to renewal), July 22, 2025; Martinoticias, Observatorio independiente critica "controvertidas reformas y leyes" aprobadas por el régimen cubano (Independent observatory criticizes "controversial reforms and laws" approved by Cuban regime), July 23, 2025; Cubanet, Cuba: Alertan sobre falta de transparencia en procesos de consulta popular (Alert on lack of transparency in citizen consultation processes), May 13, 2025.

[26] Martinoticias, Observatorio independiente critica "controvertidas reformas y leyes" aprobadas por el régimen cubano (Independent observatory criticizes "controversial reforms and laws" adopted by the Cuban regime), July 23, 2025; DemoAmLat, La vieja guardia del Partido Comunista de Cuba cierra la puerta a la renovación (Cuba's Communist Party old guard closes the door to renewal), July 22, 2025; Cubanet, Cuba: Alertan sobre falta de transparencia en procesos de consulta popular (Alert on lack of transparency in citizen consultation processes), May 13, 2025.

[27] Martinoticias, Observatorio independiente critica "controvertidas reformas y leyes" aprobadas por el régimen cubano (Independent observatory criticizes "controversial reforms and laws" adopted by the Cuban regime), July 23, 2025; DemoAmLat, La vieja guardia del Partido Comunista de Cuba cierra la puerta a la renovación (Cuba's Communist Party old guard closes the door to renewal), July 22, 2025; Cubanet, Cuba: Alertan sobre falta de transparencia en procesos de consulta popular (Alert on lack of transparency in citizen consultation processes), May 13, 2025.

[28] I/A Court H.R., The concept of indefinite presidential reelection in Presidential Systems in the context of the inter-American human rights system (Interpretation and scope of Articles 1, 23, 24, and 32 of the American Convention on Human Rights, Article XX of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Article 3.d of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Inter-American Democratic Charter), Advisory Opinion OC-28/21, June 7, 2021, Series A No.28, par. 80.

[29] I/A Court H.R., The concept of indefinite presidential reelection in Presidential Systems in the context of the inter-American human rights system (Interpretation and scope of Articles 1, 23, 24, and 32 of the American Convention on Human Rights, Article XX of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Article 3.d of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and the Inter-American Democratic Charter), Advisory Opinion OC-28/21, June 7, 2021, Series A No.28, par. 82.

[30] IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV.B Cuba", 2022, par. 30.

33. In the case of Cuba, the Commission notes that the National Assembly of People's Power (ANPP) has the power to elect the leaders of the most important judicial, oversight, and administrative institutions.[31]

34. The foundations of the State and the characteristics of the branches of government show that the main powers for the conduct of public affairs remain concentrated in a small number of authorities. The National Assembly of People's Power has a very high concentration of functions, including the appointment of those who will occupy positions in other sectors of the State. In addition, it can dismiss officials, a role that could affect independent and impartial decision-making.[32]

35. The Commission considers that this structure, which did not change in 2025, continues to create an environment in which political affiliation and loyalty to the government and its ideology become fundamental requirements to access and remain in such positions. This situation perpetuates a structure in which power and decision-making remain concentrated in the ruling political group, rather than being based on diverse and truly democratic representation. It also makes it impossible to implement reforms in the country.

3. Subordination of the administration of justice to political power

36. Regarding the right to justice, the American Declaration contemplates in Article XVIII that: "Every person may resort to the courts to ensure respect for his legal rights. There should likewise be available to him a simple, brief procedure whereby the courts will protect him from acts of authority that, to his prejudice, violate any fundamental constitutional rights."[33] The Declaration also provides in Article XXVI the right to due process of law, establishing that "Every person accused of an offense has the right to be given an impartial and public hearing, and to be tried by courts previously established in accordance with pre-existing laws, and not to receive cruel, infamous or unusual punishment."[34]

37. In addition, with regard to judicial independence, the Inter-American Court considers that the right to be judged by an impartial judge or tribunal is a fundamental guarantee of due process. That is to say, it must be guaranteed that the judge or court in the exercise of his/its function as a judge can exercise the greatest objectivity. Likewise, the independence of the Judiciary from the other branches of government is essential for the exercise of the judicial function.[35]

38. With respect to Cuba, the Commission notes that while Article 150 of the 2019 Constitution states that "Magistrates and judges, in their function of imparting justice, are independent and do not owe obedience except to the law",[36] testimonies gathered by the IACHR from former members of the Cuban Judicial System indicate that, in practice, judicial independence is not respected. The following are especially notable:

> Judicial independence is highly compromised in Cuba, since all the actors have to be part of the Communist Party of Cuba. Independence is very well conceived from the legal and

[31] Article 109 of the Constitution sets out all its electoral powers. The National Assembly elects the President and Vice President of the Republic from among its members. It also elects the members of the Council of State and appoints, on the proposal of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and members of the Council of Ministers. In addition, it elects the President and Justices of the People's Supreme Court, the Attorney General of the Republic, the Comptroller General of the Republic, and the President and members of the National Electoral Council. Cuba, Official Gazette, Constitution of the Republic (GOC-2019-406-EX5), April 10, 2019. Available at: https://www.gacetaoficial.gob.cu/sites/default/files/goc-2019-ex5_0.pdf.

[32] IACHR, Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Cuba, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 2, February 3, 2020, par. 113.

[33] OAS, American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Adopted at the Ninth International Conference of American States, Bogotá, Colombia, 1948.

[34] OAS, American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Adopted at the Ninth International Conference of American States, Bogotá, Colombia, 1948.

[35] I/A Court H.R., Case of Palamara Iribarne v. Chile, Merits, Reparations, and Costs, Judgment of November 22, 2005, Series C No. 135, par. 145.

[36] Cuba, Official Gazette, Constitution of the Republic (GOC-2019-406-EX5), April 10, 2019. Available at: https://www.gacetaoficial.gob.cu/sites/default/files/goc-2019-ex5_0.pdf. Article 150.

> constitutional point of view, but, in practice, the pressures to which we are subjected force us away from what we would like to do.[37]
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> Judicial independence, as established by the Constitution, the law of the courts and the law of the prosecution, is not achieved in practice. Everything is judicial arbitrariness in all senses and processes. [...] Since the complaint is filed, the investigative process is opened, and it is presented to the court, arbitrariness has been verified. Everything is directed by the Communist Party and the interests of the Government, structures that have the "leading voice" in all the processes in which they have an interest.[38]

39. The Commission also notes that the Assemblies of People's Power have a high degree of interference in the appointment of judges, who are accountable to it for their actions and can be revoked by the body that elects them.[39] In this way, judges who do not conform to the government's ideology are persecuted and removed from office, undermining the integrity of the judicial system.[40] With regard to the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, the Constitution provides that it is an indivisible organic unit subordinate to the President of the Republic.[41] In the Commission's opinion, these provisions violate the fundamental principle of separation of powers and undermine public confidence in the impartiality of the judicial system.

40. Likewise, the IACHR has questioned the concentration of powers and authority for the conduct of public affairs.[42] In particular, it is of concern that the National Assembly of People's Power has broad powers to adopt laws.[43] The Commission considers that this structure continues to create an environment in which political affiliation and loyalty to the government and its ideology become fundamental requirements to access and remain in such positions.[44] In addition--, it can dismiss officials, a role that could affect independent and impartial decision-making.[45]

41. Specifically, the Commission was informed that, in July 2025, during the Fifth Ordinary Session of the ANPP, 18 new deputies were elected and took office as members of the National Assembly.[46] According to information available to the Commission, the causes for the departure of the former deputies were not specified and the process has been described as a partial renewal, lacking transparency and without information.[47] In this regard, the Cuban Parliament is presented as a body representing the plurality of territories and sectors of the country, although the political reality is that of a monolithic body organically subordinated to the Cuban Communist Party (PCC), with no room for diversity or representation of independent associations.[48] The opacity of parliamentary replacements is evidence of the subordination to

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[37] IACHR, Labor and Union Rights in Cuba report, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 53, April 5, 2023, par. 346 (interview 52).

[38] IACHR, Labor and Union Rights in Cuba report, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 53, April 5, 2023, par. 346 (interview 41).

[39] Cuba, Official Gazette, Constitution of the Republic (GOC-2019-406-EX5), April 10, 2019. Available at: https://www.gacetaoficial.gob.cu/sites/default/files/goc-2019-ex5_0.pdf, Articles 149, 154-155.

[40] IACHR, interviews with P.O.R.; F.Y.Y.; A.R.Y., S.F.M., August 12, 2022. IACHR archive.

[41] Cuba, Official Gazette, Constitution of the Republic (GOC-2019-406-EX5), April 10, 2019. Available at: https://www.gacetaoficial.gob.cu/sites/default/files/goc-2019-ex5_0.pdf. Chapter VI - Office of the Attorney General.

[42] IACHR, Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Cuba, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc, February 23, 2020, par. 113.

[43] Article 109 of the Constitution sets out all its electoral powers. The National Assembly elects the President and Vice President of the Republic from among its members. It also elects the members of the Council of State and appoints, on the proposal of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and members of the Council of Ministers. In addition, it elects the President and Justices of the People's Supreme Court, the Attorney General of the Republic, the Comptroller General of the Republic, and the President and members of the National Electoral Council. Cuba, Official Gazette, Constitution of the Republic (GOC-2019-406-EX5), April 10, 2019. Available at: https://www.gacetaoficial.gob.cu/sites/default/files/goc-2019-ex5_0.pdf.

[44] IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV-B, Cuba, 2024, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 39 rev. 2, March 26, 2025, par. 31.

[45] IACHR, Situation of Human Rights in the Cuba, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 2, February 3, 2020, par. 113.

[46] Government of Cuba, Tomaron posesión 18 nuevos diputados en el Parlamento cubano (18 new deputies were sworn in to the Cuban Parliament), July 16, 2025.

[47] Martinoticias, Observatorio independiente critica "controvertidas reformas y leyes" aprobadas por el régimen cubano (Independent observatory criticizes "controversial reforms and laws" adopted by the Cuban regime), July 23, 2025; DemoAmLat, La vieja guardia del Partido Comunista de Cuba cierra la puerta a la renovación (Cuba's Communist Party old guard closes the door to renewal), July 22, 2025; Cubanet, Cuba: Alertan sobre falta de transparencia en procesos de consulta popular (Alert on lack of transparency in citizen consultation processes), May 13, 2025.

[48] Martinoticias, Observatorio independiente critica "controvertidas reformas y leyes" aprobadas por el régimen cubano (Independent observatory criticizes "controversial reforms and laws" adopted by the Cuban regime), July 23, 2025; DemoAmLat, La vieja

political interests and the absence of checks and balances, limiting the possibility of exercising oversight of the authorities and the transparency of the legislative process.[49]

III. SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA

A. Massive, gross, and systematic violations of human rights

42. For decades, the IACHR has continued to ascertain, with extreme concern, arbitrary restrictions on the right to assembly and freedom of expression of the population, as well as the persistence of violations of the right to liberty, security, and integrity of individuals, of protection from arbitrary detention, inviolability of the home, minimum judicial guarantees, and judicial protection, to which political dissidents, social leaders, activists, human rights defenders, and independent journalists are subjected. In particular, between 2021 and 2024, the IACHR warned that repression of dissent got worse, especially since the July 2021 protests in Cuba.[50]

43. In 2025, the IACHR continued to observe systematic repression by state agents and pro-government groups seeking to prevent peaceful gatherings and protests organized by people who dissent from the positions imposed by the government in the country. Repressive practices have included, inter alia, arbitrary detentions, criminalization, house arrests, surveillance, interrogations, threats, fines, and internet shutdowns. All this is taking place in a context of deep social and economic crisis, which has included power outages for prolonged periods of time, making it difficult to access essential basic goods, already in short supply, such as food, water, and medicines.

44. The Commission considers that these state practices constitute massive, serious, and systematic violations of human rights. This conclusion is based on the large number of victims, the seriousness of the actions undertaken, and the existence of certain patterns of conduct carried out with state resources in response to a policy defined and endorsed from the highest levels of state power. Therefore, the IACHR considers that the current human rights situation in Cuba is covered by the provisions of Article 59, paragraph 6(c) of its Rules of Procedure.

45. The following are the main rights violations identified in 2025.

B. Human rights defenders

46. During 2025, human rights defenders in Cuba have continued to carry out their advocacy activities under a hostile and repressive environment fostered by the State. The complaints received point to an intensification of the patterns of criminalization, persecution, and harassment against those who defend human rights in the country, accompanied by a total closure of the civic space.

47. In this regard, the IACHR has documented a new wave of repression directed against activists, political opponents, and social leaders. The revocation of conditional release, mobility restrictions, and criminalization through the misuse of criminal law continue to be widespread practices used to silence and obstruct human rights advocacy.

48. The Commission learned about the revocation of parole of activists who had been released between January and March 2025.[51] In April, Cuba's Supreme Court upheld the revocation of conditional release of several opposition members, including José Daniel Ferrer and Félix Navarro, who had been released

guardia del Partido Comunista de Cuba cierra la puerta a la renovación (Y), July 22, 2025; Cubanet, Cuba: Alertan sobre falta de transparencia en procesos de consulta popular (Alert on lack of transparency in citizen consultation processes), May 13, 2025.

[49] Cubanet, Cuba: Alertan sobre falta de transparencia en procesos de consulta popular (Alert on lack of transparency in citizen consultation processes), May 13, 2025; DemoAmLat, La vieja guardia del Partido Comunista de Cuba cierra la puerta a la renovación (Cuba's Communist Party old guard closes the door to renewal), July 22, 2025.

[50] CIDH, Annual Report, Chapter IV.B "Cuba", 2021, par. 19

[51] Justice 11J, Otro año sin justicia (2025) (Another Year Without Justice (2025)), updated as of August 20, 2025.

from prison under severe restrictions.[52] Both were detained again after supposedly arbitrary violations of the conditions imposed. In Ferrer's case, a serious deterioration of his health, lack of access to adequate medical care, and prison conditions that could constitute torture were denounced, which led his family and international organizations to issue urgent appeals for his life.[53] In this regard, on October 8, 2025, the Complaint Center of the Foundation for Pan American Democracy (for its Spanish acronym FDP) informed the Commission of the imminent risk to the life and integrity of José Daniel Ferrer due to practices of forced exile and coercion for his departure from the country.[54] Then, on October 13, the Commission took note that José Daniel Ferrer arrived in the United States after being released from prison in Cuba.[55]

49. Likewise, on June 11, the People's Provincial Court of Villa Clara revoked the conditional release of activist Donaida Pérez Paseiro, after she was accused of "non-compliance in the labor sphere and failure to attend the execution judge's summons" and, therefore, she must serve the remainder of her sentence in prison for the alleged crimes of contempt, assault, and public disorder.[56]

50. The Commission notes that human rights defenders and activists continue to be accused of crimes as an instrument of control by the State. Organizations such as Prisoners Defenders have denounced the use of criminal law as a mechanism to silence dissent. As of August 31, 2025, there are reportedly 1,185 people in prison for exercising the defense of human rights.[57] According to those organizations, serious patterns have been identified such as the systematic criminalization of fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and protest and the use of vague and disproportionate criminal offenses such as disobedience, contempt, or propagation of epidemics, and the application of summary or military proceedings without minimum procedural guarantees.[58]

51. The following are some of the cases of criminalization that the IACHR has observed. On February 6, Alexander Verdecia, coordinator of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (for its Spanish acronym UNPACU), was arrested and formally charged through a prosecutorial request on June 18, 2025 with the crimes of instigation to commit a crime and propaganda against the constitutional order. According to the information available, the Prosecutor's Office requested a 10-year prison sentence for his publications on social networks criticizing the government. As of September 5, he did not have a trial date.[59]

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[52] Amnesty International, Cuba: Parole of José Daniel Ferrer and Félix Navarro revoked, May 8, 2025; France 24, Cuba revoca la excarcelación de los opositores Ferrer y Navarro y los devuelve a prisión (Cuba revokes release of opponents Ferrer and Navarro and returns them to prison), April 29, 2025.

[53] Diario Las Américas, Opositor José Daniel Ferrer es víctima de torturas en cárcel de Cuba; familia teme por su vida (Opposition figure José Daniel Ferrer tortured in prison in Cuba; his family fears for his life), July 6, 2025; ADN Cuba, Logran ver a José Daniel Ferrer (They manage to see José Daniel Ferrer): "Continúa sobreviviendo en condiciones crueles" ("He continues to survive in cruel conditions")July 15, 2025.

[54] Foundation for Pan American Democracy (FDP), José Daniel Ferrer García forced banishment, October 8, 2025.

[55] Observatorio Cubano de Derechos Humanos, Saludo y reconocimiento a José Daniel Ferrer (Greeting and recognition for José Daniel Ferrer), October 13, 2025; CNNespanol, El disidente cubano José Daniel Ferrer llega a Estados Unidos tras ser liberado de prisión (Cuban dissident José Daniel Ferrer arrives in the United States after being released from prison), October 13, 2025; Swissinfo, El histórico disidente cubano José Daniel Ferrer parte al exilio en Estados Unidos (Famous Cuban dissident José Daniel Ferrer leaves for exile in the United States), October 13, 2025.

[56] Justice 11J, Donaida Pérez Paseiro: nueva re-encarcelación como castigo por defender derechos humanos (Donaida Pérez Paseiro jailed once again for defending human rights), undated; Diario Las Américas, Revocan libertad condicional a la activista cubana Donaida Pérez Paseiro (Parole revoked for Cuban activist Donaida Pérez Paseiro), June 11, 2025; Martí Noticias, Régimen revoca libertad condicional a la presa política cubana Donaida Pérez Paseiro (Regime revokes parole for Cuban political prisoner Donaida Pérez Paseiro), June 11, 2025: Cubanet, Régimen cubano devuelve a la cárcel a la activista opositora Donaida Pérez Paseiro (Cuban regime returns opposition activist Donaida Pérez Paseiro to prison), June 11, 2025.

[57] Prisoners Defenders, Se intensifica cada mes la represión en Cuba (Repression in Cuba intensifies every month):13 nuevos presos políticos llevan a un nuevo récord de 1.185 (13 new political prisoners leads to a new record of 1,185), September 11, 2025.

[58] Prisoner Defenders, 4 años desde el 11J: el 65% de los prisioneros políticos en Cuba son manifestantes del 2021 mientras se incrementan las torturas (4 years since 11J: 65% of political prisoners in Cuba are 2021 protesters as torture increases), July 10, 2025.

[59] Martí Noticias, Sin fecha de juicio el preso político cubano Alexander Verdecia tras siete meses en la cárcel (Cuban political prisoner Alexander Verdecia still has no trial date after seven months in prison), September 5, 2025; El Toque, Fiscalía pide diez años de cárcel por criticar al Gobierno cubano en Facebook: el caso de Alexander Verdecia (Attorney's office calls for ten years in prison for criticizing the Cuban government on Facebook: Alexander Verdecia case), June 19, 2025; CiberCuba, Piden 10 años de prisión para cubano

52. In February 2025, the IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression received reports of the arbitrary detention in Havana of Berta Soler Hernández, leader of the Ladies in White; Marieta Martínez and María Mercedes Benítez, members of the movement, and former political prisoner Ángel Moya Acosta, as they were on their way to the funeral of Yolanda Santana Ayala, also a member of the group and a former political prisoner. According to public statements, Soler was allegedly taken to a meeting room, where a political police officer warned her that she would not be allowed to attend the wake dressed in white, a color that identifies the movement in its demonstrations for the freedom of people imprisoned for political reasons in Cuba.[60] Over the course of the year, the Office continued to record multiple reports of harassment, bullying, and intimidation of the movement.[61]

53. In March, activist Oscar Sanchez Madan, Political Coordinator of the National Council of the United Anti-totalitarian Forum (FANTU), was sent back to prison after 18 days detained in a police unit for protesting with anti-government posters in Marti Park in the city of Matanzas and charged with public disorder. There is no information on the commencement of the trial. The activist had just been released after being deprived of his liberty and serving a sentence of one year and two months for the crime of public disorder.[62]

54. In addition, during the year, mobility restrictions continued to be imposed to silence critical opinions, including police operations to prevent people from leaving their homes. According to the organization Cubalex, in August and in the framework of the 31st anniversary of the "Maleconazo[63]" there were police and State Security surveillance operations, arbitrary house arrests, and selective interruptions of access to the Internet against several activists, independent journalists, and human rights defenders.[64] On July 2, the homes of several activists, including Manuel Cuesta Morúa, Vice-President of the Council for Democratic Transition in Cuba, and Lady in White María Cristina Labrada, were reportedly under strict surveillance surrounded by plainclothes agents to prevent them from attending an event organized by the U.S. Embassy.[65] For her part, leader Berta Soler, a member of the Ladies in White, was detained that same day to prevent her participation in the event.[66] In May, activist Donaida Perez denounced that Cuban State authorities refused to carry out her immigration procedures to prevent her from traveling to an event of the Christian Democrat Organization of America (for its Spanish acronym ODCA) in Colombia for "disparaging the revolution".[67]

por expresar opiniones contra el gobierno en redes (Ten years in prison requested for Cuban charged with criticizing the government on social networks), June 18, 2025.

[60] CiberCuba, Represión en Cuba (Repression in Cuba): Arrestan a opositores que iban al velorio de una Dama de Blanco (Opposition members on their way to the wake of a Lady in White arrested) February 5, 2025.

[61] Infobae, Las Damas de Blanco cubanas denuncian siete arrestos este Domingo de Ramos (Cuban Ladies in White denounce seven arrests this Palm Sunday) April 13, 2025; Diario las Américas, Régimen cubano intensifica la represión contra las Damas de Blanco (Cuban Regime Intensifies Repression Against the Ladies in White) April 7, 2025; Martí Noticias, Damas de Blanco denuncian 16 semanas consecutivas de represión en Cuba (Ladies in White Denounce 16 Consecutive Weeks of Repression in Cuba), June 30, 2025.

[62] Martí Noticias, Activista cubano Oscar Sánchez Madan encarcelado nuevamente tras protesta (Cuban activist Oscar Sánchez Madan jailed again after protest), April 3, 2025; ADN Cuba, Devuelven a prisión a opositor Oscar Sánchez Madan, tras ser liberado hace pocas semanas (Opposition activist Oscar Sánchez Madan returned to prison after being released a few weeks ago), April 2, 2025.

[63] On August 5, 1994, thousands of Cubans took to the streets of Havana's Malecon to protest against the economic crisis, repression, and lack of freedoms. It was one of the biggest social outbursts under the Cuban regime. Thirty-one years after that historic day, the government continues to respond with systematic repression to any attempt at citizen protest.

[64] Cubalex, Cuba: vigilancia y arrestos domiciliarios en el aniversario 31 del Maleconazo (Cuba: surveillance and house arrests on the 31st anniversary of the Maleconazo), August 5, 2025; Cibercuba, Régimen cubano impide salir a activistas en aniversario del Maleconazo (Cuban regime prevents activists from taking to the streets on the anniversary of the Maleconazo, August 5, 2025.

[65] 14 y medio, El régimen impide que los invitados cubanos asistan a la fiesta del 4 de Julio en la Embajada de EE UU (The regime prevents Cuban guests from attending July 4 celebration at the U.S. embassy), July 2, 2025; Martí Noticias, Ola represiva impide participación de cubanos en celebración organizada por Embajada de EEUU (Repression to prevent Cubans from attending celebration organized by the U.S. embassy), July 2, 2025.

[66] Cibercuba, Seguridad del Estado detiene a Berta Soler tras salir de su casa en La Habana (State Security detains Berta Soler after leaving her home in Havana), July 2, 2025; Infobae, El régimen de Cuba arrestó por segunda vez en cinco días a Berta Soler, activista y fundadora de las Damas de Blanco (Cuba's regime arrested Berta Soler, activist and founder of the Ladies in White, for the second time in five days), July 3, 2025.

[67] Martí Noticias, Prohíben a activista cubana viajar a evento de ODCA en Colombia por su "posición política"(Cuban activist prevented from traveling to Christian Democrat Organization of America event in Colombia because of her political stance), May 27, 2025; Diario de Cuba, El régimen impide a la activista Donaida Pérez Paseiro viajar a un evento de la Organización Demócrata Cristiana de América (Regime prevents activist Donaida Pérez Paseiro from traveling to an event organized by the ODCA), May 27, 2025.

55. In addition, in April 2025, the homes of activists Yamilka Lafita, Olga Rodríguez, and Daniela Peral remained under siege by police officers, preventing them from leaving to attend a religious service.[68]

56. Stigmatization continues to be a strategy for discrediting defenders, who are labeled by the State as "terrorists". In July 2025 the Cuban regime updated its list of "alleged terrorists", identifying 62 individuals and 20 organizations, including activists, historic leaders in exile, and influencers based abroad.[69] Among the organizations included are the Cuba First movement and the Patriotic Union of Cuba (for its Spanish acronym UNPACU).[70]

57. In 2025 the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of defenders at risk. On January 30, the Commission granted precautionary measures in favor of Luis Wilber Aguilar Bravo and his family because they were subject to surveillance, threats, and harassment by State agents, as a result of public statements and complaints about the situation of political prisoners in Cuba.[71] Likewise, on March 27, the IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of Mario Alberto Hernández Leyva, Vice-President of the Opposition Movement for a New Republic (for its Spanish acronym MONR) and promoter of the citizens' campaign "Cuba Decides", on the grounds that his life and personal integrity are at risk due to the conditions of detention to which he has been subjected since he was deprived of his liberty in June 2024.[72]

58. In view of the facts described above, the Commission expresses its concern over the closure of civic space in Cuba, manifested in the persistence of repressive acts and harassment by state agents against those who denounce and defend human rights. The Commission reiterates the absence of the minimum conditions required for the free exercise to defend human rights.

59. The IACHR reiterates its call to the State to adopt effective measures to guarantee and protect the rights of human rights defenders, activists, and other social leaders. In this regard, the Commission urges the Cuban State to cease all actions that arbitrarily interfere with the exercise of human rights related to opportunities for citizens to participate in society ("civic space") and to guarantee an environment conducive to the defense of human rights.

C. Persons deprived of liberty

60. The Commission appreciates the release of 553 persons deprived of their liberty, while taking note of the questions raised about this measure. In addition, it reiterates its concern about the absence of updated official data on persons incarcerated in Cuban prisons, the high rate of incarceration, the deplorable conditions in which prisoners are held, and the particularly harsh impact they have on detainees with psychosocial disabilities. Another matter of concern is the persistence of acts of torture and ill-treatment, which disproportionately affects persons detained for political reasons, along with the use of forced labor.

61. In particular, according to available information, on January 14, following an agreement with the Holy See, Cuba announced the "gradual release" of incarcerated persons through penitentiary "benefits"

[68] ADN Cuba, Policía política mantiene sitada la vivienda de las activistas Yamilka Lafita y Daniela Peral (Political police keep the home of activists Yamilka Lafita and Daniela Peral under siege), April 16, 2025; Diario de Cuba, El régimen impide a activistas asistir a la misa por el niño Damir Ortiz realizada en La Habana (Regime prevents activist from attending mass conmemorating child Damir Ortiz in Havana), April 10, 2025.

[69] Diario de Cuba, La Habana añade nuevos nombres a su lista de supuestos 'terroristas' y elimina otros sin explicaciones (Havana adds new names to its list of alleged 'terrorists' and removes others without explanation), July 10, 2025; Televisión Avileña, Actualiza Cuba lista de personas y entidades buscadas por vínculos con el terrorismo (Cuba updates list of persons and entities wanted for ties to terrorism), July 10, 2025.

[70] Diario de Cuba, Justificación del 'exterminio' por pensar diferente: activistas sobre la lista de supuestos terroristas de La Habana (Justification of 'extermination' for thinking differently: activists on Havana's list of alleged terrorists), July 14, 2025.

[71] IACHR, Resolution 9/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 393-24, Luis Wilber Aguilar Bravo Rivera and family regarding Cuba, January 30, 2025

[72] IACHR, Resolution 28/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 671-23, Mario Alberto Hernández Leyva regarding Cuba, March 27, 2025.

that would allow sentences to be served outside prison.[73] In that connection, the IACHR welcomed the release from prison of at least 60 persons deprived of liberty for political reasons, some of whom are beneficiaries of precautionary measures, and urged the State to inform them about the criminal proceedings and to respect their rights, including their stay in the country.[74]

62. On March 10, 2025, according to Prisoners Defenders, the process concluded with the release of 553 prisoners, 323 of whom were detained for common crimes and 230 for political reasons. As a result, the released persons began to serve their sentences outside prison under probation or "extrapenal license." In this regard, the Commission takes note of the concerns of civil society regarding the failure to release hundreds of political detainees who remain in prison.[75] Likewise, the IACHR is concerned about the subjection of released persons to various conditions that include, *inter alia*, being subjected to wiretapping and searches, restrictions on freedom of expression and human rights advocacy work, and the ban on their leaving the city they live in; non-compliance with these conditions would result in the revocation of the benefit and return to prison.[76] On this point, the Commission was informed that these people are reportedly subject to constant threats and summons by State security agents and courts.[77]

63. With regard to the absence of updated official data and the high rate of incarceration, the Commission once again regrets that the Cuban State persists in its refusal to publish official data on persons detained in the country. The most recent official data were published in 2012, at which time 57,337 persons were detained in the country's prisons.[78] However, this figure contrasts with civil society's more recently updated figure, which indicates that, as of March 30, 2021, there were close to 100,000 people deprived of their liberty.[79] Given that the latest figure for the number of inhabitants of the country in 2024 is 10,979,783, Cuba would be one of the two countries with the highest prison population *per capita* worldwide, with 910 persons deprived of liberty per 100,000 inhabitants.[80]

64. Regarding prison conditions, the IACHR once again expresses its concern about the deplorable conditions in prisons, that, between January and June 2025, caused the death of at least 24 people in state

[73] Prisoners Defenders, 7 new political prisoners in February further expose the fraud on 230 draconian excarcellations, March 13, 2025; also, see: ADN Cuba, Régimen cubano anuncia el fin del proceso de excarcelación de 553 presos en menos de dos meses (Cuban regime announces the end of the process of releasing 553 prisoners in less than two months), March 10, 2025.

[74] IACHR [@IACHR], (Jan. 21, 2025), #IACHR and its @RELE_CIDH welcome the release of at least 60 people deprived of liberty for political reasons [X], https://x.com/CIDH/status/1881724797089944059.

[75] On this matter, see the section on democratic institutionality; also, see: Observatorio Cubano de Derechos Humanos, OCDH califica de injusto e incompleto el proceso de excarcelaciones en Cuba al excluir al menos a 760 presos políticos y darse ya por finalizado (OCDH calls Cuba's release process unjust and incomplete as it excludes at least 760 political prisoners and is already considered completed), March 11, 2025; and Prisoners Defenders, 7 new political prisoners in February further expose the fraud on 230 draconian excarcellations, March 13, 2025.

[76] Prisoners Defenders, 7 new political prisoners in February further expose the fraud on 230 draconian excarcellations, March 13, 2025.

[77] IACHR, Public Hearing "Situación de la privación arbitraria de libertad por motivos políticos (Situation of Arbitrary Deprivation of Liberty for Political Reasons)," 192nd regular session, March 4, 2025.

[78] IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV. B "Cuba",2021, par. 121; IACHR, 2021 Annual Report, Chapter IV. B "Cuba",2022, par. 150; and IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV.B "Cuba", 2023, par. 60; and IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV.B "Cuba", 2024, par. 58.

[79] IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV. B "Cuba",2021, par. 121; IACHR, 2021 Annual Report, Chapter IV. B "Cuba",2022, par. 150; and IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV.B "Cuba", 2023, par. 60; further, see: Cuban Observatory of Human Rights, OCDH denuncia situación del Covid-19 en cárceles de Camagüey (Cuba) y la nula transparencia del gobierno en la gestión de la pandemia (OCDH denounces the situation of Covid-19 in prisons in Camagüey (Cuba) and the lack of government transparency in the management of the pandemic), March 30, 2021.

[80] The calculation was made by the IACHR based on the figures indicated. On this, see: IACHR, 2021 Annual Report, Chapter IV. B "Cuba",2021, par. 121; IACHR, 2021 Annual Report, Chapter IV. B "Cuba",2022, par. 150; IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV.B "Cuba", 2023, par. 60; World Bank, Data for Cuba, Population, total., 2025; and Observatorio Cubano de Derechos Humanos, OCDH denuncia situación del Covid-19 en cárceles de Camagüey (Cuba) y la nula transparencia del gobierno en la gestión de la pandemia (OCDH denounces the situation of Covid-19 in prisons in Camagüey (Cuba) and the lack of government transparency in the management of the pandemic), March 30, 2021; also, see: World Prison Brief, Highest to Lowest - Prison Population Rate, 2025.

custody,[81] mainly due to malnutrition and lack of timely medical attention.[82] According to available data, these conditions are characterized by severe overcrowding -although the exact percentage is unknown-, inadequate food, lack of water, poor or denied medical care, and deplorable hygiene that contributes to the spread of contagious diseases such as tuberculosis.[83] As for food, the available data indicate that it is of poor quality, scarce, and monotonous, in addition to restrictions on storing food sent by families. Some of these issues are reportedly linked to the systematic theft of food supplies by prison personnel, who either sell it or use it to feed pigs. In addition, political detainees are constantly faced with the arbitrary suspension of family visits, prolonged solitary confinement, or complete prohibition of contact with family members, denial of the possibility of less harsh prison conditions, and the lack of adequate medical care.[84]

65. Likewise, as part of a hearing held during its 192nd session, the Commission was informed of the particularly harsh impact of prison conditions faced by persons with psychosocial disabilities in Cuba. On this point, civil society pointed out that this population was reportedly subjected to institutional neglect, mistreatment, psychological torture, lack of medical treatment, and the withdrawal of their psychiatric medication, which exacerbated their mental health condition and even increased the risk of suicide.[85]

66. Based on the foregoing, the Commission recalls that overcrowding of persons deprived of their liberty may in itself constitute a form of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.[86] In addition, it once again reminds Cuba of its duty to ensure that persons deprived of liberty are held in conditions compatible with their human dignity. These include, among others, access to safe drinking water, sufficient and proper food, and appropriate hygienic conditions.[87] In addition, it is part of this obligation to provide timely, adequate, and specialized health care to persons in its custody, as well as to make the required adjustments for the treatment of persons with disabilities.[88]

67. On the other hand, the IACHR condemns the repeated acts of ill-treatment and torture in Cuban prisons, which reportedly disproportionately affect persons deprived of their liberty for political reasons. The Commission, through a pronouncement of August 7, 2025, expressed its concern about the situation of political detainees José Daniel Ferrer García and Félix Navarro Rodríguez, who were reportedly facing various forms of mistreatment.[89] In particular, the available data show physical violence, beatings of handcuffed persons, prolonged isolation without medical supervision, extreme confinement in "punishment cells" without ventilation or natural light, and lack of human contact as a mechanism of psychological torture.

[81] Centro de Documentación de Prisiones Cubanas, 24 inmates die and 160 complaints of torture recorded, June 26, 2025; also see: Diario de Cuba, 24 muertes bajo custodia y 160 denuncias de tortura en cárceles de Cuba en solo medio año (24 deaths in custody and 160 complaints of torture in Cuban prisons in only half a year), June 26, 2025; and ADN Cuba, muere otro recluso de la prisión de boniato, en santiago de cuba (Another inmate dies in Boniato prison, in Santiago de Cuba), March 13, 2025.

[82] Cubanet, Hambruna, torturas y represión: (Famine, torture and repression): 67 denuncias desde cárceles cubanas en marzo (67 complaints from Cuban prisons in March), April 9, 2025; also, see: Centro de Documentación de Prisiones Cubanas, 24 reclusos mueren y se registran 160 denuncias de tortura (24 inmates die and 160 complaints of torture are recorded), June 26, 2025.

[83] Cubanet, Hambruna, torturas y represión: (Famine, torture and repression): 67 complaints from Cuban prisons in March, April 9, 2025; and Cubalex, Cuba at UN: state claims to "comply" with Mandela rules while hiding prison violations, June 13, 2025; similarly, see: IACHR, Public Hearing "Cuba: Rights of persons deprived of liberty with psychosocial disabilities", 192nd regular session, March 3, 2025.

[84] Cubanet, Hambruna, torturas y represión: (Famine, torture and repression): 67 complaints from Cuban prisons in March, April 9, 2025; and Cubalex, Cuba at UN: state claims to "comply" with Mandela rules while hiding prison violations, June 13, 2025.

[85] IACHR, Public Hearing "Cuba: Rights of persons deprived of liberty with psychosocial disabilities", 192nd regular session, March 3, 2025.

[86] IACHR, Report on the Use of Pretrial Detention in the Americas, December 30, 2013, par. 290

[87] IACHR, Report on the Human Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, adopted on December 31, 2011, par. 432

[88] On this, see: I/A Court H.R., *Case Chinchilla Sandoval-Reyes et al. v. Guatemala*. Preliminary objection, merits, reparations, and costs. Judgment of February 29, 2016, Series C No. 312, paras. 171-72 and 208-215.

[89] IACHR [@CIDH] (August 7, 2025).#Cuba #IACHR expresses concern about the situation of José Daniel Ferrer García and Félix Navarro Rodríguez, who remain detained and are beneficiaries of precautionary measures [X], https://x.com/CIDH/status/1953547110936134039.

What is more, persons who attempt to denounce these violations of their rights are reportedly arbitrarily transferred to other centers in retaliation or threatened with new criminal proceedings.[90]

68. As the Commission was informed during a public hearing, between 2022 and February 28, 2025, civil society documented at least 255 acts of repression against detainees. At least 79 of those acts correspond to denial of (or deficient) medical attention, 47 to physical or psychological violence, and 22 to the use of punishment cells. These practices have reportedly led to an increase in suicide attempts, although there is a lack of statistical data due to the lack of official information.[91] As regard denunciations in 2025, between January and June, at least 160 complaints of ill-treatment were reported in 43 prisons. Of the total, 104 involved denials of medical care, 45 involved physical torture, and 11 involved psycho-emotional torture; and 56 victims were political detainees.[92]

69. In addition, the IACHR expresses its concern about the subjection of nearly 60,000 persons deprived of liberty or sentenced to alternative regimes to forced labor practices for the production of products, especially charcoal and cigars. According to Prisoners Defenders, these practices are characterized by: coercion; lack of a contract; a 63-hour work week; lack of tools, training, and protection; either no or merely symbolic wages; and, in some cases, physical violence, including sexual violence against women. In addition, the number of Afro-Cuban victims of such treatment is reportedly particularly high.[93]

70. In light of the above, the Commission reiterates its condemnation of all forms of torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and recalls that these acts must be absolutely prevented and prohibited under any circumstances.[94]

D. Freedom of expression

1. Criminalization, threats, and intimidation against journalists

71. In 2025, the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (SRFOE) of the IACHR continued to record systematic repression against journalists and press workers in Cuba. The most frequent forms of repression included arbitrary detentions, as one of the most frequent forms of harassment during the first half of the year; as well as illegal summons by State Security or Police agents, threats, interrogations, violations of due process, selective or massive police operations, surveillance and monitoring, restrictions on movement, as well as obstructions to journalistic coverage during events of public interest.[95] These practices have generated an increasingly hostile environment for the free and safe practice of journalism on the island and have prompted the exile of numerous journalists.

[90] On this, see: IACHR, Public Hearing "Cuba: Rights of persons deprived of liberty with psychosocial disabilities", 192nd regular session, March 3, 2025; Cubalex, Cuba en ONU: el estado asegura "cumplir" las reglas mandela mientras oculta las violaciones en las cárceles (Cuba at the UN: the state claims to "comply" with Mandela rules while hiding violations in prisons), June 13, 2025; and Cubanet, Hambruna, torturas y represión: (Famine, torture and repression): 67 denuncias desde cárceles cubanas en marzo (67 complaints from Cuban prisons in March), April 9, 2025; also, see: https://fundaciondemocraciapanamericana.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Reporte-de-Victimas-Agosto-2025.pdf, August 2025.

[91] IACHR, Public Hearing "Cuba: Rights of persons deprived of liberty with psychosocial disabilities", 192nd regular session, March 3, 2025.

[92] Centro de Documentación de Prisiones Cubanas, 24 reclusos mueren y se registran 160 denuncias de tortura (24 inmates die and 160 complaints of torture recorded), June 26, 2025; also see: Diario de Cuba, 24 muertes bajo custodia y 160 denuncias de tortura en cárceles de Cuba en solo medio año (24 deaths in custody and 160 allegations of torture in Cuban prisons in just half a year), June 26, 2025.

[93] Prisoners Defenders, Cuba's Prison Business: 60,000 prisoners are used as slave labor, September 2025.

[94] IACHR, Report on the Human Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas, paras. 343 and 350.

[95] Article 19 MX-CA, Análisis trimestral sobre el estado de la libertad de expresión en Centroamérica y el Caribe (enero a marzo de 2025) (Quarterly analysis on the state of freedom of expression in Central America and the Caribbean (January to March 2025)), May 8, 2025; Article 19 MX-CA, Análisis trimestral sobre el estado de la libertad de expresión en Centroamérica y el Caribe (abril a junio de 2025) (Quarterly analysis on the state of freedom of expression in Central America and the Caribbean (April to June 2025)), 2025; Article 19 MX-CA, Resonancia y disputa: espacio cívico en Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua y El Salvador (Resonance and dispute: civic space in Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador), 2025; Cubalex, Tendencias y patrones de represión en Cuba: primer semestre de 2025 (Trends and patterns of repression in Cuba: first half of 2025); August 2025.

72. The Rapporteurship received several reports of arbitrary arrests of journalists. In particular, it learned of the arrest of José Gabriel Barrenechea, journalist and contributor to the media *14yMedio*, arrested on November 8, 2024 on charges of "public disorder" for his participation in the protests against the blackouts in Encrucijada, Villa Clara. According to available reports, Barrenechea faces between three and eight years in prison. During his imprisonment, he reportedly suffered from various illnesses.[96] The trial against him, along with that of five other participants in the protests, was held on September 24, 2025 and had reached the sentencing stage.[97]

73. On January 24, 2025, Yadiel Hernández, an independent journalist for *14yMedio*, was arrested while investigating a drug trafficking network in a high school in Matanzas. According to available reports, Hernández was charged with the alleged crime of "propaganda against the constitutional order" and subsequently transferred to a State Security barracks in Versalles, Matanzas, where he was interrogated.[98] He remained there for almost a month before being transferred to the *Combinado del Sur prison*. After several months of imprisonment, the Rapporteurship learned of his release on April 28, 2025.[99]

74. Also, on May 25, 2025, there were reports of the arbitrary arrest of journalist Carlos Milanés, an independent contributor to *ADN Cuba*, *Cubanet,* and *Radio Martí*. According to reports in the public domain, the arrest occurred when Milanés was in front of his sister's house in Havana and noticed a patrol car and a State Security motorcycle approaching. He was reportedly violently arrested and placed in a vehicle, where he was held for at least 20 minutes while being questioned about his relationship with activists of UNPACU and his knowledge of possible demonstrations by the group. Subsequently, he was allegedly taken to the dungeon of the Dragones Police Unit, where he was detained for almost four hours. In addition, there have been reports of threats, as well as physical and verbal aggressions against him and his family, designed to hinder his journalistic work. Milanés was also reportedly summoned for questioning about his "social behavior," according to reports.[100]

75. On June 29, 2025, the arbitrary detention of journalist Henry Constantín Ferreiro, regional vice-president of the *Inter American Press Association* (IAPA) and director of *La Hora de Cuba*, was reported in

[96] Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), 2 freelance journalists arrested amid Cuba's ongoing repression of independent press, April 17, 2025; Article 19 MX-CA, Libertad para Yadiel Hernández y José Gabriel Barrenechea, colaboradores de 14ymedio (Freedom for Yadiel Hernández and José Gabriel Barrenechea, contributors to *14ymedio*), April 29, 2025; Article 19-MX-CA, José Gabriel Barrenechea cumple seis meses sin libertad (José Gabriel Barrenechea has so far completed 6 months in prison), May 8, 2025.

[97] Observatorio Cubano de Derechos Humanos, Ya tiene fecha el juicio político contra el intelectual José Gabriel Barrenechea Chávez (Date set for political trial of intellectual José Gabriel Barrenechea Chávez), September 16, 2025; Martí, Familiares esperan veredicto tras polémico juicio por protestas pacíficas en Encrucijada (Next of kin await verdict after questionable trial for protesting peacefully in Encrucijada), September 25, 2025; ADN Cuba, Queda concluso para sentencia el juicio contra José Gabriel Barrenechea (Trial against José Gabriel Barrenechea ready for sentencing stage), September 25, 2025; Cubanet, Liberan a uno de los acusados por la protesta de Encrucijada (One of the accused for the Encrucijada protest has been released). José Gabriel Barrenechea remains in prison, September 26, 2025.

[98] 14ymedio.com, Un reportero de '14ymedio' en prisión por investigar el tráfico de drogas en una escuela de Matanzas ('14ymedio' reporter in prison for investigating drug trafficking in Matanzas school), 10 April 2025; Diario de Cuba, Un periodista de '14 y medio' que investigaba un caso de drogas, acusado de 'propaganda contra el orden constitucional', ('14 y medio' journalist investigating drug case accused of 'propaganda against constitutional order'), 11 April 2025; ADN Cuba, Periodista independiente se encuentra preso en el Combinado del Sur (Independent journalist is imprisoned in Combinado del Sur), 10 April 2025; Article 19 MX-CA, Libertad para Yadiel Hernández y José Gabriel Barrenechea, colaboradores de 14ymedio (Freedom for Yadiel Hernández and José Gabriel Barrenechea, 14ymedio collaborators), 29 April 2025.

[99] Cuban Institute for Freedom of Expression and the Press (ICLEP), Liberan a periodista independiente Yadiel Hernández luego de tres meses encarcelado en Matanzas (Independent journalist Yadiel Hernández released after three months in prison in Matanzas), May 5, 2025; 14yMedio, Liberan sin cargos al reportero de '14ymedio' Yadiel Hernández luego de tres meses encarcelado ('14ymedio' rapporteur Yadiel Hernández released without charges after three months in prison), April 30, 2025.

[100] ADN Cuba, Detienen a reportero de ADN Cuba Carlos Milanés (ADN Cuba, reporter Carlos Milanés arrested), 27 May 2025; Article 19 MX-CA, Detienen al periodista independiente Carlos Milanes en Cuba (Independent journalist Carlos Milanés arrested in Cuba), 2 June 2025; Voces del Sur, Detienen con violencia al periodista independiente Carlos Milanés por presuntos vínculos con la UNPACU, (Independent journalist Carlos Milanés violently arrested for alleged ties to UNPACU)22 July 2025; ICLEP, Detienen con violencia al periodista independiente Carlos Milanés por presuntos vínculos con la UNPACU (Independent journalist Carlos Milanés violently arrested for alleged ties to UNPACU), 28 May 2025.

the city of Camagüey.[101] According to available information, Constantín was transferred to the State Security Operations Department, known as Villa María Luisa, and released after being detained for four days.[102] He was charged with the crime of contempt, allegedly in connection with a May 2025 publication in which he denounced the conduct of a State Security agent. After his release, Constantin said: "I will face threats in the future," but he asserted: "I plan to continue in Cuba, exercising my freedom of expression for a better Cuba in which we are all free."[103]

76. On July 26, 2025, independent journalist and activist Angel Cuza Alfonso was reportedly arbitrarily detained in Havana by State Security, accused of possessing an empty bullet casing to be used as a souvenir.[104] According to reports, Cuza Alfonso clarified that the projectile had been in his possession for more than 17 years and had no criminal purpose. The Cuban Observatory for Human Rights (for its Spanish acronym OCDH) described the detention as arbitrary and without legal grounds, and in an official statement pointed out that "the mere possession of an inert object, without context of threat or use, cannot be criminalized."[105]

77. In addition to these reports, there are various forms of aggression against the independent press, including threats, intimidation, surveillance, harassment, and judicial harassment. In this context, it was reported that in April 2025, journalist Carlos Michael Morales was summoned by the Municipal Court of Caibarién, together with his employer.[106] According to the information available, Morales did not attend the summons, but his employer showed up and was informed that his employment contract was not legally valid. The journalist also publicly denounced that his sanction would be extended by an additional five months of hard labor.[107] In this regard, the Foundation for Pan American Democracy has denounced the lack of response from the judicial authorities to the request for rectification of the amount and date of extinction of the sanction, as well as alleged maneuvers by the Caibarién Execution Court to prolong the sentence. The organization also reported attempts to dismiss the work contracts submitted by the journalist as part of his compliance with the

[101] Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (SRFOE), [@RELE_CIDH], (June 30, 2025), SRFOE condemns detention of journalist Henry Constantín, by State security, accused of contempt. The Office urges their immediate release and that their living conditions, health and integrity be respected, X, https://x.com/RELE_CIDH/status/1939817291769946493.

[102] Inter American Press Association (IAPA), [@sip_oficial], (June 30, 2025), Condenamos la detención de Henry Constantín en #Cuba, regional vice president of the IAPA and director of La Hora de Cuba, X, https://x.com/sip_oficial/status/1939806997773189526?t=0YvfePAfORKz0rZIiFOsPw&s=08; IAPA, IAPA condemns detention of journalist in Cuba and calls for his immediate release, July 1, 2025; 14ymedio.com, Detenido el periodista Henry Constantín en la ciudad de Camagüey, June 30, 2025; Ciber Cuba, Periodista Henry Constantin detenido y acusado de desacato por denunciar a represor del MININT (Journalist Henry Constantin arrested and accused of contempt for denouncing MININT oppressor), June 30, 2025; 14ymedio.com, Released after four days in a dungeon, Henry Constantin reaffirms his intention to stay in Cuba, 4 July 2025; ICLEP, Independent journalist Henry Constantin detained and charged with contempt for denouncing a State Security agent on the Internet, 30 June 2025; CiberCuba, Policía a Henry Constantín durante detención en Camagüey: (Police arrest Henry Constantin during detention in Camaguey,)No sabes el pingal de pesos que pagan por andar detrás de gente como tú" ("You can't imagine how much they pay to go after people like you,") June 30, 2025.

[103] Diario de Cuba, Liberado Henry Constantin (Henry Constantin Released) : 'Pienso seguir en Cuba ejerciendo mi libertad de expresión' ('I plan to continue in Cuba exercising my freedom of expression'), July 4, 2025.

[104] Article 19 MX-CA, Detienen arbitrariamente al periodista y activista cubano Ángel Cuza (Cuban journalist and activist Ángel Cuza arbitrarily arrested), 31 July 2025; Cubanet, Trasladan al Combinado del Este al reportero cubano Ángel Cuza Castillo por portar un amuleto (Cuban reporter Ángel Cuza Castillo taken to Combinado del Este carrying a souvenir), 31 July 2025; Martí Noticias, OCDH denuncia detención arbitraria de activista cubano Ángel Cuza Alfonso (OCDH denounces arbitrary arrest Cuban activist Ángel Cuza Alfonso), 4 August 2025; Martí Noticias ,"Me despido por siempre", escribe activista desde prisión de máxima seguridad en La Habana ("I say goodbye forever", activist writes from maximum security prison in Havana), 7 August 2025.

[105] Cubanet, "No me dejen solo": ("Don't leave me alone":) Ángel Cuza denuncia fabricación de cargos en su contra (Angel Cuza denounces fabrication of charges against him), August 7, 2025.

[106] Martí Noticias, "Me quieren callar de cualquier forma": alargan sanción a periodista independiente ("They want to shut me up in any way they can": they extend independent journalist's sentence), 22 April 2025; Diario de Cuba, El periodista independiente Carlos Michael Morales recibe una nueva citación judicial: (Independent journalist Carlos Michael Morales receives another writ of summons:)'Un procedimiento encaminado a hostigarme' ('A proceeding aimed at harassing me'), April 17, 2025.

[107] ADN Cuba, "Voy a tomar medidas radicales": extender sanción a periodista independiente Carlos Michael Morales (I am going to take extreme measures: extend punishment of independent journalist Carlos Michael Morales), April 23, 2025; Carlos Michael Morales, [@CarlosLibreCuba], (21 April 2025), En el día de hoy las fuerzas represoras de la seguridad del estado y el tribunal, pretenden alargar mi sanción cinco meses más. (Today State security oppressors and the court intend to extend my sentence by five more months) Hecho que nunca aceptaré y estoy dispuesto a todo aunque en esto me vaya la vida (Something that I will never accept and I am willing to do anything even if it costs me my life), X, https://x.com/CarlosLibreCuba/status/1914412753512509862.

sanction.[108] As documented in this Office's previous annual report, Morales was sentenced in May 2024 to eight months of imprisonment for the alleged crime of "disobedience", a sentence that was later replaced by hard labor.[109]

78. There were also reports of the summons of independent journalist Vladimir Turró Páez, contributor to *CubaNet*, to appear before the Municipal Court. The notification was reportedly delivered to his home by an official who was allegedly unable to specify the reason for the summons or to clarify whether Turró Páez was listed as a defendant or witness. The journalist stated that he has not been formally notified of any investigation or criminal proceedings against him. In his public complaint, he stated: "I have not committed any crime, the only thing I know how to do is to inform. I did not receive that summons, and I will not appear in any court because I do not owe anything to justice." He also pointed out that this situation is part of a pattern of harassment aimed at forcing independent journalists to abandon their work and generating a chilling effect.[110]

79. SRFOE continues to record acts of harassment, threats, and intimidation against independent journalist Camila Acosta, a contributor to CubaNet and correspondent of the Spanish ABC newspaper.[111] In April 2025, Acosta reported being intercepted by two agents of the Ministry of the Interior, dressed in civilian clothes, while she was making a live broadcast in Havana's El Vedado neighborhood. According to reports, the agents refused to identify themselves and demanded that the journalist show them her documents.[112] Likewise, on May 20, 2025, in connection with Cuba's Independence Day, Acosta reported surveillance in the vicinity of her home.[113] Later that year, in August, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 31st anniversary of the *Maleconazo*, she again reported seeing State Security agents dressed in civilian clothes in front of her residence.[114] Other journalists reportedly experienced similar acts of hostility: Mabel Páez, director of *El Majadero de Artemisa*; Yasser Toledo Ventura, former director of *Páginas Villareñas*; Yunia Figueredo, director of *Amanecer Habanero*, and her husband, journalist Frank Correa.[115]

80. It was also learned that threats against Adelth Bonne Gamboa, an independent journalist and collaborator of the media outlet *CubaNet*, were made through the social network *Facebook.* According to available information, the messages contained threats against his life if he did not cease his critical publications on the social, economic, and political crisis in Cuba. In particular, the threats included phrases such as: "Hey, stop that...stop...we are following you and we would be very sorry if you had an accident" and "Homeland or Death. Stop it now." Based on the information to which this Office had access, the sources of these threats were allegedly agents of the Ministry of the Interior (for its Spanish acronym MININT).[116]

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[108] Martí News, Fundación para la Democracia Panamericana alerta sobre riesgos para la vida de un preso político en Cuba (Foundation for Pan American Democracy warns about risks to the life of a political prisoner in Cuba), September 15, 2025.

[109] Martí Noticias, "Me quieren callar de cualquier forma": alargan sanción a periodista independiente ("They want to shut me up in any way they can": they extend independent journalist's sentence), April 22, 2025; IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Annual Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (SRFOE), OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 39, March 3, 2025, par. 453.

[110] Cubanet, Periodista de 'CubaNet' Vladimir Turró Páez denuncia intento de citación judicial ('CubaNet' journalist Vladimir Turró Páez denounces attempted subpoena), May 5, 2025; Martí Noticias, "No he cometido delito alguno", periodista anuncia que no acatará citación de tribunal de Arroyo Naranjo ("I have not committed any crime", journalist announces that he will not respond to subpoena by a Arrollo Naranjo court), May 6, 2025.

[111] IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Annual Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, OEA/Ser.L/V/II/ Doc. 39, March 3, 2025, par. 451.

[112] ICLEP, Periodista Camila Acosta acosada por agentes del MININT durante la procesión de viernes santo (Journalist Camila Acosta harassed by MININT agents during Good Friday procession), 19 April 2025; Cubanet, Agentes del MININT interrumpen transmisión en vivo de la periodista Camila Acosta (MININT agents interrupt live broadcast of journalist Camila Acosta), 18 April 2025;

[113] Article 19 MX-CA, La Seguridad del Estado vigila en su vivienda a la periodista independiente, Camila Acosta (State Security surveys independent journalist Camila Acosta at her home), May 22, 2025.

[114] Article 19 MX-CA, Persiste el hostigamiento en contra de la periodista Camila Acosta (Harrasment of journalist Camila Acosta continues), August 6, 2025; CiberCuba, Periodista denuncia cerco de la Seguridad del Estado en La Habana y muestra fotos de sus represores (Journalist denounces survaylance by state security in Havana and shows photos of the oppressors), September 8, 2025.

[115] Voces del Sur, ICLEP denuncia escalada represiva del régimen cubano en el cuarto aniversario del 11J (ICLEP denounces stepped-up repression by the Cuban regime on the fourth anniversary of 11J), July 22, 2025.

[116] ICLEP, Colaborador de la prensa independiente Adelth Bonne Gamboa denuncia acoso y amenazas de partidarios del régimen en redes sociales (Independent press contributor Adelth Bonne Gamboa denounces harassment and threats from regime supporters on social networks), 17 April 2025; Article 19 MX-CA, Periodista independiente y activista de Cuba reciben amenazas de muerte en redes sociales, (Independent journalist and Cuba activist receive death threats on social networks,) 18 April 2025; Cubanet, "Estoy en peligro":

81. The Office of the Special Rapporteur notes with concern that this state of affairs has been exacerbated by cuts in funding for journalism in and about the island, which has jeopardized the sustainability of several independent media outlets that have played a key role in the face of government censorship. The affected media outlets include *Cubanet, Diario de Cuba, Radio*, and *TV Martí,* among others.[117] According to reports in the public domain, for decades, *Radio Martí'* s radio broadcasts have provided an alternative source of information for the Cuban population, despite the fact that the station has been subject to systematic interference and blockades by the State.[118]

82. The Office of the Special Rapporteur reiterates that journalism is the primary and principal manifestation of freedom of expression, since it is journalists and the media that keep society informed on matters of public interest and contribute to the existence of broad, robust, and pluralistic public debate.[119] For this reason, States have the obligation to create the conditions for journalists to freely, independently, and safely go about their work.[120]

83. According to Principle 9 of the Declaration of Principles: "the murder, kidnapping, intimidation of and/or threats to social communicators, as well as the material destruction of communications media violate the fundamental rights of individuals and strongly restrict freedom of expression. It is the duty of the state to prevent and investigate such occurrences, to punish their perpetrators and to ensure that victims receive due compensation."[121] The IACHR and its Special Rapporteurship have considered that these kinds of actions are intended to restrict or hinder the work of journalists who investigate violations, abuses, irregularities, or illicit acts of any kind, whether carried out by public officials or private individuals.[122]

84. As already stated, SRFOE considers it imperative that the State of Cuba refrains from engaging in threats, intimidation, and criminalization, and guarantees the exercise of the right to freedom of the press through the implementation of measures for the prevention, protection, and investigation of attacks against journalists and the media.[123]

2. Exile of journalists

85. As in previous years, the Office of the Special Rapporteur is extremely concerned that forced exile has become one of the main avenues for journalists and communicators in the face of the Government's escalating repression against the independent press in Cuba. According to civil society organizations, in recent years the forced departure from the country of professionals linked to media outlets such as *El Estornudo*, *Periodismo de Barrio*, *CubaNet* and *El Toque*[124] has been well documented. Most of them had reportedly been

("I am in danger":) Activista y colaborador de CubaNet Adelth Bonne denuncia amenazas (Activist and CubaNet contributor Adelth Bonne denounces threats), April 16, 2025.

[117] El Nuevo Herald, Suspensión de ayuda de EEUU amenaza supervivencia de periodismo independiente cubano (Suspension of U.S. aid threatens survival of Cuban independent journalism), February 28, 2025; Cubita Now, Marco Rubio suspende ayuda a CubaNet, afectando el periodismo independiente en Cuba (Marco Rubio suspends aid to CubaNet, affecting independent journalism in Cuba), March 5, 2025; CiberCuba, Marco Rubio retira los fondos de EE.UU. a CubaNet (Marco Rubio withdraws U.S. funding to CubaNet), March 4, 2025.

[118] 14yMedio, Paralizan las operaciones de Radio y Televisión Martí, sus empleados quedan bajo licencia administrativa (Martí Radio and Television operations shut down; employees placed on administrative leave), March 15, 2025; Cibercuba, Orden de Trump desmantela agencia que administra Radio y TV Martí (Trump order dismantles agency that administers Martí Radio and Television): "No tiene salvación," ("There is nothing that can be done")March 16, 2025; 14yMedio, Radio Martí llama a una parte de su personal a regresar a sus puestos de trabajo (Martí Radio calls part of its staff to return to their jobs), March 26, 2025.

[119] I/A Court H/R. Advisory Opinion OC-5/85 of November 13, 1985, Compulsory Membership in an Association Prescribed by Law for "the Practice of Journalism (Articles 13 and 29 American Convention on Human Rights), par. 71; IACHR, Background and Interpretation of the Declaration of Principles, not dated.

[120] IACHR, SRFOE, The Inter-American Legal Framework regarding the Right to Freedom of Expression, OEA Ser.L/V/II CIDH/RELE/25 par. 8.

[121] IACHR, SRFOE, Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, 2000.

[122] IACHR, Background and Interpretation of the Declaration of Principles, not dated.

[123] IACHR, Annual Report 2022, Annual Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, OEA/Ser.L/V/II/ Doc. 50, March 6, 2023, par. 457.

[124] Reporters Without Borders (RSF), El exilio forzado del periodista José Luis Tan Estrada, símbolo de la creciente represión de la prensa en Cuba (The forced exile of journalist José Luis Tan Estrada, a symbol of the growing repression of the press in Cuba), January 16, 2025.

subjected to reprisals including systematic surveillance, direct threats, and arbitrary arrests. Thus, the report "*Voces Desplazadas*: (Displaced Voices:) *Radiografía del exilio periodístico latinoamericano 2018-2024*" (X-ray of journalists exiled in Latin America"), prepared by civil society organizations, identified Cuba as one of the countries with the highest number of journalists in exile in the region. The report also warns that the situation has been exacerbated by multiple factors, including the elimination of humanitarian parole by the United States.[125] Likewise, the Office of the Special Rapporteur notes with concern the intensification of transnational repression against exiled journalists, as well as the absence of guarantees for the full exercise of their rights in the receiving States.

86. For example, on January 2, 2025, SRFOE learned of journalist José Luis Tan Estrada's decision to leave Cuba.[126] Tan Estrada, who contributed to independent media such as *La Hora de Cuba*, *Diario de Cuba*, *YucaByte*, and *Martí Noticias*, made this decision after years of harassment and threats from Cuban authorities. According to public reports, the journalist had reportedly been arrested on several occasions and accused of spreading false information.[127] On February 15, 2025, new reports indicated that, while in Guyana, Tan Estrada received direct threats, some of them through social networks. In one of the messages, he was explicitly warned: "Don't keep talking a lot of shit because we know where you are." In response, the journalist held the Cuban State responsible for any harm he might suffer.[128]

87. On March 29, 2025, the *Committee to Protect Journalists* (CPJ) expressed its concern over the imminent risk of deportation of Cuban independent journalist and political prisoner Lázaro Yuri Valle Roca, who is reportedly residing in the United States under humanitarian parole.[129] According to reports in the public domain, Valle Roca and his wife, Eralidis Frómeta, received letters from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) notifying them that they must leave the country by April 25 or face expedited removal proceedings.[130] As documented in this Office's previous Annual Report, Valle Roca arrived in the United States in June 2024, after obtaining humanitarian parole.[131] On that occasion, he denounced that his departure from Cuba had been

[125] LatAm Journalism Review, More than 900 Latin American journalists estimated to be remaking their lives and jobs in exile, September 9, 2025; Article 19 MX-CA, Análisis trimestral sobre el estado de la libertad de expresión en Centroamérica y el Caribe (enero a marzo de 2025) (Quarterly analysis on the state of freedom of expression in Central America and the Caribbean (January to March 2025)), May 8, 2025.

[126] Martí, Periodista independiente José Luis Tan Estrada sale de Cuba: (Independent journalist José Luis Tan Estrada leaves Cuba:)La Seguridad del Estado me obligó (State Security forced me to), December 31, 2024, Article 19 MX-CA, "El régimen cubano me ha #exiliado", anuncia el periodista independiente cubano José Luis Tan ("The Cuban regime has #exiled me," announces Cuban independent journalist José Luis Tan), December 31, 2024.

[127] RSF, El exilio forzado del periodista José Luis Tan Estrada, símbolo de la creciente represión de la prensa en Cuba (The forced exile of journalist José Luis Tan Estrada, symbol of the growing repression of the press in Cuba), January 16, 2025; LatAm Journalism Review, Independent journalist José Luis Tan Estrada leaves Cuba: "La Seguridad del Estado me obligó," (State security forced me to) January 2, 2025; IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Annual Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (SRFOE), OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 39, March 3, 2025, par. 450.

[128] CiberCuba, José Luis Tan, periodista cubano exiliado en Guyana, denuncia amenazas: (José Luis Tan, Cuban journalist exiled in Guyana, denounces threats:) "Responsabilizo al régimen", ("I hold the regime responsible"), February 15, 2025; ADN Cuba, José Luis Tan Estrada: "Responsabilizo al régimen cubano de cualquier cosa que me pueda suceder" ("I hold the Cuban regime responsible for anything that may happen to me,"), February 15, 2025.

[129] Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) Americas Program, [@CPJAmericas], (Mar. 29, 2025), @pressfreedom is alarmed to learn that exiled Cuban journalist Yuri Valle Roca and his wife have received letters from DHS advising them that they must leave the US by April 25 or risk deportation, X, https://x.com/cpjamericas/status/1906030572532592949?s=46.

[130] CiberCuba, Comité para la Protección de Periodistas alarmado tras peligro de deportación del cubano Yuri Valle Roca (Committee to Protect Journalists alarmed after danger of deportation of Cuban Yuri Valle Roca), March 29, 2025; Diario de Cuba, 'Nos quieren devolver a la muerte': ("They want to send us back to die") El periodista exiliado cubano Lázaro Yuri Valle recibe notificación de salida de EEUU (Cuban exiled journalist Lázaro Yuri Valle Valle receives notice to leave the U.S.), March 30, 2025; ADN Cuba, Notifican la cancelación de su parole al periodista y opositor cubano Lázaro Yuri Valle Roca (Cuban journalist and opposition figure Lázaro Yuri Valle Roca notified that his humanitarian parole has been cancelled), March 29, 2025; Martí, Activista exiliado Yuri Valle Roca en peligro de ser deportado a Cuba tras cancelación de parole (Exiled activist Yuri Valle Roca in danger of being deported to Cuba following cancellation of his parole), March 30, 2025.

[131] IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Annual Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, OEA/Ser.L/V/II/ Doc. 39, March 3, 2025, par. 452.

forced and warned that, should he return, he would not face imprisonment, but that his life would be in danger.[132]

88. The Office of the Special Rapporteur has considered that the forced exile of journalists constitutes a violation of at least four dimensions of the right to freedom of expression: (i) it directly affects the individual dimension of the right, by preventing journalists from safely carrying out their informative work. As inter-American jurisprudence has maintained, the practice of journalism can only be performed freely when those who exercise it are not subject to threats, physical, psychological or moral aggression, or other acts of harassment; (ii) it violates the social dimension of the right, by functioning as a silencing tool aimed at preventing certain information from reaching society; (iii) it produces an inhibiting or chilling effect, inducing self-censorship among other journalists, media, and social actors; and (iv) it undermines informational pluralism. The free circulation of ideas and news is possible only through a plurality of sources of information and respect for the media. This plurality constitutes a precondition for the effective exercise of freedom of expression and there is a state duty to guarantee it.[133]

89. The impact on information pluralism can be observed at different levels: exile limits the diversity of opinions and perspectives in public debate, creates significant gaps in the investigation and dissemination of quality information, and facilitates the predominance of official versions without any effective counterweight. This scenario creates a fertile field for government propaganda, the normalization of authoritarian discourse, and the propagation of fake news, while hindering access to accurate and verified information on matters of public interest. In some cases, it can lead to the creation of "zones of silence" or "news deserts", where the absence of independent media and information sources prevents the effective exercise of the right to freedom of expression.[134]

90. This is particularly serious in contexts of social and political crises, of rupture or alteration of the constitutional and democratic order, and of massive or systematic violations of human rights. In these situations, the work of the independent press is fundamental both for documenting and denouncing abuses of power and demanding accountability, as well as for building and preserving historical memory and forming a vigorous public opinion that contributes to democratic recovery and the reconstruction of the rule of law.[135]

91. Therefore, this Office reaffirms that States, by virtue of their obligations to respect and guarantee, must adopt specific measures to identify and counteract threats that may lead to the forced exile of journalists. As established in Inter-American jurisprudence, "States have the duty to provide measures to protect the life and integrity of journalists who are subject to this special risk due to factors such as the type of events they cover, the public interest in the information they disseminate, or the area they must access to carry out their work; this duty extends as well as to those who are subject to threats in connection with the dissemination of that information or for reporting or promoting the investigation of violations they have suffered or learned of in the exercise of their profession."[136] States must also refrain from taking actions that

[132] ADN Cuba, Notifican la cancelación de su parole al periodista y opositor cubano Lázaro Yuri Valle Roca (Cuban journalist and opposition figure Lázaro Yuri Valle Roca notified that his humanitarian parole has been cancelled), March 29, 2025; Lázaro Yuri Valle Roca, [@EralidisFr13730], (March 29, 2025), Bueno hermanos amigos y seguidores como ven me sacaron de Cuba porque la dictadura me estaba matando y ahora me botan para que me acabe de matar, X, (So, friends and followers, as you can see, they got me out of Cuba because the dictatorship was killing me and now they threw me out so that it can finish the job) https://x.com/EralidisFr13730/status/1905860201221140583.

[133] IACHR, SRFOE, Exile of journalists and freedom of expression, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, IACHR/RELE/INF.30/25, April 15, 2025, paras. 144-147.

[134] IACHR, SRFOE, Exile of journalists and freedom of expression, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, IACHR/RELE/INF.30/25, April 15, 2025, para. 148.

[135] IACHR, SRFOE, Exile of journalists and freedom of expression, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, IACHR/RELE/INF.30/25, April 15, 2025, para. 150.

[136] IACHR, SRFOE, Exile of journalists and freedom of expression, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, IACHR/RELE/INF.30/25, April 15, 2025, par. 133.

could increase the risk of forced exile, which involves not only avoiding direct actions against journalists but also preventing the creation of adverse environments for freedom of expression.[137]

3. Persecution and criminalization of those who dissent or participate in public life

92. Likewise, in 2025, this Rapporteurship recorded multiple facts that demonstrate ongoing arbitrary use of the judicial system and the punitive power of the State as a tool of repression against various segments of the population.[138] Among those affected are activists, human rights defenders, political opponents, academics, as well as citizens legitimately exercising their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association. Criminalization continues to be one of the main repressive patterns identified, used for purposes of censorship, silencing, and social control.

93. Thus, for example, rapper and artist Fernando Almenares Rivera was arrested on December 31, 2024, in Havana by State Security agents in civilian clothes. According to the information available, he was still in custody at the time of writing this report. After his arrest, his home was reportedly searched by the police in the presence of his relatives.[139] His artistic work has been characterized by strong social criticism and public support for people detained for political reasons.

94. In April 2025, according to reports in the public domain, a new series of arbitrary detentions took place: Jorge Fernández Era (humorist); Berta Soler Fernández (leader of the *Ladies in White*); Ángel Moya Acosta (activist and former political prisoner); and at least six collaborators of the UNPACU were reportedly arrested by State Security and National Revolutionary Police agents.[140]

95. Arbitrary arrests, summonses, and judicial proceedings also continue to be recorded against those who speak out critically through social networks. Alexander Verdecia Rodríguez, UNPACU activist, was arrested on February 6, 2025, and remains in pretrial detention in Las Mangas, Granma. He is charged with "propaganda against the constitutional order" and "instigation to commit a crime" for *Facebook* posts that, according to the Prosecutor's Office, incited rebellion and disrespect for social order and the State.[141] Alexander Fábrega Milanés was sentenced to seven years in prison for the alleged crime of "propaganda against the constitutional order" after denouncing alleged acts of corruption on social networks.[142]

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[137] IACHR, SRFOE, Exile of journalists and freedom of expression, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, IACHR/RELE/INF.30/25, April 15, 2025, par. 133.

[138] CiberCuba, Nuevas imágenes del violento arresto de anciano en La Habana (New images of the violent arrest of an elderly man in Havana): Portaba pancarta contra el gobierno (He was carrying an anti-government banner), Feb. 5, 2025; Swissinfo.ch, Condenan en Cuba a un joven a 7 años de cárcel a un joven por cuestionar en redes el sistema político (In Cuba, a young man is sentenced to 7 years in prison for questioning the political system in the media), March 25, 2025; Martí Noticias, Veterinario de Santa Clara enfrenta hasta 8 años de cárcel por críticas al régimen (Santa Clara vet facing up to 8 years in prison for criticizing the regime), September 25, 2025; ADN Cuba, Detienen durante varias horas a activista cubana y le provocan un esguince (Cuban activist suffers sprain during detention lasting several hours), August 26, 2025; ADN Cuba, Cienfuegos: cubano protesta desde una torre de Etecsa y es detenido (Cienfuegos: cuban arrested after protesting from a tower in Etecsa), February 17, 2025; OCDH, El Observatorio Cubano de Derechos Humanos denuncia arbitrariedad en proceso judicial contra ciudadano por grabar en la vía pública (Cuban Human Rights Observatory denounces arbitrary proceedings in trial against citizen caught making a recording on the street), June 27, 2025.

[139] Diario de Cuba, El régimen acusa al artista contestatario Nando Obdc de vínculos con personas que planean actos violentos en Cuba (Regime accuses critical artist Nando Obdc of having ties with people planning acts of violence in Cuba), January 3, 2025; Cubanet, "Me están golpeando donde más me duele": madre de Nando OBDC ("They are hitting me where it hurts most": Mother of Nando OBDC), September 15, 2025.

[140] Article 19 MX-CA, Activistas en Cuba son víctimas de detenciones arbitrarias y desaparición forzada de corta de duración (Activists in Cuba are victims of arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances of short duration), April 19, 2025.

[141] Cubalex, Activista cubano Alexander Verdecia enfrenta 10 años de cárcel por publicaciones en Facebook (Cuban activist Alexander Verdecia faces 10 years in jail for Facebook posts), undated; Martí Noticias, Sin fecha de juicio el preso político cubano Alexander Verdecia tras siete meses en la cárcel (No trial date for Cuban political prisoner Alexander Verdecia after seven months in jail), September 5, 2025; El Toque, Fiscalía pide diez años de cárcel por criticar al Gobierno cubano en Facebook: el caso de Alexander Verdecia (Prosecutor's Office asks for ten years in prison for criticizing the Cuban government on Facebook), June 19, 2025.

[142] Cubanet, Joven condenado a siete años de prisión por publicaciones críticas en redes sociales (Young man sentenced to seven years in prison for critical publications in social networks), March 24, 2025; CiberCuba, Cuba: Joven es condenado a 7 años de prisión por criticar a Díaz-Canel y convocar protestas (Young man is sentenced to 7 years in prison for criticizing Diaz-Canel and calling for protests), March 25, 2025.

96. The OCDH condemned the sentence handed down by the Chamber for Crimes against State Security of the Provincial Court of Santiago de Cuba, which sentenced Félix Daniel Pérez Ruiz to five years in prison and sentenced Cristhian de Jesús Peña Aguilera to four years, for the crime of "propaganda against the constitutional order", in retaliation for publications made on the social network *Facebook.*[143] According to public reports, Ana Ibis Tristá Padilla and Jarold Varona Agüero were acquitted in the same case for lack of evidence; however, the Prosecutor's Office challenged the decision and initiated an appeal process. In September 2025, it was recorded that the Provincial Court finally found Ana Ibis Tristá Padilla guilty of "propaganda against the constitutional order" and "other acts against State Security." [144]

97. According to IAPA reports, political prisoner Luis Robles was threatened in prison in retaliation for publications made by his mother on the social network *Facebook*. Likewise, Gustavo Mena was denied parole, despite having been sentenced to two years in prison for the crime of contempt, linked to critical publications. In addition, the conviction against Sulmira Martínez, derived from publications in which she called for demonstrations, was upheld, and Yoel Ricardo Llerena was criminally prosecuted for content published on the same platform.[145]

98. Furthermore, documentary proof exists of the criminalization by the Cuban State of activists and academics Jenny Pantoja and Alina Bárbara López for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and demonstration. The Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Cuba charged them with the crimes of contempt, disobedience, and attempt, in connection with a peaceful protest they had been carrying out since March 2023, demanding better living conditions and more democratic openness.[146]

99. Activist Juan Luis Bravo Rodríguez was reportedly verbally summoned to appear on January 13 at the State Security Operations Unit in Guantánamo. He reportedly faces charges for the crime of "usurpation of functions", after the publication of a video in the media *CubaAdn*, on March 19, 2024, in which he denounced the precarious working conditions and the lack of state protection for peasants in that province.[147]

100. The IACHR and the Inter-American Court have pointed out that criminal law is the most restrictive and severe means of establishing responsibility for conduct related to the right to freedom of expression, particularly when people are sentenced to prison;[148] and that its application to punish speech of public interest is incompatible with inter-American standards.[149] In this regard, the Office of the Special

[143] SIP (IAPA), Informe Cuba, April 21, 2025; Observatorio Cubano de Derechos Humanos (OCDH), OCDH condena sentencia de cinco y cuatro años de cárcel contra dos cubanos por sus publicaciones en Facebook (OCDH condemns five and four-year prison sentences against two Cubans for postings published on Facebook), January 14, 2025; Cubanet, Condenan a dos cubanos a cinco y cuatro años de cárcel por criticar al Gobierno en Facebook (Two Cubans sentenced to five and four years in prison for criticizing the Government on Facebook), January 14, 2025.

[144] OCDH, Cuba: hasta 14 años de cárcel por publicaciones en Facebook y por acusaciones sin pruebas de la policía política (Cuba: up to 14 years in jail for Facebook postings and accusations without evidence by political police), September 23, 2025; Cubanet, De cuatro a 14 años de cárcel para activistas que convocaron a una marcha en 2023 (Four to 14 years in jail for activists who called for march in 2023), September 23, 2025; ICLEP, Condenan a 14 años de cárcel a la activista Ana Ibis Tristá Padilla tras haber sido absuelta por falta de pruebas en un primer juicio (Activist Ana Ibis Tristá Padilla sentenced to 14 years in jail after being acquitted for lack of evidence in first trial), September 25, 2025.

[145] SIP (IAPA), Cuba report, April 21, 2025,

[146] Article 19 MX-CA, ARTICLE 19 exhorta al Estado cubano a detener la criminalización de activistas y académicas (ARTICLE 19 exhorts the Cuban State to stop the criminalization of activists and academics), May 28, 2025.

[147] Cubalex, [@CubalexDDDH], (Jan. 10, 2025), El activista Juan Luis Bravo Rodríguez fue citado verbalmente para presentarse el próximo lunes 13 de enero en la Unidad de Operaciones de la Seguridad del Estado (Activist Juan Luis Bravo Rodríguez was verbally summoned to appear next Monday, Jan. 13, at the State Security Operations Unit), X, https://x.com/CubalexDDHH/status/1877820698153890278.

[148] I/A Court H.R., Case of Usón Ramírez v. Venezuela, Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations, and Costs, Judgment of November 20, 2009, Series C, No. 207, par. 55.

[149] I/A Court H.R., Álvarez Ramos v. Venezuela, Preliminary objection, merits, reparations and costs, Judgment of August 30, 2019, Series C No. 380, par. 121.

Rapporteur reiterates that limiting debate through criminal law seriously impairs democratic oversight and, when used unnecessarily and disproportionately, leads to the abusive exercise of the State's punitive power.[150]

4. Social Protest

101. The report "Another Year Without Justice 2025" states that between July 2024 and June 2025, about 290 protests were documented in Cuba, mainly motivated by the collapse of the electricity system and the increase in internet rates charged by the Cuban Telecommunications Company (for its Spanish acronym ETECSA). During the same period, at least 543 people were still detained for participating in demonstrations: 360 for those of July 2021 and 183 for subsequent protests. Of them, 101 were sentenced to between 10 and 22 years of imprisonment or hard labor.[151] The Rapporteurship received reports of unfair trials, restrictions on prison benefits, limitations on contact with family members, and inhumane prison conditions.[152]

102. The serious political, economic, and social situation in Cuba continues to generate discontent and gave rise to multiple demonstrations throughout the year. These expressions of protest include street closures, pot-banging, rallies in front of state institutions, burning of garbage dumps and facilities, and, especially, the display of anti-government posters, a practice that has reportedly increased significantly in recent months. The Office of the Special Rapporteur notes with concern that this increase in social protest has been accompanied by an intensification of state repression, through arbitrary arrests, summonses, surveillance, threats, subpoenas, use of force, internet shutdowns, and the presence of agents at the site of demonstrations. There are also reports of aggressions by security forces and identification of community leaders. Persons arrested in this context have been deprived of their liberty, in some cases in confinement and subjected to constant interrogation, without contact with their families.[153]

103. In June 2025, student protests were registered in at least ten faculties of five universities in the country, in response to the increase in internet fees announced by the Government. The students called for a "general strike", denouncing that the increase imposed by the state-owned company ETECSA is equivalent to almost two months' salary for just a few hours' access to the network.[154] They also complained about the lack of electricity, water, transportation, and food, conditions which, they said, seriously affect their quality of life and academic performance. According to testimonies disseminated on social networks, participating students were subjected to reprisals by State Security agents, including home visits, interrogations, threats of academic expulsion, and physical violence inside university campuses. These practices have been reported in several provinces of the country.[155]

104. In July 2025, local organizations reported attempts by the Cuban government to prevent the participation of activists and human rights defenders on the 4th of July commemoration at the U.S. Embassy in Havana.[156] According to reports, several people were intercepted *en route* and forced to abandon their vehicles to prevent their arrival. Opponents, independent journalists, relatives of political prisoners, and those released

[150] I/A Court IDH, Case of Tristán Donoso v. Panama, Preliminary objection, merits, reparations and costs, Judgment of January 27, 2009, Series C No. 193, par. 119.

[151] Justice 11J, Otro año sin justicia (2025) (Another year without justice (2025)), August 20, 2025; Cubanet, Cuba registró 290 protestas en un año, muchas en territorios sin antecedentes (Cuba registered 290 protests in one year, many in unprecedented territories), July 11, 2025; 14yMedio, Cuatro años después del mayor estallido social desde 1959, Justicia 11J presenta un balance (Four years after the biggest social outburst since 1959, Justicia 11J presents a balance), July 11, 2025.

[152] IACHR, SRFOE, Press release No. R151/25, Cuba: SRFOE condemns state repression and calls for respect and guarantee of the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly, July 31, 2025; Human Wright Watch, Cuba: Protesters Detail Abuses in Prison, July 11, 2025; El País, "Golpes, aislamiento y privación del sueño": los castigos infligidos por manifestarse en Cuba" ("Beatings, isolation, and sleep deprivation: punishments for protesting in Cuba"), July 11, 2025.

[153] Cubalex, Informe mensual sobre la situación de los derechos humanos en Cuba (Monthly report on the Situation of Human Rights in Cuba), May, 2025.

[154] El País, El descontento en Cuba estalla en las universidades (Discontent in Cuba erupts in universities), June 4, 2025;

[155] Cubalex, Informe mensual sobre la situación de los derechos humanos en Cuba (Monthly report on the human rights situation in Cuba), June 2025.

[156] Cubalex, [@CubalexDDDH], (July 3, 2025), El régimen cubano desplegó una jornada represiva para impedir que activistas, periodistas y opositores (A day of repression by the Cuban regime to prevent protests by activists, journalists, and opponents), X, https://x.com/CubalexDDHH/status/1940840275586474227.

from prison on 11J were allegedly subjected to surveillance outside their homes by State Security agents, rapid response brigades, and police, who in many cases prohibited them from leaving their homes.[157]

105. In October 2025, there were further citizen protests in response to prolonged power outages and water shortages. In the Los Sitios Popular Council, in Central Havana, videos posted on social networks showed people blocking traffic at the intersection of Monte and Antón Recio streets. According to reports, protesters lit a bonfire, demanded the restoration of basic services, and shouted slogans such as "Freedom!" and "Electricity!".158

106. The SRFOE recalls that social protest, which includes the exercise of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly without arms, freedom of association, and freedom of expression, is a fundamental tool in the defense of democracy and human rights, and the State is obliged to respect, protect, and guarantee these rights.159 Nevertheless, it is worrisome that a pattern of criminalization of social protest persists in Cuba. This pattern consists of the use of the punitive power of the State to deter, punish, or prevent the exercise of the right to protest, and in some cases, social and political participation more broadly, through the arbitrary, disproportionate, or repeated use of the criminal or misdemeanor justice system against demonstrators, activists, and social or political leaders for participating in or allegedly organizing a social protest, or for being part of the organizing or convening group or entity.160

107. The Office of the Special Rapporteur noted in its report on "Protest and Human Rights" that the application of criminal law to the conduct of participants in a demonstration constitutes a serious restriction with serious consequences for freedom of expression, and the rights of assembly, association, and political participation, which according to the principles developed by the Inter-American system can only be used in a very exceptional way and is subject to a higher level of scrutiny.[161]

5. Religious freedom

108. The Office of the Special Rapporteur took note of a report published by the OCDH in January 2025, which documents at least 996 acts against religious freedom in 2024, a figure that is higher than that for the previous year. Among the most frequent violations were impediments to attendance at religious ceremonies, fines for leaders of churches not recognized by the State, harassment of believers participating in civic activities, and denial of religious assistance for persons deprived of liberty for political reasons. The report also states that independent Christian churches, with no possibility of obtaining state recognition, were reportedly subjected to harassment by State Security, and their leaders were summoned to police stations, fined, or threatened with severe legal sanctions and confiscations.[162]

[157] Cubalex, Informe mensual sobre la situación de los derechos humanos en Cuba (Monthly report on the human rights situation in Cuba), July 2025.

[158] Martí Noticias, Protestas por agua en Cuba: desafío ciudadano ante una crisis en aumento (Water protests in Cuba: citizens rise up to challenge a growing crisis), October 2, 2025; CiberCuba, Apoyo unánime a las protestas en Cuba contra el Gobierno: (Unanimous support for protests in Cuba against the government:) "No hay ser humano que aguante tanto" ("No human being can endure that much,"), October 3, 2025; Martí Noticias, Estallan protestas en La Habana en reclamo de electricidad y agua (Protests erupt in Havana over electricity and water shortages), October 3, 2025; 14yMedio, Decenas de personas bloqueon calles y pidieron "corriente" durante el apagón de La Habana (Dozens of people blocked streets and demanded "power" during the blackout in Havana.), October 3, 2025; El Toque, Vecinos de Centro Habana salen a la calle por apagón y piden libertad (Residents of Central Havana take to the streets over power outage and demand freedom), October 3, 2025;

[159] IACHR, SRFOE, Protest and Human Rights, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, IACHR/RELE/INF.22/19, September, 2019, Prologue and paras. 1-46.

[160] IACHR, SRFOE Protest and Human Rights, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, IACHR/RELE/INF.22/19, September 2019, Prologue and par. 188.

[161] IACHR, SRFOE Protest and Human Rights, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, IACHR/RELE/INF.22/19, September 2019, Prologue and par. 185.

[162] Cuban Observatory for Human Rights (OCDH), En 2024 se produjeron en Cuba casi mil actos contra la libertad religiosa (In 2024, almost one thousand acts against religious freedom took place in Cuba), January 31, 2025.

6. Freedom of Expression and the Internet

109. In 2025, the SRFOE recorded multiple reports highlighting the critical energy situation in Cuba. Throughout the year, daily blackouts were documented in different regions of the country, with numerous thermoelectric plants out of service,[163] including those of Antonio Guiteras[164], Mariel,[165] Nuevitas, Felton, Santa Cruz, Cienfuegos and Renté,[166] which reportedly caused most damage in the provinces of the interior,[167] leaving some areas without electricity for up to 72 hours, as was reported in the case of Matanzas.[168] The outages were reportedly caused mainly by the limited operating capacity of the thermoelectric plants, due to recurrent failures, lack of maintenance, and fuel shortages. According to information in the public domain, blackouts continued during March 2025,[169] with a gradual recovery of service in some sectors after outages of more than 48 hours.[170]

[163] CiberCuba, Crisis de apagones en Cuba: (Blackout crisis in Cuba:)Nueve unidades termoeléctricas están fuera de servicio (Nine thermoelectric units are out of service), February 6, 2025.

[164] CiberCuba, Se disparan los apagones en Cuba tras la desconexión de la termoeléctrica Antonio Guiteras (Power outages skyrocket in Cuba after the shutdown of the Antonio Guiteras thermoelectric plant), February 4, 2025; CiberCuba, De mal en peor: (From bad to worse:)Reportan día con récord de apagones en Cuba (Record blackout day reported in Cuba), February 5, 2025; CiberCuba, Guiteras podría reincorporarse al Sistema Eléctrico el viernes, si la avería no es grave (Guiteras could be reinstated to the Electric System on Friday, if the failure is not serious,) February 4, 2025.

[165] CiberCuba, Cubanos reaccionan con indignación ante incertidumbre sobre reparación de termCiberCuba. Se disparan los apagones en Cuba tras la desconexión de la termoeléctrica Antonio Guiterasoeléctrica Guiteras (Cubans react with indignation at uncertainty over repair of the CiberCuba thermoelectric plant. Outages in Cuba skyrocket following disconnection of the Antonio Guiteraso thermoelectric plant), February 5, 2025; CiberCuba, De mal en peor: (From bad to worse:) Reportan día con récord de apagones en Cuba (Record Blackout Day Reported in Cuba), February 5, 2025; CiberCuba, Se disparan los apagones en Cuba tras la desconexión de la termoeléctrica Antonio Guiteras (Blackouts soar in Cuba after disconnection of Antonio Guiteras Thermoelectric Plant), February 4, 2025; CiberCuba, Guiteras podría reincorporarse al Sistema Eléctrico el viernes, si la avería no es grave (Guiteras could be reinstated to the Electric System on Friday, if the breakdown is not serious), February 4, 2025; CiberCuba, UNE rectifica y aumenta la incertidumbre: (UNE changes its mind and increases uncertainty): La empresa estatal no puede poner fecha a reincorporación de la Guiteras (The state-owned company cannot set a date for the reinstatement of Guiteras), February 4, 2025; CiberCuba, Apagones en Cuba (Outages in Cuba): Se desconecta otra vez termoeléctrica Guiteras del SEN (Guiteras thermoelectric plant is disconnected again from SEN), February 4, 2025; CiberCuba, Apagones por déficit de 1,545 MW para este lunes en Cuba (Outages due to 1,545 MW deficit for this Monday in Cuba), February 3, 2025; CiberCuba, Falla en alimentación eléctrica provocó salida de la planta Guiteras: (Power failure caused Guiteras plant to shut down:) Prevén sincronización en las próximas horas (Synchronization expected in the next few hours), February 2, 2025; CiberCuba, Se agrava generación eléctrica en Cuba tras salida de termoeléctrica Guiteras por avería "no identificada" (Electricity generation worsens in Cuba after Guiteras thermoelectric power plant goes out of service due to "unidentified" breakdown), February 2, 2025; CiberCuba, Termoeléctrica Antonio Guiteras se desconecta del Sistema Eléctrico Nacional por "causa no identificada" (Antonio Guiteras thermoelectric plant is disconnected from the National Grid for "unknown" reason), February 2, 2025; CiberCuba, La termoeléctrica Antonio Guiteras estuvo varias horas fuera de servicio: impacto en el sistema eléctrico (Antonio Guiteras thermoelectric plant out of service for several hours: impact on the electrical system), January 27, 2025; CiberCuba, Sistema Eléctrico en la cuerda floja: (Weaknesses of the electricity system:) Averías y mantenimientos hacen temer un nuevo apagón general en Cuba (Malfunctions and maintenance raise fears of a new general blackout in Cuba), January 19, 2025.

[166] Ciber Cuba, Apagones no dan descanso en Cuba: (Blackouts persist in Cuba:) Déficit energético alcanza este domingo los 1,480 MW (Energy deficit reaches 1,480 MW this Sunday), February 16, 2025; CiberCuba, Termoeléctrica Felton limpia la cuarta parte de sus tubos (Felton thermoelectric plant cleans a quarter of its pipes), February 3, 2025; CiberCuba, Aumentan los apagones en Cuba por déficit superior a los 1,500 MW (Increased blackouts in Cuba due to deficit exceeding 1,500 MW), January 31, 2025; CiberCuba, La termoeléctrica Felton se desconecta del SEN: (Felton thermoelectric plant cut off from the national grid) Cuba enfrenta más apagones (Cuba faces more blackouts), January 30, 2025; CiberCuba, Apagones en Cuba este jueves por déficit superior a 1,400 MW (Blackouts in Cuba this Thursday due to deficit exceeding 1, 400 MW), January 30, 2025; CiberCuba, Pronostican jornada de fuertes apagones en Cuba (Day of major blackouts forecast for Cuba), January 29, 2025; CiberCuba, Crisis energética persiste (Energy crisis continues): Unión Eléctrica de Cuba reporta severas afectaciones (Unión Eléctrica de Cuba reports severe damages), January 28, 2025.

[167] CiberCuba, Crisis de apagones en Cuba: (Blackout crisis in Cuba:) Nueve unidades termoeléctricas están fuera de servicio (Nine thermoelectric units are out of service), February 6, 2025.

[168] CiberCuba, Youtuber cubano revela imágenes inéditas de la termoeléctrica Guiteras: (Cuban Youtuber reveals unpublished images of the Guiteras thermoelectric plant:) "Pocos la han visto" ("Few have seen it"), February 15, 2025; CiberCuba, "Vamos a ver a qué hora llega la corriente" ("Let's see what time the electricity arrives"): Youtuber cubano muestra la dura realidad de los "malditos apagones" en Cuba (Cuban Youtuber shows the harsh reality of the "damned blackouts" in Cuba), February 13, 2025; CiberCuba, Crisis energética en Cuba: (Energy crisis in Cuba:)Empresa Eléctrica de Matanzas anuncia suministro de "una hora de corriente al día" (Empresa Eléctrica de Matanzas announces supply of "one hour of electricity per day"), February 16, 2025.

[169] France 24, Cuba recupera poco a poco la electricidad tras un apagón total (Cuba gradually recovers electricity after a total blackout), March 17, 2025.

[170] France 24, Cuba recupera poco a poco la electricidad tras un apagón total (Cuba gradually recovers electricity after total blackout), March 17, 2025; Swissinfo.ch, Cuba recupera gradualmente la electricidad tras un colosal apagón (Cuba gradually recovers electricity after colossal blackout), March 17, 2025.

110. The Special Rapporteur was also informed of the new commercial measures announced by the Prime Minister and implemented since May 30 by the state-owned *Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Cuba S.A.* (for its Spanish acronym ETECSA), which establish a limit of 360 Cuban pesos (CUP), equivalent to US$1 on the informal market, as the maximum amount that a user can add to his or her main balance during a 30-day period. With that amount, it would only be possible to purchase a 6 GB data plan. Additional packages would have a high cost: for example, 3 GB extra cost 3,360 CUP (about 9 dollars). Civil society organizations warn that these rates contrast with the minimum monthly wage in Cuba, set at 2,100 CUP (US$5.5).[171]

111. This Office was told that ETECSA apparently justified these changes as part of an economic plan aimed at attracting foreign exchange "to sustain the telecommunications network and continue offering services in local currency."[172] For their part, civil society organizations have pointed out that these restrictions act as an indirect form of censorship, limiting freedom of expression, and exacerbating information isolation.[173] In a press release, the Office of the Special Rapporteur warned that internet access in Cuba is essential for the circulation of information, and that these measures could further consolidate state control over the flow of information, restricting the population's contact with the outside world.[174]

112. SRFOE recalls that access to the Internet is a *sine qua non* condition for the effective exercise of human rights. In the 2011 joint statement on freedom of expression and the Internet, the United Nations, OSCE, IACHR, and ACHPR Special Rapporteurs stated that "[G]iving effect to the right to freedom of expression imposes an obligation on States to promote universal access to the Internet. Access to the Internet is also necessary to promote respect for other rights, such as the rights to education, health care and work, the right to assembly and association, and the right to free elections."[175]

113. It also emphasizes that the rules to be adopted should seek to ensure that pricing structures are inclusive, so as not to hinder access; that connectivity is extended throughout the territory, to effectively promote access for rural users and marginalized communities; that communities have access to community information and communication technology centers and other public access options; and that efforts to improve training and education are strengthened, especially in poor, rural sectors and among the elderly population.[176]

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[171] Perfil, Cuba justificó el tarifazo al internet móvil: (Cuba justified the mobile internet rate hike): "Sin esto, habrá un colapso tecnológico" ("Without this, there will be a technological collapse,")June 6, 2025; El País, El Gobierno de Cuba dolariza internet (Cuba's Government dollarizes the Internet): "Esta medida es un verdadero apartheid digital" ("This measure is a true digital apartheid,"), June 2, 2025; SIP (IAPA) La SIP alerta sobre impacto negativo de nuevas tarifas en el acceso a internet en Cuba (IAPA warns of negative impact of new tariffs on internet access in Cuba), June 6, 2025; BBC News, "You can't buy a data package because you're already going without food": the wave of unrest in Cuba over rising internet tariffs, June 5, 2025.

[172] BBC News Mundo, "No puedes comprar un paquete de datos porque ya te quedas sin comer": la ola de malestar en Cuba por el aumento de las tarifas de internet ("You can't buy a data package because you will have nothing left to buy food": widespread discontent in Cuba following internet rates increase), June 5, 2025; DW, El 'tarifazo' de telefonía pone a rabiar a los cubanos (Telephone rates surge infuriates Cubans), June 2, 2025; Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Cuba S.A. (ETECSA), Nuevas medidas comerciales en el servicio de telefonía móvil (New commercial measures impact mobile telephone service), May 30, 2025.

[173] SIP (IAPA), La SIP alerta sobre impacto negativo de nuevas tarifas en el acceso a internet en Cuba (IAPA warns of negative impact of new tariffs on Internet access in Cuba), June 6, 2025.

[174] IACHR, SRFOE, Press release No. R151/25, Cuba: SRFOE condemns state repression and calls for respect and guarantee of the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly, July 31, 2025.

[175] United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Representative for Freedom of the Media of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Organization of American States (OAS), and Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and the Internet, June 1, 2011

[176] United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the Representative for Freedom of the Media of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the OAS, and Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and the Internet, June 1, 2011; IACHR, SRFOE, Standards for a Free, Open, and Inclusive Internet OEA/Ser.L/V/II CIDH/RELE/INF.17/17, March 15, 2017, par. 35.

E. Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights

1. The economic crisis and persistent shortages of basic services

114. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) estimated that Cuba's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would contract by 1.5% in 2025 and said that the country suffered from "chronic inflation."[177] Despite projections of slowing inflation, data for the first half of 2025 showed that prices continued to rise, reaching 41%.[178] In this context, the latest Human Rights Watch World Report noted that the economic crisis in Cuba continues to affect the human rights of the population, by causing a lack of essential medicines and food insecurity.[179]

115. The IACHR and its REDESCA note with concern the worsening food crisis, which constitutes, according to the Cuban Observatory of Human Rights, one of the main concerns for Cubans (71%), along with power outages and the cost of living.[180] According to the Observatory, at least 89% of Cuban households remain in extreme poverty and 78% of the Cuban population intends to migrate.[181]

116. In this regard, they also emphasize that the economic crisis and the persistent shortage of basic services in Cuba, as well as the situation of poverty, cannot be understood without considering the impact of the embargo imposed by the United States. This embargo has significantly limited the ability of the Cuban state to generate the foreign exchange necessary to import fuel, technology, and other essential inputs. Recent studies, such as the one conducted by the Cuban Capacity Building Project at Columbia Law School, confirm that fluctuations in sanctions policy have had a direct effect on the country's economic growth.[182] Restrictions on the flow of goods, income from U.S. visitors, and remittances have had a significant impact on Cuba's GDP, highlighting the vulnerability of both the private sector and households to changes in sanctions.[183]

117. In turn, while sanctions have had a proven impact on the Cuban economy, they alone do not explain the magnitude of the crisis. The *Cuban Capacity Building Project* study also points out that, although U.S. exports and remittances are key determinants of private consumption and GDP growth, there are also internal barriers that limit the country's competitiveness and ability to fully integrate into the global economy.[184] These internal restrictions, added to the dependence on external income affected by the embargo, create a situation in which the crisis responds to both external factors and internal structural problems.[185]

118. In this same context, the IACHR and its REDESCA recognize the State's efforts to encourage local production and reduce dependence on food imports. However, they emphasize that guaranteeing the right to adequate food requires not only the development of technical capacity and inputs for agricultural production, but also the adoption of comprehensive measures to ensure the availability, accessibility, and quality of food for the population, which implies addressing the internal barriers that prevent agricultural products from being obtained on global markets when it is not possible to produce them locally.

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[177] ECLAC, Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2025: resource mobilization to finance development., August 5, 2025, 73.

[178] ECLAC, Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2025: resource mobilization to finance development., cited above, 76.

[179] Human Rights Watch, World Report 2025, July 2025.

[180] Observatorio Cubano de Derechos Humanos, VIII Informe 2025 El Estado de los derechos sociales en Cuba (VIII Report 2025 The State of Social Rights in Cuba), September 9, 2025.

[181] Observatorio Cubano de Derechos Humanos, VIII Informe 2025 El Estado de los derechos sociales en Cuba (VIII Report 2025 The State of Social Rights in Cuba), cited above, 3.

[182] Columbia Law School, Cuba Capacity Building Project, What Effects Do U.S. Sanctions Have on the Cuban Economy?, Thursday, February 6, 2025

[183] Columbia Law School, Cuba Capacity Building Project, What Effects Do U.S. Sanctions Have on the Cuban Economy?, cited above.

[184] Columbia Law School, Cuba Capacity Building Project, What Effects Do U.S. Sanctions Have on the Cuban Economy?, cited above..

[185] Columbia Law School, Cuba Capacity Building Project, What Effects Do U.S. Sanctions Have on the Cuban Economy?, cited above.

119. Cuba is also facing a historically unprecedented housing crisis. The government reported a shortfall of 805,583 housing units. Construction progress is minimal: only 2,728 homes were completed in 2025 (0.1% of the total deficit) and in the first quarter construction amounted to only 12.4 percent of the target envisaged in the State plan. As a result, about 35% of housing is considered to be in poor condition or deteriorated, leaving thousands of families in overcrowded or at-risk conditions.[186]

2. Shortcomings in the health system and challenges regarding water and food supply

120. According to the Cuban Observatory for Human Rights, only 3% of the population was able to acquire their medicines in public pharmacies, while the rest were unable to do so due to cost or shortages.[187] Along similar lines, the Cuban Minister of Health pointed out that only 30% of the basic list of medicines was covered, due to the lack of foreign currency for their purchase or to import raw materials and produce them locally.[188] Likewise, between 2022 and 2024, the number of medical personnel decreased by 18,702, so the shortage of professionals in the field is also a challenge.[189] At the same time, hospital infrastructure has deteriorated, resulting in the closure of 63 hospitals, 37 family medical offices, 187 maternity homes, and 45 stomatological clinics between 2010 and 2022.[190]

121. Finally, the IACHR and its REDESCA express their concern about the massive power outages and their impact on the supply of drinking water. In this regard, the Superior Organization of Business Management, Water and Sanitation, explained that 70% of the water supply problems are due to failures in the electrical system, because while the restoration of electricity is instantaneous, in the case of water it takes several hours due to the pumping processes.[191] In this context, the IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur recognize international cooperation efforts to construct desalination plants that ensure access to drinking water to the population, specifically to vulnerable communities such as San Antonio Sur.[192]

3. Precarious labor conditions and hostile environment for the defense of labor and union rights

122. According to the Cuban Observatory for Human Rights, unemployment among the economically active population remains at 12%, and 14% of the population over 70 years of age continues to work after retirement because their income is equal to or less than 4,500 CUP per month (equivalent to approximately US$177[193]). For its part, the Independent Trade Union Association of Cuba presented the results of the National Survey on Occupational Safety and Health in Cuba, which show that 95.5% of workers perceive an absence or insufficiency of state investment in infrastructure related to occupational health and social security.[194] The survey also showed an accident rate of 82.9% during commuting to and from the workplace. In that context, the National Office of Statistics and Information (for its Spanish acronym ONEI) reported that

[186] Infobae, Crisis en Cuba: la dictadura admitió un déficit habitacional de 805.583 viviendas (Crisis in Cuba: the dictatorship admitted a housing deficit of 805,583 houses). July 14, 2025; updated July 14, 2025. CiberCuba, Incumplen plan de viviendas en Cuba: (CiberCuba, Cuba's housing plan is not fulfilled:) Gobierno reconoce su fracaso sin consecuencias (Government acknowledges its failure without consequences). CiberCuba Editorial Office, May 6, 2025.

[187] Observatorio Cubano de Derechos Humanos, VIII Informe 2025 El Estado de los derechos sociales en Cuba (VIII Report 2025 The State of Social Rights in Cuba), cited above, 11.

[188] IPS Cuba, Crisis de medicinas en Cuba: la salud a merced del mercado informal (Crisis of medicines in Cuba: health at the mercy of the informal market), January 16, 2025.

[189] ONEI, Anuario Estadístico de Cuba 2024 (Cuba Statistical Yearbook 2024:): Salud Pública y Protección Social (Public Health and Social Protection), July 30, 2025.

[190] IPS Cuba, Crisis de medicinas en Cuba: la salud a merced del mercado informal (Crisis of medicines in Cuba: health at the mercy of the informal market), January 16, 2025.

[191] Diario de Cuba, El 70% de los problemas en el abasto de agua en Cuba está vinculado a los apagones (70% of water supply problems in Cuba are linked to power outages.), July 4, 2025.

[192] UNICEF, UNICEF supports access to safe water with new desalination plant in San Antonio del Sur, February 20, 2025.

[193] Observatorio Cubano de Derechos Humanos, VIII Informe 2025 El Estado de los derechos sociales en Cuba (VIII Report 2025 The State of Social Rights in Cuba), cited above.

[194] Independent Trade Union Association of Cuba, Presentación resultados Encuesta Nacional sobre Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo en Cuba y solicitud de audiencia temática y pronunciamiento sobre la situación de Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo en Cuba (Presentation of the results of the National Survey on Occupational Safety and Health in Cuba and request for a thematic hearing and pronouncement on the situation of Occupational Safety and Health in Cuba), September 1, 2025, 21.

occupational accidents decreased in 2024; however, the number of fatalities remained at 52, which raised the mortality rate, particularly in transportation, agriculture, and manufacturing.[195]

4. Climate emergency and healthy environment

123. REDESCA closely monitored tropical storm warnings for the second half of 2025 for Cuba and other Caribbean countries. In this context, the Institute of Meteorology warned of the probability of a hurricane affecting 50% of the island's territory.[196] In view of this, REDESCA recommends that the State of Cuba, faced with the continuous threat of tropical storms and hurricanes that are often aggravated by its geographical position and in the context of a climate emergency, strengthen its contingency plans and be prepared to minimize the damage and vulnerabilities derived from these phenomena.

124. On the other hand, REDESCA takes note of Cuba's efforts to develop an energy policy based on renewable sources, particularly solar energy.[197] Accordingly, the Ministry of Finance and Prices implemented Resolution 169 to exempt some items related to renewable energies from customs duties. In this regard, it is expected that by 2030, at least 24% of the energy generated will be from renewable sources, which would reduce dependence on fossil fuels and polluting emissions.[198]

F. Women's Human Rights

125. Regarding the situation of women's human rights, as in previous years, there is still a lack of a specialized legal framework for the protection of women's rights that includes the criminalization of femicide and the establishment of protection and prevention measures, such as temporary housing centers for victims of gender-based violence.[199] Nor has the State ratified the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, the main regional instrument for the protection of women's human rights.[200]

126. In this context of lack of legal protection, civil society organizations and the population in general have had to mobilize to document, draw attention to, and take preventive actions regarding violence against women, particularly gender-based disappearances and violent deaths.[201] In this regard, up to September 1, 2025, 30 violent deaths of women were recorded, mostly perpetrated by their partners or ex-partners and occurring in the victims' homes.[202]

127. In the area of prevention, the State made progress in the construction of an administrative, computerized, and interoperable registry on the violent death of women and girls for gender-related reasons. According to the information available, this registry will provide the necessary information for the adoption of adequate prevention policies and more effective oversight of the corresponding criminal proceedings.[203]

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[195] ONEI, Protección del trabajo (Labor Protection). Indicadores seleccionados, enero-diciembre 2024 (Selected indicators, January-December 2024), April 2025.

[196] Swissinfo, Cuba prevé una temporada de ciclones 'activa', hasta con el paso de un huracán por la isla (Cuba forecasts 'active' cyclones season, including a hurricane passing over the island), September 17, 2025.

[197] TV BRICS, Cuba avanza con determinación hacia una transición energética sostenible (Cuba moves with determination towards a sustainable energy transition), May 30, 2025.

[198] Prensa Latina, Transición energética en Cuba apuesta por las fuentes renovables (Energy transition in Cuba opts for renewable sources), April 10, 2025.

[199] IACHR, 2024 Annual Report, Chapter V. Cuba, March 26, 2025, par. 140; 2023 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B. Cuba, December 31, 2023, par. 139.

[200] OAS, General Information on the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, Signatory Countries, accessed on October 16, 2024.

[201] Alas Tensas, Alertas ciudadanas, redes sociales y prensa independiente: las únicas herramientas frente a las desapariciones en Cuba (Citizen alerts, social media, and independent press: the only tools to combat disappearances in Cuba), August 21, 2025.

[202] Alas Tensas, Infografía | Feminicidios en Cuba, enero-septiembre 2025 (Infographic | Femicide in Cuba, January–September 2025), September 17, 2025; Alas Tensas, Tres nuevos crímenes machistas elevan a 30 las víctimas en Cuba en 2025 (Three new gender-based crimes bring the number of victims in Cuba to 30 in 2025), September 4, 2025.

[203] Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Cuba, Evalúa Comité de Género evaluúa cumplimiento de las acciones previstas en el área 7 del Programa Nacional para el Adelanto de las Mujeres (Gender Committee assesses compliance with actions planned

However, it notes that this registry would not be public, which limits the right of women to participate in the construction of public policies that affect them.

128. On the other hand, repression against women activists and human rights defenders persists. According to information from civil society, as of August 2025, there were 122 women deprived of liberty for political reasons.[204] In the first half of the year, at least 77 women were reportedly arbitrarily detained, a third of them belonging to the Ladies in White movement.[205] In this context, they also reported extreme conditions of confinement, including lack of access to adequate medical care, mistreatment, harassment, and violence, including sexual violence, as well as forced labor.[206] Likewise, the prison benefits of release from prison or parole are allegedly revoked in retaliation when women resume their activism or advocacy work, and are denied to those who carry out protest actions inside detention centers.[207]

129. The persistent violence faced by women in Cuba demonstrates the urgency of adopting and implementing adequate legislation and public policies for prevention and protection. Likewise, the deficiencies in the protection of their rights at the regulatory level impede the exercise of their rights to life, liberty, security, and equality upheld in the American Declaration of the Rights of Man.[208] In this context, women activists and rights defenders find themselves in a particularly vulnerable situation, facing a pattern of discrimination and violence exercised by state agents, which even impacts their family members.

G. Human rights of LGBTI persons

130. Regarding the rights of LGBTI people, Cuba experienced progress and challenges in 2025. The State continues to fail to produce official data on the prevalence of violence and discrimination based on prejudice. However, it transpired that in January, Brenda Diaz, a trans woman and political prisoner, was released by the Cuban government four years after being arrested in the protests of July 11, 2021. Diaz denounced having spent years in a cell for men suffering physical and verbal abuse before being released on parole. Her case reflects structurally embedded violence and lack of recognition of gender identities in the prison system.[209]

131. In May, hundreds of people marched in Havana during the government-sponsored Cuban Days against Homophobia and Transphobia, highlighting achievements such as the new Family Code, but also denouncing persistent discrimination in employment, education, and health.[210] In July, the National Assembly

in area 7 of the National Program for the Advancement of Women), June 10, 2025; Granma, En Cuba no hay espacio para la violencia de género (In Cuba, there is no place for gender-based violence.), April 7, 2025.

[204] Prisoner Defenders, Se intensifica cada mes la represión en cuba: (Repression in Cuba intensifies every month:)13 nuevos presos políticos llevan a un nuevo récord de 1.185 (13 new political prisoners leads to a new record of 1,185), September 11, 2025.

[205] See: III Situation of Human Rights in Cuba, B. Section on Human Rights Defenders and the paragraphs mentioning the cases of the Ladies in White in this report.

[206] CubaNet, Alertan sobre condiciones críticas de la presa política Mileidys Rodríguez (Warning about critical conditions of political prisoner Mileidys Rodríguez), June 6, 2025; Prisoner Defenders, El negocio penitenciario de Cuba (The prison business in Cuba): 60 mil prisioneros son usados como fuerza laboral esclava (60,000 prisoners are used as slave labor force), September 15, 2025.

[207] 11J, Donaida Pérez Paseiro: nueva re-encarcelación como castigo por defender derechos humanos (Donaida Pérez Paseiro: new re-imprisonment as punishment for defending human rights), s.f.; Justicia 11JDetencionesPorMotivosPolíticos, [@justicia11j], (2025, June 11), El régimen cubano ha revocado la libertad condicional de Donaida Pérez Paseiro y la envía de vuelta a prisión (The Cuban regime has revoked Donaida Pérez Paseiro's parole and is sending her back to prison), [Tweet,]https://x.com/justicia11j/status/1932826882652696809; Alas Tensas Gender Observatory, Violencia política contra mujeres ejercida por el régimen cubano y sus agentes | Enero - Mayo 2025 (Political violence against women perpetrated by the Cuban regime and its agents | January–May 2025), June 22, 2025; Centro de Documentación de Prisiones Cubanas, Personas privadas de libertad con situaciones delicadas de salud (July 2025) (Persons deprived of liberty with sensitive health conditions (July 2025)), August 13, 2025.

[208] Organization of American States, American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, 1948, Articles 1 and 2.

[209] Washington Blade, Transgender woman who protested against Cuban government released from prison, January 18, 2025; AND Cuba, Casi 4 años en un módulo para hombres: (Nearly 4 years in a men's prison):Brenda Díaz denuncia maltratos en prisión (Brenda Díaz denounces mistreatment in prison), January 27, 2025.

[210] Cuba Herald, La comunidad LGBTIQ+ vuelve a marchar en La Habana en rechazo a la homofobia y la transfobia (LGBTIQ+ community marches again in Havana to reject homophobia and transphobia), May 11, 2025; Swiss info, La comunidad LGBTI pro Gobierno desfila en Cuba contra la homofobia (Pro-government LGBTI community marches in Cuba against homophobia), May 11, 2025.

passed a new civil registration law that allows trans people to change the gender marker on official documents without surgery and on the basis of self-determination.[211]

H. Human rights of persons in contexts of human mobility

132. The Commission notes with concern the recent immigration measures that could limit the entry of Cuban nationals residing abroad into their own country. According to the information available, in December 2024 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that as of April 1, 2025 border control would not admit the use of expired passports to enter Cuban territory.[212] The decision would have put an end to the temporary exception granted in March 2020, which authorized the return to Cuba with expired documentation, as a result of the closure of consulates and air disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the IACHR notes that the measure was criticized because of the high costs involved in renewing the passport at consulates and because it applied to Cubans who have another nationality, but who have not renounced their Cuban nationality of origin, preventing their entry without an updated Cuban passport.[213]

133. In addition to these measures, during 2025, the Commission continued to observe curtailments of the right to movement and residence, affecting both critics of the Government and persons residing abroad.[214] Likewise, the IACHR learned that in August 2025, certain Cuban nationals permanently residing in the United States entered the island to visit family members and were prevented from leaving the country without apparent justification.[215]

134. The IACHR also notes new restrictions and administrative modifications adopted in the United States reportedly affecting, *inter alia*, family reunifications initiated by Cuban permanent residents. In this regard, on June 4, 2025, the U.S. government issued a presidential proclamation establishing partial entry restrictions for persons from certain countries, including Cuba.[216] According to available information, although the Cuban Family Reunification Permit Program (CFRP) remained in effect as a formal mechanism, the proclamation entailed immigration restrictions and policy adjustments implemented during the year, limiting its practical effectiveness.[217] The Commission notes with concern that this decision could affect the right to unity and protection of the family, particularly children and adolescents.

135. Regarding these restrictions, the IACHR continues to observe a steady increase in regional asylum applications from Cuban nationals. According to the information available, in Brazil, between January and March 2025, more than 9,000 Cubans requested international protection, surpassing even the number of Venezuelan nationals, who, in recent years, have been registered as the main nationality requesting asylum.[218] Likewise, according to Costa Rica's General Directorate of Immigration and Foreigners, in the first half of 2025, at least 1,140 Cuban nationals applied for international protection in the country, the second largest contingent

[211] Them, Cuba Will Now Allow Trans People to Change Gender Markers Without Bottom Surgery, July 22, 2025; Los Angeles Blade, Cuban lawmakers simplify process for trans people to change IDs, July 29, 2025; CiberCuba, aprueba el cambio de género por solicitud personal (Cuba approves gender change by personal request), July 18, 2025.

[212] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cuba updates entry regulations for nationals abroad, December 6, 2024.

[213] Noticias Cuba, ¿Se puede entrar a Cuba solo con pasaporte extranjero en 2025? (Will it be possible to enter Cuba only with a foreign passport in 2025?) La respuesta definitiva (The definitive answer), August 20, 2025; Cibercuba, ¡Atención cubanos en el exterior! (Watch out, Cubans abroad!) Normativa sobre pasaportes entre en vigor el primero de abril (Passport regulations enter into force on April 1)., March 30, 2025.

[214] See the section on Human Rights Defenders.

[215] Cuba Noticias 360, Cuba impide la salida del país a ciudadanos residentes en Estados Unidos (Cuba impedes exit from the country of citizens residing in the United States), August 5, 2025; Cibercuba, Regulados: cubanos denuncian que el régimen impide su regreso a EE.UU. tras viajar a la isla (Regulated: Cubans denounce that the regime prevents their return to the U.S. after traveling to the island), August 4, 2025.

[216] The White House, Presidential actions restricting the entry of foreign nationals to protect the United States from foreign terrorists and other national security and public safety threats, June 4, 2025.

[217] Univision Noticias, ¿Qué pasa con los cubanos en proceso de reunificación familiar tras restricción de viaje de Trump.(What about Cubans in the process of family reunification following Trump's travel restrictions?), June 6, 2025.

[218] Folha BV, Pedidos de refúgio de cubanos no Brasil supera de venezuelanos en 2025 (Refuge requests from Cubans in Brazil exceed those from Venezuelans in 2025), May 16, 2025.

of asylum seekers (after Nicaraguan nationals).[219] Likewise, in the same period, asylum applications from Cuban nationals to the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (for its Spanish acronym COMAR) reportedly totaled 20,900, nearly as many as applications from Honduran nationals, revealing a sustained increase in relation to previous years.[220]

I. Human rights of victims of trafficking

136. In the area of human trafficking, the Commission has continued to observe with concern the human rights situation of health personnel participating in international medical missions. According to the information gathered by the IACHR, in some of these missions it is possible to observe the existence of the three elements that could characterize this situation, namely, the action, the means, and the purpose.[221]

137. In particular, in addition to the act of transfer and the possibility of forced or compulsory labor, certain missions may involve the retention of passports, a practice contrary to Article 12(b) of the Palermo Protocol, which indicates the obligation of States to ensure the integrity and security of the travel or identity documents it issues.[222] According to information garnered by civil society, based on the 1,185 testimonies taken from healthcare personnel between 2019 and 2023, 40% of them reportedly had their passports withheld and only 23.88% were issued a paper or photocopy without legal validity to replace it.[223]

138. Likewise, in some medical missions, the IACHR warns of constant surveillance, limitation of free time through overwork, and manipulation on the basis of undocumented migration. According to civil society organizations, another form of limitation to mobility consists of prohibiting the transfer of medical or educational certifications to make it impossible to work outside official programs.[224]

139. According to UNODC, these subtle means of coercion, devoid of physical violence, are characteristic of contemporary trafficking in persons, and include strategies to keep victims under domination or intentional subjection, without the need for deprivation of liberty. In particular, UNODC notes that confiscation of passports and other personal documents is reportedly a particularly effective method of preventing victims from escaping, since, "without any personal documents on hand, victims often feel that they have no other option but to submit to exploitation."[225] According to UNODC, deception about working conditions is one of the most common means used by traffickers to lure victims into exploitative situations.[226]

140. In light of the above, the IACHR recalls that trafficking in persons represents a multiple or continuous violation, which continues until the victim is at liberty. This is because the means through which human trafficking is carried out, leave the victim utterly defenseless, which leads to other related violations.[227] For its part, the I/A Court H.R. recognized that human trafficking involves multiple offenses,[228] since it also

[219] Semanario Universidad, Acoso a migrantes en EE.UU. eleva a 4.737 las solicitudes de refugio en el país este año (Harassment of migrants in the U.S. raises requests for asylum in the country to 4,737 this year), August 13, 2025.

[220] Revista El Estornudo, La alternativa del refugio para miles de cubanos varados en México (The asylum option for thousands of Cubans stranded in Mexico), July 14, 2025; Diario del Sur, Cubanos y haitianos lideran peticiones de asilo en Comar Tapachula (Cubans and Haitians lead asylum requests in Comar Tapachula), April 22, 2025; TV Migrante, México se consolida como destino de refugio para personas migrantes: supera 16 mil solicitudes de asilo en 2025 (Mexico consolidates its position as a refuge for migrants: over 16,000 asylum applications in 2025), March 25, 2025.

[221] UNODC, Legislative Guidelines for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organize Crime and its Protocols, 2004, p. 270.

[222] UNODC. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Its Protocols, Article 12.b).

[223] Prisoners Defenders, 1.402 Profesionales cubanos Vs (1.402 Cuban Professionals v.) Gobierno cubano. (Cuban government). Ampliación del proceso de denuncia de este caso penal presentado ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas (Ginebra) y la Corte Penal Internacional. (Expansion of the complaint process of this criminal case filed with the United Nations Office (Geneva) and the International Criminal Court.), January 2024, p. 96

[224] Cuba Archive, Forced/compelled labor (trafficking in persons) by the Cuban state: Information for the 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report. February 2025 (Updated as of April 2025), p. 13.

[225] UNODC, Evidential Issues in Trafficking in Persons Cases. Case Digest. 2017, p. 82.

[226] UNODC, Evidential Issues in Trafficking in Persons Cases. Case Digest. 2017, p. 62.

[227] IACHR, Human Mobility. Inter-American Standards., OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 46/15, December 31, 2015, par. 222.

[228] I/A Court H.R., Case of the Hacienda Brasil Verde Workers v. Brazil, Preliminary objections, merits, reparations, and costs), Judgment of October 20, 2016, Series C No. 318, par. 223.

affects other rights recognized in the ACHR. It is considered particularly serious when it is part of a systematic pattern or a practice that is applied or tolerated by the State or its agents.[229]

141. Based on the above, the IACHR recalls that States must adopt comprehensive measures, with a human rights approach, to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and provide remedies for possible cases of human trafficking. In particular, they must guarantee that the participation of health personnel is completely voluntary, ensuring access to identity and travel documentation without arbitrary restrictions, avoiding passport retention practices, and ensuring decent working and living conditions.

J. Human Rights of Older Persons

142. The Commission received troubling information on possible violations of the right to pensions and access to care for the elderly in Cuba, as well as on their precarious living conditions. In particular, the IACHR has documented serious pension deficiencies ranging from the amount of the pension itself to its physical accessibility. In this regard, more than 39% of retired seniors reportedly received a monthly pension of only US$13, barely enough for food.[230] In addition to the above, there are reportedly barriers to pension access due to lack of electricity, cash shortages, and deterioration of ATMs, all of which allegedly have a disproportionate impact on the elderly.[231]

143. The lack of access to sufficient pensions has reportedly led to an increase in the number of elderly people living on the streets and begging. In view of this, the Commission notes that the Council of Ministers issued Agreement 10056/2025, which establishes a protocol to document persons in this situation. One media outlet reported that the Agreement would require local governments to identify, classify, and relocate these people, including the elderly, who, if they do not have family support, should be placed in care homes. However, the Social Protection Centers reportedly only admit stays of a maximum of 90 days.[232]

144. Likewise, an independent study reveals that Cuban seniors aged 60 and older identify the food crisis and the constant power outages affecting the State as their main problem.[233] In addition to the above, one media outlet reported that blackouts are compounded by other forms of shortages such as access to water, medicines, fuel, among other basic necessities.[234] The IACHR notes that these restrictions have a disproportionate and more pernicious impact on the elderly, who often have to face these difficulties alone because the members of their nuclear family have left Cuba.

145. Along these lines, the IACHR was informed of the particular situation of Mrs. Zoila Esther Chávez Pérez, 84 years old, whose son, writer, and journalist José Gabriel Barrenechea was deprived of liberty because of his political opinions in November 2024.[235] According to a public statement by Cuban civil society organizations, the imprisonment of Mrs. Chávez's son has had a disproportionate and dangerous impact on the

[229] IACHR, Human Mobility. Inter-American Standards., OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 46/15, December 31, 2015, par. 222.
[230] Newsweek, Sobrevivir con 13 dólares al mes: la lucha diaria de los adultos mayores en Cuba (Surviving on $13 a month: the daily struggle of Cuba's seniors), June 20, 2025.
[231] Martí Noticias, Falta de efectivo y cajero rotos: la odisea de cada día de los pensionados cubanos (Lack of cash and broken ATM: the daily odyssey of Cuban pensioners), February 25, 2025.
[232] Noticia Cubita Now, Desamparo en la vejez, los adultos mayores frente al abandono estatal en Cuba (Neglect in old age: older adults facing state abandonment in Cuba), May 9, 2025.
[233] Observatorio de Derechos Sociales Cuba and Observatorio Cubano de Derechos Sociales, The State of Social Rights in Cuba, VIII Report 2025, p. 7.
[234] Infobae, El calvario que sufren las personas mayores por dramática crisis en Cuba: (The ordeal suffered by the elderly due to the dramatic crisis in Cuba:) "Ni en el período especial había tanto miseria" ("Not even in the special period was there so much misery."), June 7, 2025.
[235] Cubanet, "Lo que más deseo es ver a mi hijo antes de morirme": madre de José Gabriel Barrenechea ("What I want most is to see my son before I die": mother of José Gabriel Barrenechea), April 11, 2025.

exercise of the right to care of his mother, who lives in solitude and whose health has reportedly deteriorated.[236]

146. The IACHR reiterates that States must have social security systems that guarantee access to both contributory and non-contributory old age benefits.[237] Along these lines, the Commission has also referred to the fact that States must guarantee that older persons have access to whatever it takes to ensure an adequate standard of living and well-being, including adequate food, decent housing, and access to water and sanitation for an old age with dignity.

K. Human Rights of persons with disabilities

147. In its most recent thematic report, the IACHR highlighted the modification of domestic legislation that recognized the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, establishing the right to request support and safeguards.[238] At the same time, the Commission took note of the adoption of Decree No. 121, which establishes the care service for families of severely disabled children and recognizes it as work paid for by the State.[239] In the same vein, the State has reaffirmed its commitment at the international level to the protection and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the framework of the 18th Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).[240]

148. However, the IACHR notes with concern the precarious conditions of persons with disabilities in the penitentiary system, especially the cases of political prisoners that show a lack of adequate medical and psychological care. Available public sources have exposed critical situations of at least four persons deprived of liberty in the context of 11J, who, having psychosocial disabilities due to psychiatric disorders, are reportedly not receiving specialized treatment or access to medication; in addition, civil society organizations denounce that persons with psychosocial disabilities are not separated from the rest of the prison population, which allegedly exposes them to constant abuse and aggression.[241] In particular, family members have complained that at least one of them is being mistreated by the guards, and his deterioration is evident.[242]

149. Furthermore, international organizations and academia have drawn attention to the increase in the inequality gap in Cuba during 2025.[243] ECLAC, for its part, pointed out that Cuba has concealed poverty figures, failing to comply with international commitments to report information to regional statistical monitoring systems.[244] The Commission is concerned about this, because situations of poverty and extreme poverty hinder access to, and effective enjoyment of, the rights of persons with disabilities, and could exacerbate pre-existing disabilities or trigger new ones. Not having the necessary accommodations and supports undermines the autonomy and legal capacity of persons with disabilities.

L. Human Rights of Afro-descendants

[236] Cuba x Cuba, Declaración pública de organizaciones de la sociedad civil cubana en apoyo a la liberación de José Gabriel Barrenechea para que pueda proporcionar cuidados a su madre (Public statement by Cuban civil society organizations in support of the release of José Gabriel Barrenechea so that he can look after his mother), May 2, 2025.

[237] IACHR, Human Rights of the elderly and national protection systems in the Americas, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.doc.397/ II. Doc. 397/22, December 31, 2022, paras. 345-346.

[238] IACHR, The Situation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Americas , OEA/Ser.L/V/II., Doc. 1/25, January 31, 2025, par. 401.

[239] Official Gazette of the Republic of Cuba, Ministry of Justice, Council of Ministers, Decree 121, April 28, 2025.

[240] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Cuba, Reafirma Cuba en la ONU compromiso con los derechos de las personas con discapacidad (Cuba reaffirms its commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities at the UN), June 12, 2025.

[241] Marti Noticias, Abogadas exponen la crítica situación de los presos con discapacidades en Cuba (Lawyers expose the critical situation of prisoners with disabilities in Cuba), March 4, 2025.

[242] Diario de Cuba, Un preso político del 11J padece una crítica condición psiquiátrica y no recibe atención médica especializada (A political prisoner of 11J suffers from a critical psychiatric condition and is not receiving specialized medical attention), January 30, 2025.

[243] Cibercuba, Académicos oficialistas reconocen aumento de brecha de desigualdad en Cuba (Pro-government academics acknowledge widening inequality gap in Cuba), May 25, 2025.

[244] Diario de Cuba, El régimen cubano oculta sus cifras de pobreza e incumple con la CEPAL (The Cuban regime hides its poverty figures and fails to comply with ECLAC), June 30, 2025.

150. According to the information available to the Commission, the State continues to fail to produce official statistics broken down by race or ethnicity, which draws attention away from Afro-descendants and limits the design and implementation of appropriate public policies to address their needs. In this regard, Afro-Cuban activists remain in exile, denouncing the persistence of structural racism.[245] Likewise, civil society organizations denounced the persistence of racial discrimination, as well as harassment, immigration restrictions, and digital surveillance against anti-racist activists.[246]

151. At the same time, the Commission notes that the restrictions on civic liberties and the escalation of repression against human rights defenders continue, with impacts on defenders of the rights of Afro-descendants. Donaida Pérez, opposition figure and president of the *Asociación Yorubas Libres de Cuba*, was released from prison in January 2025, but on June 11 her parole was revoked and she returned to prison, in unsanitary conditions.[247] Such events occur in a context of racial discrimination against the Afro-Cuban Yoruba community and the expression of its religious beliefs.

152. In addition to the above, as of April 2025, 73% of the 1,155 political prisoners were of African descent, which is equivalent to 2.17 times their share of the population.[248] This occurs in a context of over-representation of black youth in pre-trial detention and longer average sentences for people of African descent, as well as reports of violence and racial discrimination in interaction with the authorities.[249]

IV. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

A. Situation of the Cuban State vis-à-vis the OAS and the IACHR

153. On January 31, 1962, the Government of Cuba was excluded from participation in the inter-American system by means of Resolution VI, adopted at the Eighth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay.[250] That resolution ceased to have effect on June 3, 2009, when the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, at its Thirty-Ninth Regular Session in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, determined by resolution AG/RES. 2438 (XXXIX-O/09) that "the participation of the Republic of Cuba in the OAS will be the result of a process of dialogue initiated at the request of the Government of Cuba, and in accordance with the practices, purposes, and principles of the OAS."[251]

154. As of the date of adoption of this report, the annulment of the 1962 resolution that excluded the Cuban Government from the inter-American system has not resulted in Cuba's reincorporation in the OAS. In 2018, for example, at the Eighth Summit of the Americas, Cuba sent a delegation and, despite walking out of the inaugural session prior to the address delivered by the Secretary General of the Organization, it announced that it would continue to "exercise [its] legitimate right to participate at a forum to which it should have been a party for a long time." At the same event, Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez reiterated the position of the

[245] El País, La escritora cubana que le pone palabras a la disidencia lesboafrofeminista (The Cuban writer who voices lesbian-Afro-feminist dissent), May 19, 2025; Havana Times, Is There Racism in Cuba? History and Contemporary Times, May 21, 2025.

[246] Amnesty International, The State of the World's Human Rights, chap. Cuba, April 2025; Diario de Cuba, Marthadela Tamayo: 'Cuba tiene una deuda pendiente con la sociedad civil, especialmente con las mujeres' (Cuba has a pending debt with civil society, especially with women), January 23, 2025.

[247] Race & Equality, Cuba: Warning about the escalation of repression against activists and human rights defenders four years after the 11J protests, July 11, 2025.

[248] Prisoners Defenders, 7 nuevos prisioneros políticos en abril elevan la cifra total en Cuba a 1.155 bajo un marcado racismo estructural (7 new political prisoners in April bring the total number in Cuba to 1,155 amidst marked structural racism), May 14, 2025.

[249] 14ymedio, 11J: Cuatro años después del mayor estallido social desde 1959, Justicia 11J contabiliza 360 presos (Four years after the biggest social outburst since 1959, Justicia 11J counts 360 prisoners), July 11, 2025; Diario de Cuba, Prisoners Defenders registra 1.155 presos políticos y denuncia racismo estructural en Cuba (Prisoners Defenders registers 1,155 political prisoners and denounces structural racism in Cuba), May 14, 2025.

[250] The text of Resolution VI is found in the "Eighth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs serving as Organ of Consultation in Application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, Documents from the Meeting, Punta del Este, Uruguay, January 22 to 31, 1962, Meeting Documents," Organization of American States, OEA/Ser.F/II.8, doc. 68, pp. 13-15.

[251] The text of resolution AG/RES. 2438 (XXXIX-O/09) can be found in "Thirty-ninth Regular Session, San Pedro Sula, Honduras, June 2–4, 2009, Proceedings, Volume I," Organization of American States, OEA/Ser.P/XXXIX-0.2, p. 12.

Cuban State with respect to what it views as the use of the OAS as an instrument of the geopolitical interests of United States.

155. The exclusion of the Cuban government by the OAS has not prevented the Commission from fulfilling its mandate to promote and protect human rights;[252] since it recognizes it as "legally responsible before the Inter-American Commission with respect to human rights", since it is "party to the international instruments that were initially established in the American Hemisphere to protect human rights", and because Resolution VI of the Eighth Meeting of Consultation "excluded the government of Cuba, and not the State, from participation in the Inter-American system."[253]

156. The Commission recalls that the States that have not ratified the American Convention on Human Rights conferred on the Commission the power "to pay particular attention to the observance of the human rights referred to in Articles I, II, III, IV, XVIII, XXV, and XXVI of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man," in accordance with Article 20(a) of the Statute of the IACHR.

157. Under this mandate, the Commission has prepared eight country reports and one thematic report, with the last country report dated 2020 and the thematic report dated 2023. Cuba has also been included in Chapter IV, or its equivalent, of the Annual Report in the years 1984-1985 to 1994, and continuously since 1996. In the wake of the regulatory amendments in 2013, Cuba's inclusion in the annual reports was based on the criteria set forth in article 59(6)(a.i) and (c) of the Rules of Procedure.

158. Over the past ten years, the IACHR has held annual public hearings regarding Cuba. In 2025, as of the date of writing this report, the Commission held the hearing entitled Cuba: Rights of persons deprived of liberty with psychosocial disabilities (193rd Regular Session).

159. Likewise, information has been requested from the State in accordance with the powers set forth in Article 18, paragraph d, of the Statute; and, in addition, individual petitions, cases, and precautionary measures continue to be received, processed, and examined.

160. With regard to precautionary measures, as of the date of preparation of this report, Cuba has 54 precautionary measures in force. Of these, three were granted in 2025. In 2025, the IACHR drew attention to the situation of beneficiaries of precautionary measures through statements on social networks where it condemned the new wave of repression registered on April 29, condemning the use of arbitrary detentions such as that of José Daniel Ferrer and Félix Navarro; and other activists.

161. Although the Cuban government does not respond to the communications and decisions of the IACHR, civil society organizations report experiencing the cessation or decrease in intensity, sometimes temporarily, of the mistreatment, reprisals, harassment, and/or aggressions to which they were subjected prior to the Commission's actions.

B. U.S.-Cuba Relations

162. The U.S. economic embargo against Cuba, initiated more than 60 years ago, is based on a set of U.S. laws and regulations that prohibit or limit trade relations with the island, in particular: the Trading with the Enemy Act (1917), the Foreign Assistance Act (1961), the Cuban Democracy Act (1992), the Cuban Liberty

[252] During 2018, the IACHR issued two letters requesting information from the State and published two press releases: IACHR, Press Release R152/2018, IACHR publishes merits report in case related to criminalization of political opinion and deliberation in Cuba, April 11, 2018; and IACHR, Press Release R152/2018, The Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Concern over Criminal Convictions for *desacato* laws in Cuba,,1 July 7, 2018.

[253] IACHR, 2002 Annual Report, Chapter IV, Human Rights Developments in the Region, Cuba, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.117 Doc. 1 rev. 1, March 7, 2003, paras. 3-7; IACHR, Seventh Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Cuba, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.61, Doc.29 rev. 1, October 4, 1983, paras. 16-46.

and Democratic Solidarity Act, known as Helms-Burton (1996) and the Trade Sanctions and Trade Enhancement Act (2000).[254]

163. Over time, the intensity of the embargo has fluctuated between easing and adding restrictions. Since the announcement on December 17, 2014, of the reestablishment of relations between Cuba and the United States of America,[255] the Commission has continued to monitor the partial lifting of the economic embargo by the U.S. Congress.[256]

164. As of 2025, the United States Government reactivated some sanctions imposed on the Cuban Government. Specifically, in January, the executive order "Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions", in its Section 2, revoked, among others, the presidential memorandum of January 14, 2025, which revoked the designation of Cuba as a State Sponsor of Terrorism.[257]

165. Additionally, on June 30, the President signed the National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM) to strengthen the Cuba policy implemented during his first term, reversing the Biden administration's revocation that eased pressure on the Cuban regime. The NSPM, among other issues, puts an end to economic practices that benefit Cuban intelligence services or security agencies; enforces the legal ban on U.S. tourism to Cuba and ensures compliance through regular audits and mandatory recording of all travel-related transactions for at least five years; supports the economic embargo of Cuba and opposes calls by the United Nations and other international forums for its lifting.[258]

166. As it has reiterated on several occasions, the IACHR calls for the lifting of the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba due to its impact on the Cuban population and their rights. On the other hand, it reiterates that the embargo does not exempt the Cuban State from complying with its international obligations, nor does it excuse it for violations of the American Declaration.[259]

167. The economic embargo of Cuba has also been criticized by the United Nations on several occasions. Since 1992, the UN General Assembly has called on the United States to lift sanctions on Cuba, so far without success.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

168. The IACHR notes with great concern that, based on the information gathered in 2025, taking into account the recommendations made in its most recent country report and in Chapters IV of previous annual reports, it does not observe an improvement in structural aspects, such as violations of the rights to personal liberty and integrity, and arbitrary restrictions on the right to vote and to participate in government, freedom of expression, and dissemination of thought. In addition, violations of due process guarantees, undue restrictions on the right of transit, among other anomalies, persist. In addition, the IACHR regrets the limited official information available and the State's historical distancing from this regional human rights body.

169. At the same time, the IACHR reiterates its interest in carrying out an on-site visit to Cuba, in order to initiate rapprochement and dialogue with the Cuban State and thus provide technical support in human rights matters as required, in order to promote respect and guarantees for human rights on the island.

170. In light of the above, in compliance with its mandate, the Commission urges the State of Cuba:

Representative democracy and political rights

[254] U.S. Department of State, Cuba Sanctions, 2017.
[255] The White House, Fact Sheet: Charting A New Course On Cuba December 17, 2014.
[256] IACHR, Press release No. 156/2014, IACHR Welcomes Announcement to Reestablish Relations between the United States and Cuba, , December 18, 2014
[257] The White House, Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions, January 20, 2025.
[258] The White House, President Donald Trump Strengthens the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba, June 30, 2025.
[259] IACHR, Situation of Human Rights in Cuba, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 2, February 3, 2020, par. 49.

1. To guarantee access to public information in the framework of electoral processes and to allow electoral observation in the country, ensuring an environment conducive to public scrutiny and transparency in such processes.
2. To adopt measures that guarantee respect for civil and political rights related to democratic participation in public administration within the framework of its domestic laws and constitutional precepts reformulated in accordance with the above recommendations.
3. To open up channels that would allow real and vigorous participation by all political sectors of the population and contribute to the construction of democracy in Cuba.
4. To adopt measures allowing the rights to freedom of assembly and of association for political organizations and movements.
5. To release persons detained for political reasons or reasons of conscience, including activists, artists, and journalists tried or sentenced for their work or advocacy.

Independence of branches of government, procedural guarantees, and judicial protection

6. To adopt the measures needed to ensure the full independence of the judicial branch from the other branches of government.
7. To investigate alleged human rights violations, punish those responsible, and take measures to prevent impunity due to a lack of judicial independence.
8. To ensure that the criminal offenses contemplated in its legislation are not used improperly to restrict other rights, or against dissenting persons.
9. To refrain from making illegal or arbitrary arrests and, when someone is deprived of his or her liberty, ensure that it is an exceptional measure and complies with all the guarantees to be observed when restricting that right, including being brought immediately before a judge.
10. To take all necessary steps to prevent the use of official inquiries to bring unjust or unfounded lawsuits against persons who legitimately demand observance and protection of their rights by means of social protest.
11. To adopt measures to ensure that lawyers can practice their profession without restrictions for political reasons and without threats or harassment.

Human rights defenders

12. To free human rights defenders, activists, and other social leaders who are currently arbitrarily detained as a result of their denunciation and defense activities.
13. To refrain from acts of harassment, threats, aggression, persecution, arbitrary detentions, and criminalization committed by State authorities to the detriment of human rights defenders.
14. To ensure an environment free of hostilities and with respect for fundamental freedoms for the defense of human rights. Accordingly, to refrain from actions that could impair opportunities to guarantee of an open and participatory civic space.
15. To refrain from imposing arbitrary restrictions on the right to free movement of human rights defenders, allowing them to exercise freely their right to freedom of movement on Cuban territory.

Persons deprived of liberty

16. To collect statistical data on persons deprived of their liberty and incorporate them into a public, easily accessible, and periodically updated registry. In particular, the registry must contain, at least, the following data: (i) number of persons detained in each place of deprivation of liberty, and installed capacity of each center; (ii) age; (iii) gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression; (iv) nationality, migratory status and ethnic-racial origin; (v) special risk situation, such as the existence of disability; (vi) health condition;

(vii) family composition; (viii) socio-economic information; (ix) procedural situation; (x) sentence or measure applied and estimated date of release; (xi) causes of imprisonment; and (xii) data on the court or tribunal that ordered and oversees the detention.

17. To ensure that persons deprived of liberty are treated with dignity. Specifically, to guarantee adequate, specialized, and timely medical care; sufficient food with high nutritional value; safe drinking water; and decent sanitation and hygiene conditions. In addition, to adopt measures to combat overcrowding.
18. To take steps to prevent and combat all forms of torture or ill-treatment. To this end, to create an independent mechanism with broad powers to examine detention centers, conduct private interviews with detainees, and receive complaints and initiate investigations into acts of torture or ill-treatment.

Freedom of expression

19. To guarantee the legal conditions needed for the full exercise of the right to freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom of peaceful assembly, and freedom of association, both online and offline. This includes making domestic regulation compatible with international human rights standards on the subject.
20. To ensure that all individuals and groups, including journalists, artists, human rights defenders, political opponents, among others, can exercise their right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association without fear of reprisals or criminalization.
21. To refrain from arbitrarily obstructing -even by indirect means- journalistic activities including the local press and international correspondents.
22. To immediately cease all forms of harassment, threats, intimidation, and censorship, such as subpoenas, interrogations, arbitrary detentions, and police intimidation, among others, against any person for causes related to the exercise of their freedom of expression and freedom of association and assembly.
23. To respect, protect, and guarantee the right to social protest. In particular, to refrain from imposing requirements contrary to international human rights law, such as prior authorization; and to refrain from applying criminal sanctions against individuals solely for participating in public demonstrations.
24. To guarantee universal access to the Internet without restrictions, discrimination, blocking, or arbitrary interference. In particular, to refrain from any kind of discrimination in the treatment of data and Internet traffic based on factors such as devices, content, author, origin and/or destination of the material, service, or application, in accordance with the principle of net neutrality.
25. To facilitate the operation of international observation mechanisms regarding the situation of the right to freedom of expression in Cuba, including providing all official information considered relevant.
26. To guarantee pluralism and diversity in the media and adopt measures to prevent the existence of public media monopolies. Likewise, to adopt the necessary measures to ensure that the State's media are subject to appropriate legislation and regulation.
27. In addition to the on-site visit mentioned in paragraph 169, the IACHR recommends the State to grant its consent for a visit by the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression to detention centers where persons who claim to be deprived of their liberty for expressing their thoughts and opinions are held.

Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights

28. To guarantee the economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights of the entire population on an equal basis, paying special attention to vulnerable groups, such as people living in poverty, older adults, and people deprived of their liberty.
29. To take concrete steps to ensure access to adequate food or the means to obtain it.

30. To adopt concrete measures to ensure access to essential public services, including adequate health services and medical supplies. To ensure that the population has access to adequate medical personnel and avoid promoting the outflow of health personnel as a way of attracting foreign currency, especially in a context where there are insufficient professionals to meet the health needs of the country's population.
31. To promote effective measures to ensure access to essential public services such as water and electricity and enhance the resilience of infrastructure in order to meet the vital needs of the population and promote its integral development.
32. To adopt substantial measures to respond to climate change and mitigate its effects considering the geographical situation of the country and the high levels of vulnerability of the population in a context of inadequate and insufficient infrastructure and access to services. These measures should consider access to basic supplies and services in emergency situations.

Women

33. To strengthen the legal framework for the protection of women's rights to address gender-based violence and facilitate its prevention, investigation, and punishment, considering the special risks faced by women activists, human rights defenders, and women deprived of their liberty.
34. To ratify the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women ("Convention of Belém do Pará").
35. To establish specialized protection mechanisms for women who are victims of gender-based violence, including the creation of safe temporary shelters staffed with personnel trained in a gender perspective.
36. To guarantee public access to data on violent deaths of women to facilitate the participation of civil society in the design and implementation of public policies for the prevention of gender-based violence against women, girls, and adolescents.

LGBTI persons

37. To collect and analyze data regarding the prevalence and nature of violence and discrimination against LGBTI people based on prejudice.
38. To refrain from carrying out, through its agents, acts of violence against LGBTI people and guarantee a legal framework that protects them from the actions of third parties.

People in a situation of human mobility

39. To refrain from preventing, or creating legal or administrative obstacles for, the return of Cuban nationals to their country.
40. To remove travel restrictions imposed on individuals because of their activities as activists or for political reasons.
41. To adopt urgent and comprehensive measures to address the factors that lead its nationals to leave the country, including violations of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.
42. To guarantee the full exercise of civil and political rights, which includes the right of all persons, in accordance with international human rights standards, to leave the country, to move freely within its territory, to choose their place of residence, and to enter or re-enter the country of which they are nationals. This includes, in particular, not preventing or hindering in any way the departure from or entry into the country of persons participating in legitimate activities.

Older persons

43. To address the emerging and particular needs of the elderly in the face of recurrent blackouts, while a permanent solution is being considered.
44. To evaluate the amount of pensions for the elderly and make the necessary adjustments so that they can afford the basic food basket.
45. To review and evaluate the scope of the protocol for elderly people living on the street and make adjustments to provide temporary and sustainable solutions.

Persons with disabilities

46. To establish protocols for special care of persons deprived of liberty with disabilities, based on intersectional perspectives, as well as adequate medical follow-up; including the necessary support and reasonable adjustments.
47. To allocate financial resources for the implementation of permanent multidisciplinary support systems, as well as the application of accessibility and reasonable accommodation measures.

People of African descent

48. To implement effective policies to control racial profiling.
49. To ensure an enabling environment for effective participation based on standards of non-discrimination, freedom of expression, and freedom of association.
50. To publish disaggregated statistics and ensure independent oversight of the justice system.

PARTIALLY DISSENTING VOTE OF COMMISSIONER CARLOS BERNAL PULIDO REGARDING CHAPTER IV-B OF THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT ON CUBA

With all due respect to my colleagues, and in accordance with Article 19.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ("the Commission" or "the IACHR") and in exercise of the right to freedom of expression, I submit this partially dissenting opinion in relation to Chapter IV-B of the 2025 Annual Report on Cuba, hereinafter referred to as "the Report."

I highlight the relevance of this report, insofar as it systematizes and consolidates information on the current situation of the population in Cuba. Without prejudice to the foregoing, and expressing my agreement with the general content of the report, this vote is limited exclusively to the formulation of observations on certain specific aspects that I consider relevant. These considerations do not affect or call into question the general diagnosis or the central conclusions of the report, but are intended to contribute to a more precise debate on these specific points.

In said sense, in this vote I will refer to: (i) the need to prevent discrimination based on sex in contexts of deprivation of liberty and (ii) the non-existence of a right to gender identity and the obligation to guarantee the rectification of the sex marker on identity documents for persons who self-identify as transgender.

1. The need to prevent discrimination based on sex in contexts of deprivation of liberty

Paragraph 129 of the report refers to:

> "129. With regard to the rights of LGBTI persons, Cuba experienced both progress and challenges in 2025. The state still does not produce official data on the prevalence of violence and discrimination based on prejudice. However, it was reported that in January, Brenda Díaz, a trans woman and political prisoner, was released by the Cuban government four years after being arrested during the protests on July 11, 2021. Díaz reported spending years in a men's prison unit suffering physical and verbal abuse before being released on parole. Her case reflects the structural situation of violence and lack of recognition of gender identities in the prison system."

On this point, I highlight that, although protective measures should be taken for people who self-identify as transgender in prisons, the truth is that, when it comes to spaces exclusively for women, comparative contexts have shown that it's essential to maintain separate spaces based on sex. In particular, in prison contexts where gender separation has been blurred in order to include males in female facilities, there have been important cases of sexual, physical, and psychological violence against women[260].

[260] D. Shaw, 'Transgender Inmate in Prison for Rape of Young Girls is Accused of Sexual Assaults on Female Inmates' (1 June 2018) Women are Human, https://www.womenarehuman.com/transgender-man-who-rapedyoung-girls-housed-in-womens-prison-jessica-winfield-nee-martin-ponting/; K. Finlay 'Transgender Inmate Charged with Sexual Assault at a Women's Prison' (24 August 2020) Women Are Human, https://www.womenarehuman.com/transgender-inmate-charged-with-sexual-assault-at-a-womensprison/; UK High Court of Justice [2021] CO/4198/2019, https://fairplayforwomen.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/FDJv-SSJ-judgment-approved-as-handed-down-on-02.07.21-002.pdf; Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem. AL USA 30/2023. December 21, 2023; Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem. Violence against women and girls in sport. A/79/325. August 27, 2024; Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem. Sexual violence against women and girls: new frontiers and emerging issues. A/HRC/59/47. June 16, 2025.

With this, I do not mean that all people who identify as transgender women are violent, but rather that there are people with violent intentions who take advantage of policies that have blurred the separation based on sex to carry out violent acts against women. This is why separation in prison facilities based on sex has been a constant and repeated obligation under international law, as a positive measure to protect women.

I reiterate[261] that Article 5.5 of the American Convention establishes the principle of separation of places of detention between men and women, and the Court has considered, based on the Convention and rulings by other human rights bodies, "that all women deprived of liberty must be housed physically separate from men and, furthermore, in less restrictive and lower security wings or sections that address the low level of risk they represent and with sufficient space where they can meet their specific needs."[262]

This rule of separation is also found in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules)[263], the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules)[264], and even for armed conflicts in the Third[265] and Fourth[266] Geneva Conventions.

Recently, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, noted in her report "Sexual violence against women and girls: new frontiers and emerging issues" that:

> "Healthcare settings also pose serious risks to women. The existence of single-sex wards is essential to protect female patients from sexual assault and harassment while receiving medical care, including women with physical or intellectual disabilities. **Women and girls in refugee camps and detention centers are also at particular risk of violence, including sexual harassment and rape**."[267] (Bold text not in the original text)

That being the case, States and international bodies have a duty to promote this separation, which means that there should be no male inmates in women's prisons. This is especially true when, as in the draft report addressed by this vote, no safeguards are included to prevent the forms of violence against women that can arise from these prison models that give predominance to gender self-identification.

I call for appropriate measures to be taken to prevent all forms of violence, including violence against people who self-identify as transgender women, but these measures must not ignore women's rights or expose them to situations of risk that violate their right to live free from all forms of violence, especially in contexts of profound vulnerability such as those of deprivation of liberty.

2. Inexistence of the right to gender identity and the obligation to guarantee the rectification of the sex marker on identity documents for persons who identify as transgender

Paragraph 130 of the report states:

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[261] Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_SPA.PDF.

[262] IHR Court Advisory Opinion OC-29 of 2022; Bangkok Rules, supra, Rules 12 and 41.d., and Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Rashida Manjoo, Causes, conditions, and consequences of incarceration for women, A/68/340, supra, para. 85.

[263] United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Rules 2 and 11.

[264] United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules). Rule 1.

[265] III Geneva Convention. Article 25.

[266] IV Geneva Convention. Article 76.

[267] Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem. Sexual violence against women and girls: new frontiers and emerging issues. A/HRC/59/47. June 16, 2025.

> "130. In May, hundreds of people marched in Havana during the Cuban Days Against Homophobia and Transphobia, an event promoted by the government, highlighting achievements such as the new Family Code, but also denouncing persistent discrimination in employment, education, and health care. In July, the National Assembly passed a new civil registry law that allows trans persons to modify gender markers on official documents without undergoing surgery and based on self-determination."

On this point, I reiterate[268] that, without disregarding internal regulatory changes, this cannot in any way be interpreted as meaning that there is an obligation under the Inter-American Human Rights System for States to ensure that identification documents reflect self-perceived gender identity. The American Convention does not expressly provide for a right to gender identity, nor is there a binding instrument in the Inter-American System that establishes an obligation to adapt identification documents to gender identity.

As I have indicated, recognizing new rights that are not in the Convention through an interpretation that does not follow the procedures established in the Convention itself would undermine Articles 31, 76, and 77, disregarding the original will of the States who ratified the Convention.

Therefore, any ruling in which any of the bodies of the IHRS applies a right that is not established by the binding instruments of international law governing its activity will be an act that violates the letter of the American Convention and exceeds the scope of competence of the IACHR or the IHR Court, as the case may be. An irregular constitutive act of this nature would also undermine the principles of good faith and pacta sunt servanda[269].

In light of the above, since there is no conventional right to gender identity in the Inter-American Human Rights System, it can be held that there are also no corresponding obligations for States to recognize this right. On the other hand, although I am aware that OC-24/17 affirmed the existence of the so-called "right to gender identity" and an alleged obligation to adapt identification documents to self-perceived gender identity in the terms indicated in this Chapter, I emphasize that the Advisory Opinions of the IHR Court have no ability to consider rights or obligations other than those expressly provided for in the American Convention[270].

In this regard, first, Article 68 of the Convention expressly provides that States are bound to comply with the decisions rendered by the Court "in any case to which they are parties." This provision is highly relevant in that (i) it is the only one that refers to the legal value of the Court's rulings and (ii) it expressly limits the binding nature of the rulings to the States parties to a case, thus limiting the recipient of the obligations—the State party to a case—and the context in which the ruling is issued—that is, the contentious case. This position has also been upheld by some sectors of legal doctrine, based also on the principle of State consent as the basis of conventional law[271].

Secondly, specifically with regard to OC-24/17, it is important to take into consideration Article 64 of the ACHR, which limits the Court's jurisdiction to issue advisory opinions on the Convention or treaties of the Inter-

[268] Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4A_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Informe annual 2023. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_5_ElSalvador_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Report on the Situation of Honduras – 2023. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Report on Chapter IV.A. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4B_VEN_ES.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_5_SLV_ES.PDF; Partially dissenting vote. Annual Report 2024- Chapter IV.A development of human rights in the region - overview of the human rights situation by country. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4A_ES.PDF#page201; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter IV. B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4B_VEN_ES.PDF.

[269] Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Article 26.

[270] IHR Court. Gender identity, equality, and non-discrimination for same-sex couples. State obligations in relation to name change, gender identity, and rights derived from a relationship between same-sex couples (interpretation and scope of Articles 1.1, 3, 7, 11.2, 13, 17, 18, and 24, in relation to Article 1 of the American Convention on Human Rights). Advisory Opinion OC-24/17 of November 24, 2017. Series A No. 24.

[271] Systematization of critiques in: González Domínguez, P. (2017). The doctrine of conventionality control in light of the principle of subsidiarity. Constitutional Studies, 15(1), 55-98.

American System. Thus, since OC-24/17 establishes alleged rights not contemplated in the ACHR or in any other treaty of the IAHRS, its binding nature is even more questionable.

Thirdly, deriving obligations or so-called rights not contemplated in the Convention, based exclusively on an advisory opinion, would be contrary to the principle of pacta sunt servanda governing international treaty law, according to which States are only bound to comply with that to which they have expressed their consent[272].

Fourth, although the IHR Court has held that advisory opinions are parameters for reviewing compliance with the Convention[273], I emphasize that there is still a need for open and transparent Inter-American dialogue to further discuss this position, which does not derive expressly from the American Convention or any other international instrument binding on the States. I draw attention to the fact that there is still no consensus on this matter either among the States of the region or in academia; hence, important constitutional courts still refrain from invoking the concept of conventionality control and from incorporating advisory opinions as a parameter[274].

Finally, I would like to note that some authors have held that broadening the effects of advisory opinions could contribute to distorting the functioning of the Inter-American System and, thereby, weakening it, since (i) it results in equating decisions issued in the Court's advisory capacity with the text of the convention itself[275], and (ii) blurs the differences between the Court's jurisdictional and advisory functions. Some have even suggested that these interpretations by the Court create legal uncertainty, as there is no certainty as to the effects with which advisory opinions are issued[276].

On the contrary, as I have stated in previous reasoned votes, gender identity, understood under the criteria of self-determination or self-perception, poses serious risks to the rights of individuals in general and, in particular, to population groups with special Inter-American protection, such as women. Insisting that States change the sex markers on identity documents increases these risks, as it completely dilutes the differentiation between the sexes and undermines the application of affirmative action measures for women.

The Commission must deliberate deeply on this matter, from a human rights perspective and with a differential approach, in order not to undermine or frustrate affirmative measures in favor of women or other population groups with special Inter-American protection.

If it is enough for a person to simply state that they self-identify as a woman for the State to automatically recognize them as such, without any additional reasonable regulation or requirement, it is likely that affirmative measures in favor of women will lose their effectiveness, and that States will end up erasing the very identity of women and any other population group.

On this point, the then Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito was clear in explaining that:

> «[…] the core subject of feminism (and, in this case, violence against women for the simple fact of being women) is women and the specific oppression they suffer, its origin and impact. If we confuse the feminist struggle and replace the subject of feminism, if the subject of feminism ceases to be biological women and becomes a strange and confusing variable of subjective identities, we must consider and bring to the table the more than predictable negative impact that it would have on decades of feminist struggle and theory. And not only would feminism disappear, but also human rights theory, which is also based not on feelings or self-perceptions, but on objective and scientific categories. So, one might

[272] Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

[273] IHR Court. Rights and guarantees of children in the context of migration and/or in need of international protection. Advisory Opinion OC-21/14 of August 19, 2014. Series A No. 21. Para. 31.

[274] Ramírez, F. G. (2023). A critical look at conventionality control. Journal of Law and Social Sciences, (28), 101-142; Palacios, D. L. (2017). Inter-American conventionality control at the national level: a notion still under construction. Direito e Práxis Magazine, 8, 1389-1418.

[275] Colombo, I. (2022). A critical analysis of the doctrine of conventionality control. Omnia. Law and society, 5 (1), pp. 83-116.

[276] Colombo, I. (2022). A critical analysis of the doctrine of conventionality control. Omnia. Law and society, 5 (1), pp. 83-116.

> ask: if sex, a material and scientific category, disappears, absorbed by "gender identity," a subjective individual perception, what would gender-based violence be based on? And what would the female sex be reduced to? How would rape and other crimes of sexual violence against women be documented? How would violence suffered by transgender people be documented if sex change is something confidential that cannot be documented? What about wage differences? What about discrimination in access to education at all levels, formal and informal? There are many more questions. But these few are enough to highlight the chaos and regression we are facing.»[277]

I use the considerations of the then Honorable Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito to insist on defending the value of being biologically female or male, which is not equivalent to reducing a person's identity solely to their biological sex.

The removal of the sex marker from public records poses significant risks for public administration and the effective guarantee of rights, particularly in the areas of health, statistics, and public policy formulation. Sex is an essential variable for epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of specific diseases—including those that may affect people who self-identify as transgender based on their biological needs—as well as for the correct interpretation of clinical tests, drug dosing, and health service planning[278].

Likewise, its elimination weakens the production of reliable demographic data necessary for designing equality policies, affirmative action, social programs, licenses, social security, and institutional organization, including sensitive areas such as the prison system[279]. Consequently, removing this marker obscures the diverse needs of the population, hinders the exercise of administrative functions, and can directly affect effective access to fundamental rights and essential state services.

For which reason, if international human rights law erases biological sex and differential measures based precisely on biological sex criteria, it would strip away the rational basis for protecting population groups such as women. If the majority position continues to promote the absolute legal recognition of self-perceived or self-determined gender identity, it will hinder—if not nullify—the effectiveness of countless special protection measures.

I thus leave these considerations, which explain and justify my partially dissenting vote.

[277] IHR Court. Case of Vicky Hernández and others vs. Honduras. Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of March 26, 2021. Series C No. 422. Partially dissenting opinion of Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito. Para. 15.

[278] Various authors. Rare diseases. JANO, Medicine and Humanities 2008, no. 1679; González-Lamuño, D., & García Fuentes, M. (2008). Genetic diseases. Annals of the Navarre Health System, 31(Suppl. 2), 105-126.

[279] Public Ministry, Office of the Attorney General of Panama, Resolution No. 11.11 of February 2016. "Regulating permission for breastfeeding"; Pregnant Women's Health Agenda V.2021. Chile Grows with you; United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention; United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules); United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders and the Guidelines for Their Application (Bangkok Rules); Third Geneva Convention.

IV.b

Nicaragua

CHAPTER IV.B NICARAGUA

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CHAPTER IV.B

NICARAGUA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with its treaty-based and statutory mandate,[1] the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ("Commission," "Inter-American Commission," or "IACHR") has been closely following the human rights situation in Nicaragua in the context of a protracted disruption of the democratic order and the consolidation of an authoritarian regime that concentrates power.

2. As documented by the IACHR, the social protests of April 2018 spontaneously exposed the social discontent that had built up over several years, in response to the institutional processes that gradually co-opted public institutions and led to a concentration of state power in the hands of the executive branch. Those protests were initiated by the elderly and supported by youths and university students in response to proposed reforms to the Social Security Law.[2]

3. In the report *Gross Human Rights Violations in the Context of Social Protests in Nicaragua*, the IACHR found that the State's response to this expression of social dissent was the arbitrary use of violence.[3] The Commission also noted that the magnitude of repression by the State, as well as the strategies deployed to deter demonstrations, evidenced the government's intention to stifle social demands and regain control of public space.[4] According to the findings of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI-Nicaragua), in the context of the repression, Nicaragua engaged in conduct that could constitute crimes against humanity, such as murder, deprivation of liberty, rape, torture, and forced disappearance.[5]

4. Since then, the Commission has documented various phases of repression by the State to silence any opposition to the regime. In view of the worsening political, social, and human rights crisis, and the

[1] The IACHR prepared this report by virtue of its competence and functions, as established in Article 18 of its Statute and Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights. The State of Nicaragua ratified the American Convention on Human Rights on September 25, 1979. Despite Nicaragua having denounced the OAS Charter on November 18, 2021, the IACHR has ratified its jurisdiction over the country. IACHR, Press Release No. 312/21 The IACHR Stresses Its Competent Jurisdiction Concerning Nicaragua and Laments Nicaragua's Decision to Denounce the Charter of the OAS in a Context of Serious Human Rights Violations, Washington, D.C., November 20, 2021.

[2] IACHR, 2023 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B, Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 386 rev. 1, December 31, 2023, para. 3.

[3] IACHR, Gross Human Rights Violations in the Context of the Social Protests in Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 86, June 21, 2018, para. 2.

[4] The Commission revealed that state violence followed a common pattern, marked by: the excessive and arbitrary use of police force, including lethal force; the use of parapolice forces or shock groups with the acquiescence, tolerance and cooperation of state authorities; intimidation and threats against leaders of social movements; arbitrary arrests of young people and adolescents who were participating in protests; lack of diligence in opening investigations into the killings and bodily injuries taking place in this context; obstacles in accessing emergency medical care for the wounded, as a form of retaliation for their participation in protests; and the dissemination of propaganda and stigmatization campaigns, measures of direct and indirect censorship. IACHR, Gross Human Rights Violations in the Context of the Social Protests in Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 86, June 21, 2018, para. 2.

[5] This conclusion is based on the number of victims, the seriousness of the repressive actions, the existence of certain patterns of conduct that were carried out with State resources, according to a policy that was determined and supported by the State's highest authorities. Also, the characteristics of State-sponsored violence in Nicaragua, demonstrate that there was a State decision to adopt a course of conduct which resulted in the commission of multiple criminal acts directed against protesters and political dissidents. GIEI-Nicaragua, Report on the violent events that took place between April 18th and May 30th, 2018, p. 226.

situation of structural impunity for human rights violations since 2018,[6] the Commission has included Nicaragua in the Annual Report, Chapter IV.B, according to the grounds set forth in its Rules of Procedure.[7]

5. In 2023, the Commission concluded that the civic and democratic space in Nicaragua had been closed by the regime by various means of repression and that it is unsafe for civil society to participate in social, political, or religious life.[8] In particular, the IACHR noted the mass closure of civil society organizations and the intensification of state persecution of persons perceived as opponents of the regime through criminalization, arbitrary deprivation of nationality, banishment, and confiscation of property, bank accounts, pensions, and other economic reprisals as a form of violence.[9]

6. In 2024, the Commission warned of a new series of measures aimed at perpetuating the totalitarian regime in the country, in which power is concentrated in the Ortega-Murillo family. Among them was the approval of a partial reform of the Constitution introducing a model of so-called "direct democracy" and centralizing power in the officed of the president of the Republic, now headed by two co-presidents. In addition, the regime expanded its repressive apparatus beyond the State's borders to persecute political opponents in exile, while within Nicaragua the repression even extended to government sympathizers and workers, as well as society at large, cementing a climate of subjugation and absolute control.[10]

7. In 2025, the human rights situation in Nicaragua remained among the most critical in the region and continued to deteriorate.[11] In the course of the year, the Commission expressed its rejection of the entry into force of constitutional amendments that legalized the concentration of power in the executive branch and the dismantling of democratic institutions in a State where the checks and balances of a democratic system ceased to exist several years ago.[12] In addition, it received information on the continuation of arbitrary detentions; allegations of forced disappearances; cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of persons deprived of their liberty; and the persistence of severe restrictions on civil rights, in particular the freedoms of religion, expression, and association.[13]

8. The report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in that regard concluded: "Since the adoption of the legislative reforms in 2024 and 2025, culminating in the reform of the Constitution, Nicaragua has entered a new, worrisome phase of erosion of the rule of law, further deepening prior trends of concentrated executive powers and weakened human rights guarantees."[14] These reforms have allowed for systematic undue restrictions of fundamental freedoms, which continue to be used to suppress dissent, in contravention of international human rights law and standards.[15]

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[6] Impunity has been defined in inter-American jurisprudence as the total lack of investigation, prosecution, capture, trial and conviction of those responsible for violations of the rights protected by the American Convention, in view of the fact that the State has the obligation to use all the legal means at its disposal to combat that situation, since impunity fosters chronic recidivism of human rights violations, and total defenselessness of victims and their relatives. I/A Court H.R., Case of Bámaca Velásquez v. Guatemala, Merits, Judgment of November 25, 2000, Series C No. 70, para. 211.

[7] IACHR, 2018 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 30, March 17, 2019; IACHR, 2019 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 9, February 24, 2020; IACHR, 2020 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II., March 30, 2021; IACHR, 2021 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 64 rev. 1, May 26, 2022; IACHR, 2022 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II., April 1, 2023; IACHR, 2023 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 386 rev. 1, December 31, 2023.

[8] IACHR, Closure of civic space in Nicaragua, OAS/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 212/23, September 23, 2023, para. 299.

[9] Cf. IACHR, Closure of civic space in Nicaragua, OAS/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 212/23, September 23, 2023, para. 14.

[10] IACHR, 2024 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 39 rev. 2, March 26, 2025, para. 6.

[11] IACHR, Press Release No. 73/25, Seven years after the beginning of the crisis in Nicaragua, IACHR condemns consolidation of the authoritarian regime, Washington, D.C., April 14, 2025.

[12] IACHR, Press Release No. 73/25, Seven years after the beginning of the crisis in Nicaragua, IACHR condemns consolidation of the authoritarian regime, Washington, D.C., April 14, 2025.

[13] See below. II. Human rights situation in 2025.

[14] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, para. 78.

[15] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, para. 78.

9. For its part, the Group of Experts on Human Rights in Nicaragua (GHREN) stated that "the regime of President Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo, has deliberately transformed the country into an authoritarian State where no independent institutions remain, opposition voices are silenced, and the population—both inside and outside Nicaragua—faces persecution, forced exile, and economic retaliation."[16] In particular, according to GHREN, the constitutional reform represented a final blow to the rule of law, as it eliminated the few remaining institutional controls, creating an absolutist executive branch.[17]

10. After assessing the human rights situation in Nicaragua in 2025, the IACHR decided to include Nicaragua again in Chapter IV.B, because it deems that the situation falls under the grounds set forth in subparagraphs 6(a)(i) 6(b), and 6(c) of Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, which lay out the following criteria for the inclusion of a member state in this chapter:

> (a) a serious breach of the core requirements and institutions of representative democracy mentioned in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which are essential means of achieving human rights, including:[18]
>
> i. there is discriminatory access to or abusive exercise of power that undermines or denies the rule of law, such as systematic infringement of the independence of the judiciary or lack of subordination of State institutions to the legally constituted civilian authority;
>
> […]
>
> (b) The free exercise of the rights guaranteed in the American Declaration or the American Convention has been unlawfully suspended, totally or partially, by virtue of the imposition of exceptional measures such as a declaration of a state of emergency, state of siege, suspension of constitutional guarantees, or exceptional security measures.[19]
>
> (c) The State has committed or is committing massive, serious and widespread violations of human rights guaranteed in the American Declaration, the American Convention, or the other applicable human rights instruments.[20]

11. In relation to the commission of serious, systematic human rights violations, the IACHR notes that Nicaragua has been a police state, characterized by the executive branch directing control, surveillance, and repression through state security institutions and para-state groups, against anyone perceived as an opponent.[21] At the same time, the civic space remains completely closed as a result of the cancellation of thousands of social organizations and the criminalization and de facto prohibition of any public meeting not called by the regime, including religious demonstrations.[22]

12. Particularly during 2025, the IACHR received information on new arbitrary detentions and the intensification of patterns of repression involving the concealment or forced disappearance of detained

[16] Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Press release, "Nicaragua's deepening repression: UN experts call for urgent global action," February 26, 2025.
[17] Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Press release, "Nicaragua's deepening repression: UN experts call for urgent global action," February 26, 2025.
[18] IACHR Rules of Procedure, adopted by the Commission at its 137th regular session held from October 28 to November 13, 2009; as amended on September 2, 2011, and at its 147th regular session held from March 8 to 22, 2013, for entry into force on August 1, 2013, Article 59(6)(a).
[19] IACHR Rules of Procedure, adopted by the Commission at its 137th regular session held from October 28 to November 13, 2009; as amended on September 2, 2011, and at its 147th regular session held from March 8 to 22, 2013, for entry into force on August 1, 2013, Article 59(6)(b).
[20] IACHR Rules of Procedure, adopted by the Commission at its 137th regular session held from October 28 to November 13, 2009; as amended on September 2, 2011, and at its 147th regular session held from March 8 to 22, 2013, for entry into force on August 1, 2013, Article 59(6)(c).
[21] See below. II. Human rights situation in 2025.
[22] See below. II. Human rights situation in 2025.

individuals.[23] According to civil society organizations, as of August 31, 2025, at least 63 people were arbitrarily deprived of their liberty, and 33 of those had reportedly been forcibly disappeared.[24]

13. In the course of 2025, the situation of persons arbitrarily deprived of their liberty worsened as a result of deplorable conditions of detention, torture and ill-treatment, prolonged detention, and, in some cases, the concealment of their whereabouts as a mechanism of punishment and repression. In this context, in July, the IACHR condemned that these practices resulted in the deaths of Mauricio Alonso Petri and Carlos Cárdenas Zepeda, both of whom were elderly persons who had been detained for being identified as opponents of the regime. In both cases, their relatives reported that they were ignorant of their whereabouts and were only able to confirm their deaths when their bodies were handed over.[25]

14. In addition, the IACHR was informed of the intensification of patterns of repression and transnational persecution targeting opposition figures in exile through surveillance, harassment, threats, and acts of violence, as well as measures of control and retaliation against their relatives in Nicaragua.[26] This was confirmed by the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, which noted that the Nicaraguan State pursued a strategy to suppress dissent that has evolved into highly targeted tactics with global reach.[27] According to a report presented in September 2025, this strategy includes arbitrary deprivation of nationality, forced expulsions, entry bans, confiscation of property, denial of passports, alteration or removal of civil registry documents, and widespread surveillance, among other practices. The scope of these violations demonstrates that the State has actively extended its control beyond its borders, posing serious challenges for the persons affected, the States concerned, and the international community.[28]

15. Lastly, in 2025, the IACHR published its report "Violence against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua,"[29] in which it concluded that the physical and cultural existence of these peoples is at risk due to violence perpetrated by armed settlers with the aim of dispossessing of their ancestral lands and displacing them. In particular, the IACHR documented a series of armed attacks, physical assaults, kidnappings, targeted killings, sexual violence, threats, harassment, the burning of homes, the destruction of livelihoods, and other acts of violence perpetrated in recent years that remain unpunished.[30]

16. Based on the circumstances described, the Inter-American Commission deemed that the situation in Nicaragua also meets the criteria set forth in subparagraphs 6(d)(i), 6(d)(ii), 6(d)(iii) of Article 59 of its Rules of Procedure, which read as follows:

> (a) The presence of other structural situations that seriously affect the use and enjoyment of fundamental rights recognized in the American Declaration, the American Convention or other applicable instruments. Factors to be considered shall include the following, among others:[31]
>
> i. serious institutional crises that infringe the enjoyment of human rights;

[23] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025; Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., United States, March 4, 2025.

[24] Mechanism for the Recognition of Political Prisoners, List of political prisoners, September 2025.

[25] IACHR, Press Release No. 140/25, Nicaragua: IACHR condemns transnational repression, Washington, D.C., July 14, 2025.

[26] Cf. IACHR, Thematic Hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025; Supplementary information in thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, in IACHR archive, provided by UDJ, Race and Equality, FIDH, and Urnas Abiertas.

[27] Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Nicaragua: Persecution Beyond Borders. Exile and Transnational Human Rights Violations, September 23, 2025, p. 29.

[28] Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Nicaragua: Persecution Beyond Borders. Exile and Transnational Human Rights Violations, September 23, 2025, p. 29.

[29] IACHR, *Violence against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua*, para. 205.

[30] IACHR, *Violence against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua*, para. 205.

[31] IACHR Rules of Procedure, adopted by the Commission at its 137th regular session held from October 28 to November 13, 2009; as amended on September 2, 2011, and at its 147th regular session held from March 8 to 22, 2013, for entry into force on August 1, 2013, Article 59(6)(d).

ii. systematic noncompliance of the State with its obligation to combat impunity, attributable to a manifest lack of will;

iii. serious omissions in the adoption of the necessary measures to make fundamental rights effective, or in complying with the decisions of the Commission and the Inter-American Court;

17. In including Nicaragua in this chapter, the IACHR took account of the State's non-compliance with the recommendations of the IACHR and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR); [32] Nicaragua's withdrawal from the Organization of American States, effective November 18, 2023; and the constitutional reforms adopted in 2025 that dismantled the rule of law.

18. The IACHR also considered the Nicaraguan State's persistent lack of cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms. [33] Since 2019, Nicaragua has ceased to cooperate and has neither submitted replies or participated in constructive dialogues with treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, [34] the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, [35] the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, [36] the Human Rights Committee, [37] the Committee against Torture, [38] and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. [39]

19. During 2025, Nicaragua adopted further decisions aimed at withdrawing from international organizations and the UN specialized agencies. On February 3, Nicaragua ordered the closure of the offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Managua, in response to the publication of the report *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024*. [40]Subsequently, on February 27, it announced its withdrawal from the Human Rights Council and all its subsidiary mechanisms. [41] That withdrawal occurred one day before the release of the GHREN report confirming the active participation of the army in the 2018 crackdown. [42]

20. On February 28, 2025, Nicaragua served notice of its dissociation from the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), arguing that they were no longer fit for purpose. [43] On May 4, 2025, the State announced its exit from the United Nations Educational, Scientific

[32] The State has repeatedly stated its rejection of the Inter-American Court's orders and, following its most recent communication of April 11, 2022, refused to respond to that Court's requests, as a result of which it has been declared in permanent contempt. *Cf. I/A Court H.R., Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. regarding Nicaragua. Provisional Measures,* Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of November 22, 2021; and *Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. regarding Nicaragua*. *Extension of Provisional Measures*. Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of July 2, 2024, whereas clause 17.

[33] According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the Universal Periodic Review of Nicaragua, six treaty bodies indicated that, since 2019, Nicaragua had ceased to cooperate and had neither submitted replies nor participated in constructive dialogues with those treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

[34] UN, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Concluding observations on the combined initial and second and third periodic reports of Nicaragua, CRPD/C/NIC/CO/1-3, Distr.: General, 23 April 2024, paras. 2 and 3.

[35] Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Provisional concluding observations on the combined seventh to tenth periodic reports of Nicaragua, CEDAW/C/NIC/PCO/7-10, Distr.: General, 14 November 2023, para. 3.

[36] Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Concluding observations on the combined fifteenth to twenty-first periodic reports of Nicaragua, CERD/C/NIC/CO/15-21, Distr.: General, 22 December 2023, paras. 6 and 7.

[37] Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Nicaragua CCPR/C/NIC/CO/4, Distr. General, 30 November 2022, para. 2.

[38] Committee against Torture, Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Nicaragua, CAT/C/NIC/CO/2, 7 December 2022, para. 2.

[39] Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Nicaragua, E/C.12/NIC/CO/5, 11 November 2021, paras. 2 and 3.

[40] According to the regime, the report contained false information and lacked objectivity and methodological rigor. The regime also claimed that it presented data on Nicaragua that were neither consulted nor validated by national institutions, constituting a violation of the country's sovereignty. *Cf.* El País, "Ortega ordena el 'cierre inmediato' de la FAO en Nicaragua por publicar 'información falsa'", February 6, 2025; Divergentes, "Dictadura sandinista expulsa a la FAO de Nicaragua y se retira del organismo", February 4, 2025.

[41] El 19 Digital, "Remitimos misiva del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Nicaragua al Presidente del Consejo de Derechos Humanos de la Organización de Naciones Unidas", February 27, 2025.

[42] United Nations, Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Press release, "Nicaragua: UN experts publish groundbreaking report naming 54 officials responsible for systematic repression," April 3, 2025.

[43] El 19 Digital, "Nicaragua se retira de Organización Internacional de Trabajo y Organización Internacional para las Migraciones," February 28, 2025.

and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) after the institution awarded the World Press Freedom Prize to La Prensa, a newspaper that operates from exile.[44] On June 12, Nicaragua formalized its dissociation from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which it described as an instrument of manipulation, double standards, and interference in the internal affairs of States.[45]

21. In this regard, the GHREN stressed that the simultaneous departure of the agencies was intended to strengthen the quest for impunity of co-presidents Ortega and Murillo. Such decisions "not only aim to evade international scrutiny, accountability and the obligations that membership entails, but they also simultaneously signal a clear intent to undermine the very mechanisms designed for international cooperation and human rights protection."[46]

22. Lastly, the IACHR evaluated the impunity surrounding serious human rights violations committed since 2018. As the IACHR has extensively documented, the violent and repressive state response against dissent and political opposition has resulted in the deaths of at least 355 persons; more than 2,000 persons arbitrarily detained since 2018; more than 2,000 persons injured during social protests; more than 453 persons deprived of their nationality; as well as the closure of more than 5,000 civil society organizations.[47]

23. In accordance with Article 59(5) of the IACHR Rules of Procedure, this report was prepared using information from primary and secondary sources. Regarding the primary sources, the IACHR analyzed the testimonies received through MESENI; information available from cases, petitions, and precautionary and provisional measures; information presented at public hearings; and well as the information obtained and documented in the Commission's press releases and annual and thematic reports.

24. As regards secondary sources, the report took into account the following: official acts of all levels and branches of government, including constitutional amendments, legislation, decrees, judicial decisions, official statements; findings of other international human rights bodies, including treaty bodies, Rapporteurs, working groups, the Human Rights Council and other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies; human rights reports issued by governments and regional bodies; reports by civil society organizations and information submitted by those organizations and by individuals; public information widely disseminated in the media; and relevant legal and academic research.

25. The IACHR reiterates that Nicaragua's withdrawal from the Organization does not exempt the State from complying with its international obligations under the international treaties to which it is still a party, in particular those that grant jurisdiction to the organs of the inter-American human rights system.[48] Among others, Nicaragua adopted the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man in 1948; ratified the American Convention on September 25, 1979; and, in accordance with Article 62 thereof, recognized the contentious jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court on February 12, 1991. It is also a party to the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture; the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, or the Convention of Belém do Pará; and the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.

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[44] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Press release "UNESCO statement following Nicaragua's decision to withdraw from the Organization," Paris, May 4, 2025; also El 19 Digital, "Desde nuestra dignidad nacional, nos retiramos de la UNESCO!" May 4, 2025.

[45] El 19 Digital, "Gobierno de Nicaragua comunica decisión irrevocable de retirarse de ACNUR," June 12, 2025.

[46] Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Nicaragua: Persecution Beyond Borders. Exile and Transnational Human Rights Violations, September 23, 2025, p. 30.

[47] Press Release No. 73/25, Seven years after the beginning of the crisis in Nicaragua, IACHR condemns consolidation of the authoritarian regime, Washington, D.C., April 14, 2025.

[48] In this regard, the Inter-American Court has pointed out that a State that withdraws from the OAS remains bound to the full observance of other human rights instruments ratified and not denounced individually and autonomously, which are in force. The Court held that in that sense, although in general, for the ratification of the treaty, the status of OAS member state is subject to conditions, those conditions are not required for the continuity of obligations. Accordingly, the denunciation of the OAS Charter is immaterial where the American Convention on Human Rights is concerned and, therefore, its provisions are binding upon Nicaragua. *Cf. Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. and 45 inmates in eight prisons, regarding Nicaragua. Provisional Measures*. Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of November 22, 2022, whereas clauses 28 to 30.

26. By virtue of the foregoing, the IACHR reaffirms its competence over Nicaragua and the full exercise of its treaty-based and statutory mandates. In 2025, the IACHR published four press releases[49] and held two public hearings on the human rights situation in Nicaragua.[50] In addition, the Inter-American Commission adopted several decisions on precautionary measures to protect persons whose rights were at serious risk of irreparable harm,[51] including individuals who have disappeared or been deprived of their liberty in inhumane conditions. In view of the extremely serious and urgent situation of some beneficiaries, the IACHR lodged several requests for provisional measures or the extension of provisional measures with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights,[52] all of which were granted.[53]

27. The IACHR adopted this report on November 10, 2025. Subsequently, on December 3, 2025, the Commission sent the preliminary draft of the report to the Nicaraguan State in accordance with Articles 59.7 and 59.10 of the IACHR Rules of Procedure. Allowing a month for the receipt of observations from the State, which, however, did not present any information.

II. THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2025

28. In its report *Nicaragua: Concentration of Power and the Undermining of the Rule of Law*, the IACHR noted that, for several years, a gradual process of weakening of democratic institutions has taken place in Nicaragua, resulting in the breakdown of the principle of separation of powers.[54] In 2025, the IACHR warned that the entry into force of the partial reform of the Nicaraguan Constitution consolidated the institutionalization of the subordination of public powers to presidential control, as well as the apparatus of repression that has restricted fundamental freedoms in the civic space, as discussed below.

A. Consolidation of the concentration of power

29. On February 18, 2025, the Law on Partial Reform of the Constitution of the Republic of Nicaragua came into force, amending more than 100 articles of the constitutional text.[55] Among the most significant changes were the adoption of the so-called "direct democracy" model that centralizes power in the office of the president by establishing a co-presidency,[56] the repeal of the principle of separation of powers, and the extension of the presidential term to six years.[57] The reform also eliminated the independence of the

[49] IACHR, Press Release No. 140/25, Nicaragua: IACHR condemns transnational repression, Washington, D.C., July 14, 2025; Press Release No. 137/25, IACHR expresses concern over new violations of the right to nationality in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., July 10, 2025; Press Release No. 73/25, Seven years after the beginning of the crisis in Nicaragua, IACHR condemns consolidation of the authoritarian regime, Washington, D.C., April 14, 2025.

[50] IACHR, Thematic Hearing "Nicaragua: New Patterns of Repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025; Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., United States, March 4, 2025.

[51] IACHR, Press Release No. 189/25, IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of five individuals in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., September 18, 2025; Press Release No. 71/25, IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Douglas Gamaliel Pérez Centeno in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., April 9, 2025; Press Release No. 53/25, IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of José Alejandro Hurtado Díaz in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., March 14, 2025; Press Release No. 42/25, IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Julio Antonio Quintana Carvajal in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., February 20, 2025; Press Release No. 11/25, IACHR grants precautionary measures to Angélica Chavarría in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., January 14, 2025.

[52] IACHR, Press Release No. 3/25, IACHR requests from Inter-American Court an extension of provisional measures in favor of Catalino Leo Cárcamo in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., January 3, 2025.

[53] Cf. I/A Court H.R., Urgent measures issued in favor of Catalino Leo Cárcamo Herrera and the members of his family regarding Nicaragua. Extension of the provisional measures in the Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. regarding Nicaragua. Order of the President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of January 6, 2025.

[54] IACHR, Nicaragua: Concentration of Power and the Undermining of the Rule of Law, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 288, October 25, 2021, para. 174.

[55] Republic of Nicaragua, Law No. 1234 (Law Partially Amending the Political Constitution of the Republic of Nicaragua), adopted on January 30, 2025, published in Official Gazette (La Gaceta) No. 32, February 18, 2025.

[56] Republic of Nicaragua, Law No. 1234 (Law Partially Amending the Political Constitution of the Republic of Nicaragua), adopted on January 30, 2025, published in Official Gazette (La Gaceta) No. 32, February 18, 2025, Art. 2.

[57] Republic of Nicaragua, Law No. 1234 (Law Partially Amending the Political Constitution of the Republic of Nicaragua), adopted on January 30, 2025, published in Official Gazette (La Gaceta) No. 32, February 18, 2025, Arts. 132 ff.

Supreme Electoral Council and the kinship restrictions that had placed limits on who could run for the presidency, thereby strengthening the concentration of power in the Ortega-Murillo family.[58]

30. However, in 2025, the entry into force of the amendments resulted in Rosario Murillo's assumption of the office of co-president, without an election, as well as the de facto extension of the term of office of the President of the Republic. On March 6, 2025, the National Assembly passed a new electoral law in line with the Constitution, further restricting political pluralism and the minimum requirements for participation.[59] According to civil society organizations, the law preserves the discretion that has characterized election management under the Daniel Ortega regime and consolidates it as an institutional practice.[60] Among other provisions, it eliminates the recognition of traditional forms of organization and participation of Indigenous peoples within regional political parties; removes mechanisms of direct democracy—such as plebiscites and referendums—as well as the possibility of challenging decisions of the Supreme Electoral Council; and expands the grounds for cancellation of the legal status of political parties.[61]

31. The constitutional reform also enshrines the subordination of the judiciary to the executive branch.[62] In that regard, on May 13, 2025, the National Assembly passed a new Organic Law of the Judicial System that de facto eliminated the judicial career, abolished public merit- and competition-based examinations as a mechanism for entry and promotion, and granted the National Council of Judicial Administration and Career—under the control of the executive branch—discretionary power to appoint judges and technical personnel of the judicial system.[63] It also authorizes restrictions on the publicity of criminal proceedings at the discretion of the judicial authority and empowers the office of the president of the Republic to appoint the President of the Supreme Court of Justice, replacing the previous internal election system.[64]

32. Lastly, other aspects of concern institutionalized through the constitutional amendments include the subordination of the *Ministerio Público* (Public Prosecution Service) to direct presidential control; the elimination of safeguards limiting military intervention to exceptional cases, thereby allowing the Presidency to deploy the army when it considers that the "stability" of the country is at risk;[65] and the suspension of human rights under states of emergency, without any restrictions.[66] In addition, the amendments legalize politically affiliated security forces and state-aligned vigilante groups by establishing a volunteer

[58] Information received by the IACHR in the framework of the thematic hearing "Nicaragua: Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., United States, March 4, 2025; see also United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, para. 6.

[59] Republic of Nicaragua, Law No. 1242 (Electoral Law), adopted on march 6, 2025, published in Official Gazette (La Gaceta) No. 46, March 10, 2025.

[60] According to a civil society analysis, the new law consists of 162 articles, resulting from the elimination of 45 provisions of the previous version and the incorporation of 22 new ones. Of the 140 articles that maintain consistency with previous legislation, 86 have been modified (61 percent), while the remaining 54 remain substantially unchanged; some contain slight variations in wording that do not alter the meaning of the provision. Urnas Abiertas, El análisis de la nueva ley electoral. Nueva ley, viejo truco: el disfraz legal del autoritarismo, March 2025.

[61] Cf. Urnas Abiertas, El análisis de la nueva ley electoral. Nueva ley, viejo truco: el disfraz legal del autoritarismo, March 2025.

[62] Republic of Nicaragua, Law No. 1234 (Law Partially Amending the Political Constitution of the Republic of Nicaragua), adopted on January 30, 2025, published in Official Gazette (La Gaceta) No. 32, February 18, 2025, Art. 8.

[63] Republic of Nicaragua, Law No. 1244 (Organic Law of the Judicial System of the Republic of Nicaragua), adopted on March 27, 2025, published in Official Gazette (La Gaceta) No. 61, March 31, 2025, Arts. 92 ff.

[64] Republic of Nicaragua, Law No. 1244 (Organic Law of the Judicial System of the Republic of Nicaragua), adopted on March 27, 2025, published in Official Gazette (La Gaceta) No. 61, March 31, 2025, Arts. 23 ff.

[65] Information received by the IACHR in the framework of the thematic hearing "Nicaragua: Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., United States, March 4, 2025; see also United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025.

[66] Information received by the IACHR in the framework of the thematic hearing "Nicaragua: Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., United States, March 4, 2025; see also United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025.

auxiliary police force and patriotic reserve forces made up of civilians.[67] According to GHREN, this set of provisions granted the executive branch "virtually unlimited power over the population."[68]

33. The IACHR reiterates its concern about the scope and purpose of the constitutional amendments, the effect of which is to perpetuate the absolute concentration of power[69] in the Ortega-Murillo family and neutralize any possibility of restoring democratic order.[70] Furthermore, they consolidate a regime incompatible with the democratic principles established in the Inter-American Democratic Charter and that underpin the inter-American human rights system.[71] The Commission emphasizes that democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human dignity are essential conditions for the effective functioning of the inter-American order.

B. Closure of civic space

34. In 2025, the IACHR observed that spaces for civic and democratic engagement remained closed. Since 2018, the country has been a police state, characterized by the executive branch directing control, surveillance, and repression through state security institutions and para-state groups, against anyone perceived as an opponent, even beyond its borders.[72] The persistence of criminalization, in turn, maintains the de facto prohibition of any public meeting that is not called by the government or the ruling party, including religious demonstrations, and of any public or private comment or statement that could be considered critical of the government.[73]

35. In this context, in 2025, the OHCHR noted that the entry into force of the partial reform to the Constitution consolidated de jure and de facto control over institutional mechanisms that enable the persecution of political opponents and dissidents.[74] It also stressed that those regressive legal reforms, together with the lack of accountability for human rights violations, maintain a deterrent effect on civic space and citizen participation.[75]

36. At the thematic hearing, "Nicaragua: Impacts of Constitutional and Legal Reforms on Human Rights", civil society organizations denounced that the new Constitution obliges political parties, media, and religious organizations to subordinate their activities to constitutional principles defined by the regime on the basis of party affinity, thereby institutionalizing ideological control over Nicaraguan society and eliminating any possibility of pluralism.[76] In relation to women's rights, they expressed concern about the repeal of Article 48—which established the State's obligation to eliminate obstacles to equality and to ensure the effective

[67] Information received by the IACHR in the framework of the thematic hearing "Nicaragua: Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., United States, March 4, 2025; see also United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025.

[68] UN, "Nicaragua: UN Group of Experts alarmed by far-reaching change to the Constitution," November 25, 2024.

[69] On the gradual concentration of power in the executive branch, see IACHR, Nicaragua: Concentration of Power and the Undermining of the Rule of Law, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 288, October 25, 2021.

[70] IACHR, Press Release No. 295/24, "Nicaragua: Nicaragua: IACHR condemns constitutional amendments that eliminate democratic checks and balances," Washington, D.C., November 27, 2024.

[71] IACHR, Press Release No. 295/24, "Nicaragua: Nicaragua: IACHR condemns constitutional amendments that eliminate democratic checks and balances," Washington, D.C., November 27, 2024.

[72] IACHR, 2022 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, April 1, 2023, para. 11; and IACHR, Closure of civic space in Nicaragua, OAS/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 212/23, September 23, 2023, para. 14.

[73] I/A Court H.R., Case of Chavarría Morales et al. v. Nicaragua. Provisional Measures, Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of July 1, 2025, para. 24.

[74] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, paras. 78 and 79.

[75] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, paras. 78 and 79.

[76] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., United States, March 4, 2025.

participation of women in political, economic, and social life—as well as the imposition of a single definition of "family" in the constitutional text.[77]

37. In this context of regressive legislative changes, repression of human rights defenders has intensified.[78] Women defenders and feminist activists reported that they continue to face political and institutional violence, in addition to gender-specific repression.[79] According to their accounts, 279 women's rights or feminist organizations were forcibly closed and had their assets confiscated.[80] In Nicaragua, many of these individuals continue to work clandestinely, at great risk to their lives and wellbeing. In particular, the IACHR highlights the case of defender Vilma Núñez de Escorcia, a beneficiary of provisional measures granted by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, who remains in a situation of extreme defenselessness within Nicaraguan territory and of statelessness in situ.[81]

38. In 2025, the IACHR received information on the continued dismantling of civil society organizations, including religious entities, international development cooperation organizations, and groups historically linked to the ruling party.[82] These included: Save the Children International, Fundación Suiza para la Cooperación al Desarrollo, Terre des Hommes Schweiz, Instituto Nacional para la Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos del Consumidor (INDEC), Lutheran World Relief, Fundación Alzheimer de Nicaragua, Asociación Pro-Ayuda a la Niñez Nicaragüense (APAN), Congregación Fraternidad de Hermanas Misioneras Serviam y la Asociación de Iglesias Presbiterianas de Nicaragua (AIPN). According to the available information, in some cases the cancellations were accompanied by the confiscation and unlawful appropriation of assets; in others, the organizations themselves requested their dissolution due to a lack of funds or the clear impossibility of pursuing their objectives, which, under the legislation, would allow them to determine the destination of their assets.[83]

39. In Nicaragua, the Commission has recorded the dissolution of more than 5,600 organizations, out of a total of 7,227 constituted in 2018,[84] amounting to 75 percent of the country's associative fabric. These mass closures have severely limited the ability of civil society actors to participate in political, social, cultural, and religious life, as well as in activities for the promotion and defense of human rights. At the same time, it reflects an intent to consolidate a regime based on control and the suppression of all forms of pluralism.

40. Likewise, the IACHR noted the persistence of severe restrictions on freedom of religion, including the prohibition of religious celebrations in public spaces, the surveillance of masses, and the

[77] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., United States, March 4, 2025.

[78] Cf. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), "La persecución de opositores políticos persiste en Nicaragua y se extiende fuera de sus fronteras," 27 June 2025.

[79] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., United States, March 4, 2025.

[80] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., United States, March 4, 2025.

[81] IACHR, 2024 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 39 rev. 2, March 26, 2025, para. 64.

[82] Cf. BBC News, "El gobierno de Daniel Ortega ordena el cierre de Save the Children y otras 14 ONG, en una nueva arremetida contra la sociedad civil de Nicaragua", January 8, 2025; Nicaragua Investiga, "Ministerio del Interior de Nicaragua Disuelve 10 organismos, entre ellas el Instituto IDEAS", February 24, 2025; Confidencial, "Eliminan el Instituto de Defensa de los Derechos del Consumidor y otras nueve oenegés", March 28, 2025; DW, "Nicaragua: Ortega disuelve la Fundación Suiza y otras 10 ONG", March 29, 2025;; Confidencial, "Eliminan a la sandinista Unión de Periodistas de Nicaragua y otras 14 oenegés", May 26, 2025; 100% Noticias, "Cancela 15 ONG, incluida la oficialista Unión de Periodistas de Nicaragua", May 26, 2025; Artículo 66, "Régimen de Ortega y Murillo cancela 15 ONG, entre ellas una de excombatientes sandinistas", August 21, 2025.

[83] Cf. BBC News, "El gobierno de Daniel Ortega ordena el cierre de Save the Children y otras 14 ONG, en una nueva arremetida contra la sociedad civil de Nicaragua", January 8, 2025; Nicaragua Investiga, "Ministerio del Interior de Nicaragua Disuelve 10 organismos, entre ellas el Instituto IDEAS", February 24, 2025; Confidencial, "Eliminan el Instituto de Defensa de los Derechos del Consumidor y otras nueve oenegés", March 28, 2025; DW, "Nicaragua: Ortega disuelve la Fundación Suiza y otras 10 ONG", March 29, 2025;; Confidencial, "Eliminan a la sandinista Unión de Periodistas de Nicaragua y otras 14 oenegés", May 26, 2025; 100% Noticias, "Cancela 15 ONG, incluida la oficialista Unión de Periodistas de Nicaragua", May 26, 2025; Artículo 66, "Régimen de Ortega y Murillo cancela 15 ONG, entre ellas una de excombatientes sandinistas", August 21, 2025.

[84] *Cf.* State of Nicaragua, Note MPN-OAS-0069-100LAR, Observations of the State of Nicaragua on the preliminary document titled "Chapter IV.B - Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights," December 19, 2019, p. 53.

criminalization of expressions of faith.[85] Among other events, on January 30, 2025, the IACHR learned of the forced closure of the San Luis Gonzaga Seminary, belonging to the Diocese of Matagalpa, and the expulsion of its seminarians.[86] During Holy Week, authorities banned public processions, and priests reported surveillance, controls over the content of sermons, and the obligation to submit photographs to the National Police prior to celebrating liturgical acts.[87] According to available information, since 2018, more than 300 priests, nuns, and other religious personnel of the Catholic Church have been forced to abandon their pastoral work in Nicaragua.[88]

41. In the course of 2025, state repression also extended to Protestant and evangelical congregations.[89] According to public information, Christian and evangelical pastors and leaders who remain in the country are required to confine their sermons exclusively to theological content and to refrain from any social or political criticism.[90] In addition, state agents reportedly make regular visits to their homes and monitor their activities and communications with other churches as a means of intimidation.[91] Since 2022, evangelical pastor and leader Efrén Antonio Vílchez López has been deprived of his liberty in retaliation for his critical stance towards the government.[92] On July 17, 2025, evangelical pastor Rudy Palacios Vargas was arrested without a warrant, together with four family members. They are beneficiaries of precautionary measures granted by the IACHR due to the serious risk to their life and personal integrity as a result of the conditions of detention in which they are being held.[93]

42. In the view of the IACHR these actions are evidence of the persistence of a repressive policy to criminalize religious expression and completely control civic and democratic spaces in Nicaragua, facilitated by subordinating all branches of government to the executive and the installation of a system bereft of checks and balances.

43. The Commission emphasizes that a free, plural and inclusive civic space is an essential condition for the effective functioning of democracy and the rule of law, as well as for the exercise of the freedoms of association, assembly, expression and religion. In particular, freedom of association is an appropriate way for people to participate and act collectively in all matters that interest or affect them. Together with the right of assembly and freedom of expression, they comprise a democratic vehicle for collectively expressing peaceful dissent and criticism of the government.[94]

[85] IACHR, Press Release No. 73/25, Seven years after the beginning of the crisis in Nicaragua, IACHR condemns consolidation of the authoritarian regime, Washington, D.C., April 14, 2025.

[86] Confidencial. "Régimen se toma el Seminario Mayor de Filosofía San Luis Gonzaga en Matagalpa", January 30, 2025; La Prensa, "Régimen sandinista confisca de facto instalaciones del Seminario Mayor de Filosofía San Luis Gonzaga, de Matagalpa", January 21, 2025; Despacho 505, "Denuncian confiscación del Seminario San Luis Gonzaga, de la Diócesis de Matagalpa", January 20, 2025.

[87] El País, "Enviar fotos, moderar sermones y no orar por Nicaragua: así controla Ortega a los sacerdotes", March 21, 2025; Agencia Informativa Católica Argentina (AICA), "Nicaragua vivirá su tercera Semana Santa con procesiones bajo vigilancia", April 11, 2025; Vatican News, "Holy Week celebrations banned in Nicaragua", April 17, 2025.

[88] Of this total, at least 51 priests have been ejected from the country, 80 nuns expelled, 70 people banned from returning to the country, and more than 71 priests gone into exile because of threats of imprisonment or death. Martha Patricia Molina, "Nicaragua: una Iglesia perseguida. VII Entrega", 2025, p. 9.

[89] Cf. CWS, "Total Control: The Erradication of Independent Voices in Nicaragua", 2025.

[90] Puertas Abiertas, "Aumenta la vigilancia sobre líderes cristianos en Nicaragua", May 5, 2025; Puertas Abiertas, "Policía invade iglesia en Nicaragua", April 5, 2025; Cf. CWS, "Total Control: The Erradication of Independent Voices in Nicaragua", 2025.

[91] Puertas Abiertas, "Aumenta la vigilancia sobre líderes cristianos en Nicaragua", May 5, 2025; Puertas Abiertas, "Policía invade iglesia en Nicaragua", April 5, 2025.

[92] Freedom of Religion or Belief in full, "El pastor Efrén Antonio Vílchez López es una de las cientos de voces independientes que el gobierno nicaragüense se apresura a silenciar", April 2, 2025.

[93] IACHR, Resolution 65/2025, Precautionary measure No. 1230-25, Armando José Bermúdez Mojica and others regarding Nicaragua, September 16, 2025; Resolution 100/2024, Precautionary measure No. 1245-24, Carlos Alberto Vanegas Gómez and Efrén Antonio Vílchez López regarding Nicaragua, December 16, 2024.

[94] IACHR, Closure of civic space in Nicaragua, OAS/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 212/23, September 23, 2023, para. 54; OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 212/23, September 23, 2023, para. 233.

C. Arbitrary detention

44. During 2025, the IACHR received information about further arbitrary detentions and the intensification of patterns of repression involving the concealment or forced disappearance of detained individuals. This context is particularly serious in Nicaragua due to the lack of judicial independence, coupled with constitutional reforms that continued to restrict due process guarantees and judicial protection.[95]

45. Civil society organizations informed the IACHR that the constitutional amendments repealed Articles 33 and 34, which enshrined judicial guarantees, including the review of detention within 48 hours, the right to be informed of the charges, and the prohibition against keeping in jail anyone who has served their sentence.[96] Similarly, the express protection against torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, previously recognized in Article 36, was eliminated.[97]

46. At the thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," the IACHR received information about an escalation in repression consisting of mass raids, police operations, and arbitrary detentions in different departments of the country.[98] In particular, civil society organizations indicated that these actions mainly targeted high-profile individuals, including indigenous community leaders and authorities, journalists, religious persons, activists, members of political parties, and former military personnel. They also informed the IACHR of arrests of persons linked to the regime itself or to the official party, which could constitute reprisals for unauthorized political activities.[99]

47. According to the information received, in 2025, arbitrary detentions have been notable for a lack of information regarding the whereabouts of detainees, many of whom have remained missing for prolonged periods.[100] For their part, families have been forced to visit multiple detention centers in search of information, which it was described as "a deliberate act of psychological attrition" and "one of the cruelest expressions of repression in Nicaragua".[101] In this regard, they reported having to cope not only the absence of their loved ones, but also institutional harassment when attempting to obtain information at police stations, prisons, and hospitals. The State's silence regarding the whereabouts of arbitrarily detained persons, together with the pattern of forced disappearances, prolongs uncertainty and anguish and is part of a deliberate strategy to intimidate the population and discourage any form of criticism or denunciation of repression in the country.[102]

48. In this context, on October 3, 2025, the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances reported that everyone who tries to exercise or defend their rights is at risk of

[95] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025; Supplementary information in thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, in IACHR archive, provided by UDJ, Race and Equality, FIDH, and Urnas Abiertas; UDJ, Colectivo Nunca Más and IM-Defensoras, *¿Dónde más busco? Vidas suspendidas, desapariciones forzadas en Nicaragua y la resistencia de quienes les buscan*, August 2025.

[96] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., United States, March 4, 2025.

[97] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., United States, March 4, 2025.

[98] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025; Supplementary information in thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, in IACHR archive, provided by UDJ, Race and Equality, FIDH, and Urnas Abiertas.

[99] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025; Supplementary information in thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, in IACHR archive, provided by UDJ, Race and Equality, FIDH, and Urnas Abiertas.

[100] Mechanism for the Recognition of Political Prisoners, List of political prisoners, September 2025; *Cf.* IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025; Supplementary information in thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, in IACHR archive, provided by UDJ, Race and Equality, FIDH, and Urnas Abiertas.

[101] Mechanism for the Recognition of Political Prisoners, List of political prisoners, September 2025.

[102] Mechanism for the Recognition of Political Prisoners, List of political prisoners, September 2025; *Cf.* IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025; Supplementary information in thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, in IACHR archive, provided by UDJ, Race and Equality, FIDH, and Urnas Abiertas.

being forcibly disappeared in Nicaragua.[103] It noted that these disappearances "appear to be ordered at the highest levels of authority and are designed to instill fear across society, sending the message that anyone who voices a differing opinion may suffer the same fate."[104] In this regard, it called on Nicaraguan authorities to stop arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances, to release all those still detained arbitrarily, and to ensure their families know their fate and whereabouts.[105]

49. The IACHR urges the State of Nicaragua to immediately cease repression, arbitrary detentions, and, in particular, the concealment of detainees as a form of punishment and control. The IACHR recalls that forced disappearances, even when of short duration, constitute one of the most serious human rights violations, as they place victims outside any form of judicial protection and expose them to extreme risk to their life and well-being. The practice violates the right to recognition as a person before the law, the right to personal liberty and security, and the right to be free from torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, in addition to posing a direct threat to the right to life.[106]

D. Persons deprived of liberty

50. The situation of persons arbitrarily deprived of their liberty continues to be of grave concern due to the deplorable conditions of detention, as well as allegations of ill-treatment and torture. According to information from the Mechanism for the Recognition of Political Prisoners, as of August 31, 2025, at least 63 persons reportedly remained arbitrarily deprived of their liberty in the context of the crisis that began on April 18, 2018, of whom 49 were men and 14 women. Of that total, 21 persons were reportedly detained at the National Penitentiary System "La Modelo", two at the "La Esperanza", one was under house arrest, one was hospitalized, and 33 were reported forcibly disappeared.[107]

51. In that regard, civil society organizations informed the IACHR that many of those detained for political reasons were being held in maximum-security cells, under prolonged isolation, without ventilation or natural light, and with restrictions on family visits and access to correspondence or reading materials. They also denounced detention conditions characterized by a lack of beds, mattresses, and blankets; unsanitary conditions and poor ventilation; inadequate food; lack of access to drinking water and medicines; and negligent medical care, among other factors.[108]

52. According to the information and testimonies received by the IACHR, these conditions have had a serious adverse impact on the physical and mental health of detainees, especially those in vulnerable situations. In particular, the IACHR is concerned about the situation of the 22 elderly detainees, many of whom suffer from chronic illnesses and have been in prolonged detention without adequate medical care, which exacerbates the decline in their health and increases the risk to their life and well-being.[109]

53. In this context, the Group of Experts on Human Rights in Nicaragua documented prolonged isolation without objective grounds, as well as confinement in punishment cells for lengthy periods. It also denounced acts amounting to physical torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment during exhaustive interrogations aimed at obtaining information; beatings; sexual violence, (rape, threats of rape, and forced nudity); electric shocks, (including to the genitals); burns; asphyxiation; waterboarding;

[103] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Special Procedures, Press release, "Nicaragua: UN experts say continuing repression of population through enforced disappearances must stop", October 3, 2025.
[104] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Special Procedures, Press release, "Nicaragua: UN experts say continuing repression of population through enforced disappearances must stop", October 3, 2025.
[105] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Special Procedures, Press release, "Nicaragua: UN experts say continuing repression of population through enforced disappearances must stop", October 3, 2025.
[106] IACHR, Press Release No. 176/25, "Enforced disappearance inflicts profound suffering on victims and violates their right not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment", Washington, D.C., August 29, 2025.
[107] Mechanism for the Recognition of Political Prisoners, Report of August 2025, September 2025.
[108] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., July 25, 2025.
[109] Mechanism for the Recognition of Political Prisoners, Report of August 2025, September 2025.

injuries inflicted with penetrating objects; humiliating searches; intimidation with dogs; and the use of common prisoners to monitor and harass political prisoners.[110]

54. In 2025, the Commission granted precautionary measures in favor of 10 individuals arbitrarily deprived of their liberty whose families reported having no information regarding their whereabouts, fate, or state of health. These cases are characterized by an absence of official information on places of detention, lack of access to legal representation and contact with family members, as well as the absence of judicial records to verify the conditions under which the beneficiaries are being held,[111] which could also constitute enforced disappearance under international law.

55. On August 29, 2025, the IACHR learned of the death of Carlos Cardenas Zepeda, age 68, who was arrested on August 18 in retaliation for his work as legal adviser to the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference during the 2018 National Dialogue. Days earlier, on August 25, the death of Mauricio Alonso Petri, age 64, former president of the opposition party Movimiento Renovador Sandinista, was reported; he had been arrested on July 18.[112] In both cases, relatives reported that they were unaware of the individuals' whereabouts and state of health and were notified only upon delivery of the bodies. They further indicated that they did not receive official information regarding the causes of death and were allegedly subjected to intimidation and threats aimed at hindering the conduct of funeral services in accordance with their beliefs.[113]

56. With regard to access to justice for persons deprived of liberty, the Commission received information on persistent violations of the right of access to justice, fair trial guarantees, and the right to a defense, in the context of the complete absence of an impartial and independent justice system. Among the impacts recorded, the following stand out: restrictions on access to case files, refusal to process appeals, harassment and threats towards legal representatives, and the conduct of legal proceedings virtually and without legal counsel present.[114]

57. The Commission urges the regime in Nicaragua to guarantee dignified treatment and access to adequate medical care, sufficient nutritious food, and healthy conditions of detention for all persons in their custody. The IACHR emphasizes that providing adequate medical care to persons deprived of liberty is an obligation that directly stems from the State's duty to guarantee the right to humane treatment set forth in Articles 1.1 and 5 of the American Convention, and Article I of the American Declaration.[115]

58. Lastly, the IACHR renews its call to guarantee the right to life and humane treatment for all persons in its custody, as well as to comply with the precautionary and provisional measures granted by the IACHR and the Inter-American Court. In addition, it urges the State to immediately release everyone who was arbitrarily deprived of their liberty in the context of the crisis that began on April 18, 2018.

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[110] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Report of the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, A/HRC/58/26, 26 May 2025, paras. 43-45.

[111] Press release No. 011/25, IACHR grants precautionary measures to Angélica Chavarría in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., January 10, 2025; Press release No. 042/25, IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Julio Antonio Quintana Carvajal in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., February 20, 2025; Press Release No. 053/25, IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of José Alejandro Hurtado Díaz in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., March 14, 2025; Press Release No. 071/25, IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Douglas Gamaliel Pérez Centeno in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., April 9, 2025; Press Release No. 131/25, IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of Aníbal Martín Rivas Reed in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., June 27, 2025; Press release No. 189/25, IACHR grants precautionary measures in favor of five individuals in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., September 18, 2025.

[112] El País, "Detenciones letales en Nicaragua: otro opositor muere bajo custodia del régimen de Ortega y Murillo", Washington, D.C., September 2, 2025; Confidencial, "Dictadura entrega a segundo preso político fallecido en una semana", San José, August 30, 2025; SwissInfo/Agencia EFE, "Organismos denuncian «exterminio silencioso» de opositores presos en Nicaragua", Washington, D.C., August 31, 2025.

[113] El País, "Detenciones letales en Nicaragua: otro opositor muere bajo custodia del régimen de Ortega y Murillo", Washington, D.C., September 2, 2025; Confidencial, "Dictadura entrega a segundo preso político fallecido en una semana", San José, August 30, 2025; SwissInfo/Agencia EFE, "Organismos denuncian «exterminio silencioso» de opositores presos en Nicaragua", Washington, D.C., August 31, 2025.

[114] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., July 25, 2025; Mechanism for the Recognition of Political Prisoners, List of political prisoners, September 2025.

[115] IACHR, 2022 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 50 rev. 1, April 1, 2023, para. 102.

E. Persons in the context of human mobility and transnational repression [116]

59. During 2025, the Commission received information and testimonies regarding the continued displacement of Nicaraguans to other countries as a result of repression. At the same time, it noted the worsening of a policy of persecution beyond national borders aimed at silencing those considered opponents of the government, despite being in exile. [117]

60. In Nicaragua, the intensification of repression has forced more than 400,000 people to leave the country in order to safeguard their life and personal integrity since the onset of the human rights crisis in 2018. According to the most recent report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, published in June 2025, the number of applicants for international protection increased fivefold between 2020 and 2024, rising from 70,786 to 386,221, primarily in Costa Rica, the United States, Mexico, Spain, and Panama. Seventy percent of that population is located in Costa Rica, which has received more than 380,000 applications for asylum since 2018. [118]

61. In this context, in 2025, the IACHR expressed concern regarding the intensification of repression against Nicaraguans in situations of human mobility, human rights defenders, and opposition members in exile. [119] Its concern relates in particular to acts of persecution, harassment, surveillance, violence, and threats attributed to state agents or persons linked to the regime. According to the information received, since 2018, at least six persons perceived as opponents have been arbitrarily deprived of their lives as part of this cross-border violence. [120] In this regard, the Commission lamented the killing of retired Major Roberto Samcam at his residence in San José, Costa Rica, on June 19, 2025, in an attack by an individual posing as a courier who shot him multiple times. Mr. Samcam had been a refugee since 2018 and was a well-known political analyst and critic of the regime. [121]

62. Likewise, available information indicates that other mechanisms of transnational repression used by the regime include the misuse of INTERPOL red notices—alerts issued to request the location and provisional arrest of individuals for extradition purposes—against persons considered opponents or dissidents in exile; extradition requests against asylum seekers; as well as the manipulation of financial compliance regulations to block access to the banking system for Nicaraguan individuals and organizations abroad. [122]

63. In its report "Nicaragua: Persecution Beyond Borders", the Group of Experts on Human Rights in Nicaragua documented a series of transnational human rights violations, including forced expulsions and entry bans, property confiscations, passport denials, and the alteration or deletion of civil records. [123] According to the Group, the effect of these measures is to "deprive victims of their legal identity, their property and income, their ability to move freely and, ultimately, their recognition as persons before the law." [124] Many of them are rendered *de jure* or *de facto* stateless. In addition, effective access to asylum and other protection

[116] For a definition of transnational repression, see: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Civic Space Brief: What is Transnational Repression?, 2025, p. 1.

[117] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025.

[118] UNHCR, Global Trends 2024, June 12, 2025.

[119] IACHR, Press Release No. 140/25, Nicaragua: IACHR condemns transnational repression, Washington, D.C., July 14, 2025.

[120] Cf. IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025; Supplementary information in thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, in IACHR archive, provided by UDJ, Race and Equality, FIDH, and Urnas Abiertas.

[121] IACHR, Press Release No. 140/25, Nicaragua: IACHR condemns transnational repression, Washington, D.C., July 14, 2025.

[122] Cf. IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025; Supplementary information in thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, in IACHR archive, provided by UDJ, Race and Equality, FIDH, and Urnas Abiertas; Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Nicaragua: Persecution Beyond Borders. Exile and Transnational Human Rights Violations, September 23, 2025, pp. 24 and 25.

[123] Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Nicaragua: Persecution Beyond Borders. Exile and Transnational Human Rights Violations, September 23, 2025, p. 29.

[124] Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Nicaragua: Persecution Beyond Borders. Exile and Transnational Human Rights Violations, September 23, 2025, p. 29.

mechanisms is impaired by the absence of documentation to sustain their situation.[125] The deliberate use of deprivation of nationality and erasure or denial of official documents has imposed what victims themselves describe as "civil death."[126] To that extent, the Group of Experts concluded that these acts constitute serious violations of international human rights law that, in some cases, amount to crimes against humanity.[127]

64. In this context, civil society organizations informed the IACHR that, since January 2024, there have been at least 290 cases of individuals denied entry into the country and an additional 348 acts of migratory repression, including forced displacement and collective expulsions.[128] They also denounced persistent arbitrary refusal to issue or renew identity documents, confiscation of passports, and tightening of immigration controls, particularly as a result of new reforms to the Immigration Law that reportedly empower authorities to deny entry to the country to persons considered a "social risk."[129]

65. The IACHR rejected the adoption of the Law of Partial Reform of Articles 23 and 25 of the Political Constitution in May 2025. This reform establishes that any Nicaraguan who acquires another nationality automatically loses Nicaraguan nationality, with the exception of Central American citizens residing in Nicaragua.[130] In this regard, the Commission warned that the law could give rise to situations in which Nicaraguans who have acquired another nationality—including in cases of exile, forced displacement, or family reunification—automatically lose their Nicaraguan nationality, without due process and without consideration of other potential consequences. This risk is further exacerbated in contexts in which the acquisition of a second nationality is conditional upon retaining the nationality of origin or where, apparently, a second nationality has been acquired without having actually obtained it.[131]

66. Lastly, the IACHR was informed that harassment, acts of intimidation, and reprisals affect the families of exiled persons and persons arbitrarily deprived of their nationality who remain in Nicaragua.[132] Such acts include arbitrary dismissals, confiscation of property, detentions, restrictions on mobility within the country, and constant surveillance, among others. According to the Group of Experts on Human Rights in Nicaragua, this "proxy punishment" is intended to exert pressure on real or perceived opponents in exile, generating a more severe psychological impact on victims and their families—including older persons, children, and adolescents—and contributing to a climate of generalized fear and self-censorship that stifles dissent both within the country and in exile.[133]

67. The IACHR urges the State of Nicaragua to end to repressive policies and practices that generate forced displacement, exile, and statelessness, and to guarantee the full exercise of the rights to nationality, identity, freedom of movement, and return to the country, in accordance with inter-American standards in that regard. It also calls on the State to cease the use of immigration control as a tool of political

[125] Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Nicaragua: Persecution Beyond Borders. Exile and Transnational Human Rights Violations, September 23, 2025, p. 29.
[126] Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Nicaragua: Persecution Beyond Borders. Exile and Transnational Human Rights Violations, September 23, 2025, p. 29.
[127] Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Nicaragua: Persecution Beyond Borders. Exile and Transnational Human Rights Violations, September 23, 2025, pp. 29 and 30.
[128] IACHR, Public hearing on the topic "Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., March 7, 2025.
[129] IACHR, Public hearing on the topic "Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., March 7, 2025.
[130] Cf. National Assembly of Nicaragua, "Aprobamos reforma constitucional que reafirma nuestro nacionalismo y patriotismo", May 16, 2025.
[131] IACHR, Press Release No. 137/25, IACHR expresses concern over new violations of the right to nationality in Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., May 30, 2025.
[132] Cf. IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025; Supplementary information in thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, in IACHR archive, provided by UDJ, Race and Equality, FIDH, and Urnas Abiertas.
[133] Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Nicaragua: Persecution Beyond Borders. Exile and Transnational Human Rights Violations, September 23, 2025, pp. 29 and 30.

persecution, to reinstate documents and civil records that have been annulled, and to ensure that no nationality-related procedure is used for retaliatory purposes.

F. Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent communities

68. In 2025, the IACHR published its report "Violence against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua," in which it concluded that the physical and cultural existence of these peoples is at risk due to violence perpetrated by armed settlers with the aim of dispossessing of their ancestral lands and displacing them.[134] In particular, the IACHR documented a series of armed attacks, physical assaults, kidnappings, targeted killings, sexual violence, threats, harassment, the burning of homes, the destruction of livelihoods, and other acts of violence perpetrated in recent years that remain unpunished.[135]

69. At the same time, in its report, the Commission pointed out that the context of violence on the Caribbean Coast was not an isolated phenomenon, but rather formed part of a set of state actions and omissions that had facilitated the dispossession and exploitation of land and natural resources for the benefit of the ruling regime and private interests.[136] Widespread corruption, the militarization of the region, the free hand accorded to the security forces under the command of the Ortega-Murillo regime, the imposition of parallel structures, and the dismantling of the autonomy regime have facilitated the dispossession of indigenous and Afro-descendent territories.[137]

70. According to Fundación del Río, between 2023 and 2025, the executive branch granted more than 20 mining concessions to Chinese. companies for more than 250,000 hectares, including new open-pit exploitations on the North Caribbean Coast, without fulfilling its duty to carry out free and informed prior consultation.[138] In 2025, the IACHR urged the States of origin of cattle, monoculture, logging, and mining companies to adopt measures to supervise and regulate the activities of their national companies abroad, in line with international standards in that regard.[139]

71. In 2025, the establishment of a regime concentrating absolute power further deepened the extreme vulnerability of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. In particular, the constitutional amendments dismantled the autonomy of the Caribbean Coast that had been enshrined in the Constitution since 1987. At the same time, the Electoral Law passed in March did away with recognition of the traditional forms of organization and political participation of communities through regional parties.[140]

72. Civil society organizations also denounced the persistent criminalization of indigenous leaders and forest rangers on the Caribbean Coast.[141] In 2025, at least 10 indigenous persons continued to be detained in particularly serious conditions, some in situations of enforced disappearance or held in prisons far from their communities, without access to medical care, facing restrictions on communicating in their own

[134] IACHR, Violence against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, para. 205.
[135] IACHR, Violence against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, para. 205.
[136] IACHR, Violence against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, para. 206.
[137] IACHR, Violence against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, para. 206.
[138] Confidencial, "Condenan entrega de concesión minera a empresa china en la Reserva de Biosfera de Río San Juan", July 29, 2025; The IACHR was informed that at least 41 percent of the territory of the Mayagna Sauni As people had been concessioned to foreign mining companies, such as Calibre Mining Corp., of Canadian capital, and Hemco-Nicaragua S.A., of the MINEROS Group, of Colombian origin. According to reports from the Oakland Institute, other prominent mining corporations and investment firms based in the United States and Canada are also the main financiers of foreign gold mining companies in Nicaragua. Those investors include U.S. firms such as BlackRock Inc., Van Eck Associates Corp., Invesco Ltd. and Wexford Capital LP, as well as Canadian mining corporations. IACHR, Violence against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, para. 211.
[139] IACHR, *Violence against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua*, August 25, 2025, para. 216.
[140] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: Impacts of constitutional and legal reforms on human rights," 192nd session, Washington, D.C., United States, March 4, 2025.
[141] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025.

language, and subjected to ill-treatment.[142] On March 27, 2025, the Inter-American Court granted provisional measures in favor of four arbitrarily detained Mayangna forest rangers. In addition, it emphasized that indigenous persons deprived of their liberty were a disproportionately affected group, given their special relationship with their land and community, and that imprisonment amounted to an obstacle to the full exercise of the right to cultural identity and generated suffering beyond that inherent in deprivation of liberty.[143]

73. Under international human rights law, the State of Nicaragua has the obligation to ensure the right of Indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples to live freely in their territories, in accordance with their own worldviews, forms of organization, and culture, as an indispensable condition for their survival as collective subjects of rights. It also has an obligation to allow them to return to their traditional territories in safety and with dignity, which includes the State's duty to take measures to combat impunity for those responsible for such violence.[144]

74. Lastly, the IACHR urges Nicaragua to cease repression against indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. It also reiterates that Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants represent Nicaragua's cultural diversity. Their disappearance or forced assimilation would represent an irreparable fracture in the memory, social fabric, and pluralistic project of the Nicaraguan nation.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

75. The IACHR, through the Office of its Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (REDESCA), received information on the persistence of serious and systematic violations of the economic, social, cultural, and environmental (ESCE) rights of the population. In addition, it has followed up on the impacts of the climate emergency in the context of the closure of civic and democratic space, as discussed below.

A. Climate emergency and a healthy environment

76. The IACHR and the Office of its Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights have observed that, in the context of the global climate emergency, Nicaragua is highly vulnerable to recurrent natural hazards, including droughts, hurricanes, floods and earthquakes.[145] Such extreme weather events not only place people's lives and property at risk, but can also negatively affect progress in poverty reduction and food security. The destruction of agricultural infrastructure and the displacement of communities further aggravate this situation, hindering access to basic resources and limiting development opportunities. Within this framework, the El Niño phenomenon generated record temperatures in 2024, intensifying droughts and reducing rainfall, thereby adversely affecting agricultural output and food security.[146]

77. The Dry Corridor, recognized primarily in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, —with some extensions into Costa Rica and Panama— has historically covered 63 municipalities in Nicaragua, accounting for 37 percent of the national territory. Subsistence and small-scale agriculture constitute the main source of livelihood for a significant portion of this population. In this context, climate variability and the effects

[142] IACHR, Thematic hearing "Nicaragua: New patterns of repression," 193rd session, Washington, D.C., United States, July 25, 2025.

[143] I/A Court H.R., Matter of four members of the Mayangna indigenous people deprived of liberty regarding Nicaragua, Provisional Measures, Order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of March 27, 2025, para. 29.

[144] In particular, the IACHR has recognized that Indigenous peoples have the right to be protected from forced displacement from their territories as a result of violence. If they are displaced because of violence, they have the right to receive special attention from the State. The forced displacement of Indigenous or tribal villages, groups of families, communities, or peoples from their lands as a result of armed violence means that in many cases they lose their sociocultural integrity and their habitat. IACHR, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Rights over Their Ancestral Lands and Natural Resources: Norms and Jurisprudence of the Inter-American Human Rights System, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, December 30, 2009, para. 152.

[145] World Food Programme (WFP), Nicaragua Country Brief, May 2025, 2025.

[146] World Meteorological Organization, State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2024, March 28, 2025.

of climate change pose major challenges to sustainable development. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the sectors most affected by this variability within the Dry Corridor are agriculture and, to a lesser extent, livestock.[147]

78. Below-average and erratic rainfall has negatively affected agricultural production, led to increases in food prices, and deepened food insecurity among households dependent on the agricultural minimum wage.[148] In the Dry Corridor, climate variability has had a particularly severe impact on family farming, causing production losses and compromising the food security of a large number of people.[149] In addition, rising food prices and global economic pressures have driven up the cost of agricultural inputs, placing local food systems at risk. The FAO has documented that many vulnerable households have adopted negative coping strategies, including reducing the quality and quantity of food consumed, as well as withdrawing children from school.[150]

79. Nicaragua's economy and social indicators are highly vulnerable to external shocks and natural phenomena, given their strong dependence on sectors that are sensitive to climatic conditions.[151] According to the Global Risk Index 2024, the country ranks twentieth, reflecting the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and their significant contribution to the persistence of food insecurity.[152] According to an FAO report, approximately 19.6 percent of the country's population suffers from hunger. It is also estimated that 15 percent of children under five years of age experience stunting as a result of inadequate nutrition.[153]

80. The IACHR and the Office of its Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights have observed that deforestation continues to pose a critical challenge in Nicaragua. According to available information, the country has one of the highest deforestation rates in the region, having lost approximately 22 percent of its forest cover over the past two decades.[154] The United Nations has identified Nicaragua as the State with the highest rate of deforestation in Central America.[155] This loss of forest cover is particularly severe in protected areas of high biodiversity, such as the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve, where deforestation has reached 38.7 percent, and the Río San Juan Wildlife Refuge, with a 32 percent loss of forest cover. In this context, information has been received regarding recent reforms to the forestry legal framework, as well as the role of the National Forestry Institute (INAFOR) in the regulation and protection of forests.[156] According to data for 2022, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) reportedly granted 1,007 permits for timber extraction, authorizing the exploitation of 98,389 cubic meters of forest cover during that period.[157]

81. The Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights of the IACHR received information on the situation of the Río San Juan Wildlife Refuge (RVSSJ), one of Nicaragua's most important protected areas, which is facing an unprecedented environmental crisis. According to available data, deforestation, irregular land occupation, and illegal mining have intensified in this area, accelerating the degradation of one of the best-preserved tropical rainforests in Central America, with significant impacts on biodiversity, local ecosystems, and the rights of the communities living in the region.[158] A report by Fundación del Río documents the loss of 13,700 hectares of forest cover in less than a decade,

[147] World Meteorological Organization, State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2024, March 28, 2025.
[148] WFP, El Niño in Latin America and the Caribbean: 2023-2024, 2024.
[149] WFP, Nicaragua Country Brief, May 2025, 2025.
[150] WFP, Nicaragua Country Brief, May 2025, 2025.
[151] WFP, Nicaragua Country Brief, May 2025, 2025.
[152] WFP, Nicaragua Country Brief, May 2025, 2025.
[153] DW, Ortega retira a Nicaragua de la FAO y exige cierre oficinas, February 5, 2025.
[154] El País, La invasión de Indio Maíz cruza la frontera: colonos nicaragüenses asedian Costa Rica, June 1, 2025.
[155] El País, La invasión de Indio Maíz cruza la frontera: colonos nicaragüenses asedian Costa Rica, June 1, 2025.
[156] El País, Los bosques de Nicaragua, en extinción: en 20 años ya no habrá cobertura forestal, según un estudio, June 18, 2025.
[157] El País, Los bosques de Nicaragua, en extinción: en 20 años ya no habrá cobertura forestal, según un estudio, June 18 2025.
[158] Mongabay Latam, Nicaragua: el bosque húmedo mejor conservado de Centroamérica está en riesgo ante el avance de la deforestación, la minería ilegal y las invasiones, July 16, 2025.

equivalent to 32 percent of the refuge's forest.[159] Likewise, a notable increase in irregular occupation within the RVSSJ has been reported, associated with an increase of more than 290 percent in forest fires in a single year and a 55 percent rise in the construction of unauthorized infrastructure, including housing and settlements.[160] The expansion of illegal mining activities and wildlife trafficking has also been reported, which could have severe impacts on ecosystems and compromise the livelihoods of local communities.

B. Business and human rights

82. The Commission and the Office of its Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights have observed that during 2025 Nicaragua faced significant challenges related to business activities and their potential impacts on human rights. According to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in 2024, state authorities reportedly allowed the expansion of extractive activities—including mining, logging, pine resin extraction, and cattle ranching—without the prior consent of the communities affected, despite the impacts on their rights.[161] These practices raise serious concerns owing to their potential effects on the economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights of communities.[162] In this context, the Commission recalls the State's duty to consult and seek the consent of persons whose rights could be affected by programs or projects that pose a risk of significant environmental damage.

83. The Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights has received information regarding the adoption in April 2025 of the Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development Areas Law (Law No. 1248), as well as the issuance of a presidential decree that amends previous provisions and eliminates the public consultation process under the Environmental Assessment System for permits and authorizations related to the use of natural resources.[163]

84. In this context, note has been taken of the concerns expressed by civil society organizations and the academic community, particularly regarding the potential impacts of these reforms on Nicaragua's natural areas and on indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.[164] Among the concerns raised is the possible alteration of the regulatory framework applicable to protected natural areas, which could increase their vulnerability to environmental degradation. It has also been noted that the new legal framework could prioritize "economic development" objectives—particularly through the authorization of activities such as mining, logging, and cattle ranching—over environmental conservation and the protection of the rights of Indigenous and Afro-descendent communities.[165] Similarly, concerns have been raised regarding the lack of clarity surrounding the concept of "rational use" of natural resources, especially in areas such as the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve, which is considered one of the largest and most biodiverse rainforest regions in Latin America.[166]

85. The IACHR and the Office of its Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights have continued to monitor the implementation of so-called "special development regimes," through which certain territories have been granted fiscal, legal, and budgetary autonomy to attract

[159] Fundación del Río, Valoración Ambiental del Refugio de Vida Silvestre Río San Juan, 2025.
[160] Mongabay Latam, Nicaragua: el bosque húmedo mejor conservado de Centroamérica está en riesgo ante el avance de la deforestación, la minería ilegal y las invasiones, July 16, 2025.
[161] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, para. 66.
[162] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, para. 66.
[163] Assembly of Nicaragua, Bill No. 202510106. Law on Environmental Conservation Areas and Sustainable Development, April 30, 2025; La Gaceta - No. 80, May 7, 2025.
[164] Mongabay Latam, Nicaragua legaliza la explotación de recursos en áreas naturales y dejará de consultar a pueblos indígenas, May 20, 2025.
[165] El País, La invasión de Indio Maíz cruza la frontera: colonos nicaragüenses asedian Costa Rica, June 1, 2025.
[166] Mongabay Latam, Nicaragua legaliza la explotación de recursos en áreas naturales y dejará de consultar a pueblos indígenas, May 20, 2025.

foreign investment.[167] In this context, note has been taken of the entry into force of a partial reform of the Constitution, which entailed the amendment of more than 100 of its articles.[168] Among these amendments, information has been received regarding changes to Article 175 on the political and administrative division of the country.[169] These measures have raised concerns about their potential impact on the rights of local communities, as well as on the environmental impacts, particularly in relation to mining concessions granted in territories encompassed by these special development regimes.[170]

86. The IACHR and the Office of its Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights also learned of the approval, on August 5, 2025, of Law No. 1258, known as the Border Territory Law.[171] This legislation defines "border territory" as the area extending from the conventional international boundary up to 15 kilometers into national territory. Article 2 establishes that in order to safeguard sovereignty and national security, territorial integrity, the independence of the country, and peace, the border territory is the property of the Nicaraguan State. Civil society organizations have denounced the potential impacts arising from the adoption of this legislation.[172] According to their analysis, the border strips cover approximately 14,250 square kilometers along the northern border with Honduras and approximately 4,635 square kilometers along the southern border with Costa Rica, encompassing eight indigenous and Afro-descendent territories in the north and one indigenous and Afro-descendent territory in the south.[173] In this regard, the Border Territory Law has raised concerns about its impact on the collective property rights of more than 100 indigenous and Afro-descendent communities situated in these areas. The legislation repealed the 2010 Law on the Legal Regime of Borders, which established the obligation for Nicaragua to respect the international instruments that it had signed and ratified. According to the information received, the new law could potentially lead to militarization, occupation of territories, and appropriation of natural resources belonging to indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples.

87. As noted above, in 2025 the practice of granting mining concessions in indigenous territories without due respect for indigenous peoples' rights to consultation and to free, prior, and informed consent persisted.[174] Illegal gold-mining activities have also been identified in the Rama and Kriol indigenous territory, located in the San Juan River Biosphere Reserve.[175]

88. In this context, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants continue to face obstacles in exercising their rights related to their territories and self-government. They are exposed to increased violence as well as illegal exploitation, and usurpation of land and resources, which seriously threaten their cultural and physical existence.[176] In turn, in the context of the expansion of mining concessions and their impacts, information has been received that, in some cases, affected communities have not received sufficient, clear, and accessible information about the projects and their potential consequences, have been subjected to undue

[167] Concertación Democrática Nicaragüense [@CDNicaraguense], (January 20, 2025), Una vez más, los Ortega Murillo venden la soberanía nacional con los nuevos "Regímenes especiales de Desarrollo", diseñados bajo el [Tweet], Twitter, https://x.com/CDNicaraguense/status/1881364557240656111.

[168] IACHR, Press Release No. 295/24, Nicaragua: IACHR condemns constitutional amendments that eliminates democratic checks and balances, November 27, 2024.

[169] National Assembly of Nicaragua, Aprobamos en primera legislatura reforma parcial a nuestra constitución política, November 22, 2024.

[170] WOLA, Constitutional reform in Nicaragua: Concentration of power and repression of human rights, December 11, 2024; Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights, VIII Annual Report of the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 2024, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. doc. 39/25 v.3, March 13, 2025; El País, Ortega divide a Nicaragua en "regímenes especiales de desarrollo", zonas de legislación opaca creadas con miras a China, December 3, 2024.

[171] Legislación de Nicaragua, Legislación de Nicaragua Normas Jurídicas Ley No. 1258, Ley De Territorio Fronterizo, August 5, 2025.

[172] Confidencial, Régimen se adjudica el control total de los territorios fronterizos de Nicaragua, August 5, 2025.

[173] BBC News, Por qué Nicaragua declaró propiedad estatal todo el territorio a menos de 15 km de sus frontera August 14, 2025.

[174] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, para. 65.

[175] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, para. 66.

[176] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, para. 82.

pressure, and have not had the necessary time to deliberate freely and in an informed manner.[177] It has also been observed that, even when gold mining is legal, in some countries it operates under legal frameworks that allow the circumvention of environmental regulations or is carried out without effective oversight mechanisms, replicating many of the problems identified in connection with illegal mining.[178] The IACHR emphasizes that the overlap of indigenous territories with protected areas, the expansion of extractive activities, and the granting of mining rights in indigenous territories without adequate processes of free, prior, and informed consultation further exacerbate the vulnerability of these communities.

C. Fiscal and economic policies

89. The IACHR and the Office of its Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights have noted that Nicaragua continues to be one of the poorest countries in the region, with a per capita income that remains the second lowest in Latin America, surpassed only by Haiti.[179] In addition, access to basic services, such as electricity, drinking water, and sanitation, continues to be limited, with marked inequalities along territorial and socioeconomic lines. While the Instituto Nacional de Información de Desarrollo (National Development Information Institute) regularly updates statistics on employment and the basic food basket, several key indicators related to education, health, housing, and poverty reduction remain outdated.[180] In addition, there is still a lack of disaggregation of data by gender, ethnicity, age, disability, and region, with the last census having been conducted in 2005.[181] The minimum monthly wage established for 2025 is between 5,950.02 córdobas (approximately US$148) and 13,315.61 córdobas (approximately US$333), depending on the sector.[182] These figures are well below the cost of the basic food basket, reported at 20,394.28 córdobas (about US$555) in January 2025, reflecting the difficulties faced by the population in covering their basic needs.[183]

90. Despite relatively stable economic growth over the past three years, with an average rate of 4 percent according to the World Bank, the Nicaraguan economy remains highly vulnerable to external and climate-related shocks, underscoring the need for fiscal and economic policies grounded in a human rights approach.[184] This requires expanding fiscal space without resorting to regressive measures; moving toward a more progressive tax structure, including higher taxation of income and wealth and a review of inefficient exemptions; strengthening revenue collection in extractive sectors; and introducing environmental fiscal instruments, including disincentives for emissions and deforestation, accompanied by social safeguards. To reduce poverty and inequality, priority should be given to quality social spending in health, education, water, and sanitation; the expansion of social protection systems that are responsive to the life cycle and climate shocks; and the deployment of active employment policies with a gender focus to close gaps and address informality. All cooperation and financing by international financial institutions should incorporate due diligence and human rights–based risk assessments, as well as guarantees of participation and transparency, to avoid adverse impacts, particularly on indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. Debt management and any fiscal consolidation measures must be assessed in line with the principle of non-regression and the obligation to use the maximum available resources.

[177] United Nations, Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General, A/HRC/57/20, 2 September 2024.
[178] Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights, Press release No. RD054, REDESCA Warns About the Impact of Illegal Gold Mining and Urges the Guarantee of a Healthy Environment, March 18, 2025.
[179] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain, Oficina de Información Diplomática, Ficha País, Nicaragua January 2025.
[180] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, para. 55.
[181] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, para. 55.
[182] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, para. 56.
[183] United Nations (UN), Human Rights Council, Human rights situation in Nicaragua, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/92, 15 August 2025, para. 56.
[184] World Bank Group, Overview: Nicaragua, last updated October 7, 2025.

91. The Commission observes that the deterioration of democratic institutionality and the shrinking of civic space in Nicaragua have direct and cumulative effects on economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights: they restrict participation, access to information, and access to justice; undermine university autonomy and academic freedom; and exacerbate the vulnerability of persons deprived of nationality, indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples, women and girls, and environmental defenders.

92. Under the American Convention, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, inter-American standards, and the Escazú Agreement, the State must respect, protect, and ensure these rights through non-regressive measures and the use of the maximum available resources. Withdrawal from or suspension of cooperation with international organizations does not exempt the State from its obligations or justify restrictions on rights; on the contrary, it heightens the need to strengthen safeguards, transparency, and accountability.

IV. SITUATION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

93. The IACHR and the Office of its Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression observed the lack of guarantees for the free and safe exercise of journalism and freedom of expression in Nicaragua. During 2025, a sustained pattern of harassment by state actors against journalists and press workers persisted, including arbitrary arrests and searches,[185] enforced disappearances,[186] forced exile, and arbitrary deprivation of nationality.[187]

94. In addition, a range of threats against the press continues to be documented, including harassment and smear campaigns, monitoring and surveillance practices, stigmatizing statements, the closure of media outlets, the arbitrary blocking of websites—including those of independent media—and other forms of pressure. These developments are taking place in a context further aggravated by the constitutional reform that eliminated democratic checks and balances and imposed additional restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression.

95. Moreover, reports received during the year indicates that reporting such incidents may result in reprisals, which discourages complaints and contributes to the underreporting of violence against the press.[188] This situation places the independent press in Nicaragua in a state of serious vulnerability. Indeed, organizations such as *Reporters Without Borders* and the *Central American Network of Journalists* have described the country as one of the most restrictive environments for the exercise of freedom of expression.[189]

A. Arbitrary detention and forced disappearance of journalists

96. In 2025, the IACHR and the Office of its Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression continued to monitor complaints of forced disappearance and arbitrary detention of journalists in Nicaragua, particularly in late 2024 and early 2025, in the context of a renewed escalation of repression.[190] In this regard, they received reports concerning the arrest on October 27, 2024, of journalist Elsbeth D'Anda, director of the

[185] Periodistas y Comunicadores Independientes de Nicaragua, Basta ya de represión contra el periodismo nicaragüense, July 12, 2025.

[186] OHCHR, Nicaragua: UN experts say continuing repression of population through enforced disappearances must stop, October 3, 2025.

[187] LatAm Journalism Review, For Nicaraguan journalists, exile and statelessness are the cost of reporting amid repression, April 9, 2025.

[188] Confidencial, "Ellos los tienen, pero los niegan": El reclamo de familiares de presos políticos "desaparecidos", September 8, 2025; La Mesa Redonda, Aumentan a 73 las personas presas políticas en Nicaragua, 33 en condición de desaparición forzada, September 1, 2025.

[189] Artículo 66, Nicaragua es el peor país para la libertad de prensa y el periodismo en toda América Latina, May 2, 2025; Agencia EFE, Nicaragua es el país más crítico para la prensa, dice la directora de Red de Periodistas, August 30, 2025.

[190] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Press Release No. R324/25, The SRFOE urges Nicaragua to cease persecution of the press and release all persons arbitrarily detained, December 19, 2024; IACHR, Press release No. 295/24, Nicaragua: IACHR condemns constitutional amendments that eliminates democratic checks and balances, November 27, 2024.

program *La Cobertura*, broadcast by Canal 23.[191] Since that date, no official information has been forthcoming regarding her situation or whereabouts.[192]

97. On November 22, 2024, journalist Catalino Leo Cárcamo Herrera was arrested by state security agents in the department of León.[193] During the arrest, police officers—one of whom reportedly belonged to the Directorate of Special Operations—intercepted him in the street, confiscated his cell phone, and violently forced him in a patrol vehicle. Individuals close to Cárcamo went to the La Paz Centro police station, where he was allegedly taken; however, authorities reportedly refused to provide information on his whereabouts.[194] In the absence of any response regarding his situation, in January 2025 the Commission requested provisional measures from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.[195] On February 4, 2025, the Court granted the measures and ordered the State to report on his whereabouts and proceed with his immediate release.[196] Nevertheless, as of this writing, the journalist's location remains unknown,[197] despite international requests for proof of life.[198]

98. In 2025, the Commission and the Office of its Special Rapporteur also documented the detention of Irving Guerrero Montes, a retired journalist and former correspondent for Radio Corporación and Canal 23. According to public information, Guerrero was arrested on February 9, 2025, in the city of León by agents of the National Police, on charges of illegal possession of weapons.[199] Various reports suggest that the arrest may have been carried out in retaliation for his journalistic activities.[200] According to Reporters Without Borders, after three days in detention, the journalist was put under house arrest.[201]

99. On the other hand, the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression continued to follow up on the case of journalist Fabiola Tercero Castro, who was reported missing on July 12, 2024, following a police raid carried out without a court order.[202] In 2025, fellow journalists and civil society organizations working in defense of freedom of expression in Nicaragua pointed out that this case was not an isolated incident, but rather part of a systematic pattern of repression and criminalization of journalism. In addition, they urged the State provide information on her whereabouts.[203]

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[191] According to the information available, at the time of her arrest, at least 20 police agents burst into her residence without a warrant, confiscated her electronic equipment and transferred her to the Judicial Assistance Directorate, known as El Chipote. Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Elsbeth D'Anda; LatAm Journalism Review, Journalist arrested in Nicaragua after reporting on price hikes, November 20, 2024; IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Report, 2024 Annual Report, OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 39, March 3, 2025, para. 924.

[192] Colectivo Nicaragua Nunca Más, Periodismo en resistencia: voces que enfrentan a la dictadura, September 8; Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Lejos de rendirse: el periodismo independiente en Nicaragua resiste con convicción frente a la represión y nuevos desafíos, January-March.

[193] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Press release No. R324/25, The SRFOE urges Nicaragua to cease persecution of the press and release all persons arbitrarily detained, December 19, 2024.

[194] I/A Court H.R.,, Adoption of Urgent Measures Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. regarding Nicaragua, January 6, 2025; I/A Court H.R., Extension of Provisional Measures, Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. regarding Nicaragua, February 4, 2025.

[195] IACHR, Press release No. 003/25, IACHR requests from Inter-American Court an extension of provisional measures in favor of Catalino Leo Cárcamo in Nicaragua, January 3, 2025.

[196] I/A Court H.R.,, Adoption of Urgent Measures Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. regarding Nicaragua, January 6, 2025; I/A Court H.R., Extension of Provisional Measures, Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. regarding Nicaragua, February 4, 2025.

[197] Swissinfo.ch, El periodismo nicaragüense vive entre la apatridia y la cárcel, denuncia ONG humanitaria, September 8, 2025.

[198] Infobae, Estados Unidos le exigió a Nicaragua una prueba de vida del periodista Leo Cárcamo, September 19, 2025; Nicaragua Investiga, EEUU exige pruebas de vida del periodista Leo Cárcamo y acusa al régimen de Ortega-Murillo, September 19, 2025.

[199] Alertas Libertad de Prensa Nicaragua, [@AlertasLP_Nic], (February 9, 2025), Policía de León detiene a excorresponsal de Radio Corporación, X, https://x.com/AlertasLP_Nic/status/1888766995056730330.

[200] 100% Noticias, Otro periodista detenido en Nicaragua: acusan a Irving Guerrero de tenencia ilegal de armas, February 10, 2025; LatAm Journalism Review, Seven months after her disappearance, colleagues of journalist Fabiola Tercero demand information on her whereabouts, February 12, 2025.

[201] Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Nicaragua celebrates National Journalist Day yet its press freedom is nearly extinct, February 28, 2025.

[202] RSF, Journalist disappears amid Ortega's siege of what is left of independent journalism in Nicaragua, July 29, 2024; Artículo 19, Se cumplen 17 días de la desaparición forzada de la periodista y activista nicaragüense Fabiola Tercero, July 30, 2024.

[203] LatAm Journalism Review, Seven months after her disappearance, colleagues of journalist Fabiola Tercero demand information on her whereabouts, February 12, 2025; Infobae, Activistas nicaragüenses en el exilio exigieron información sobre la periodista Fabiola Tercero, desaparecida hace un año por el régimen de Ortega, July 12, 2025.

100. The IACHR recalls that the State of Nicaragua has the obligation to respect and ensure the full exercise of freedom of expression, including independent and critical journalism, which is essential for democracy and the rule of law. This obligation implies, on the one hand, that the authorities refrain from unduly interfering with the right to freedom of expression, thereby allowing journalists and the media to fulfill their watchdog function in a democratic society; and, on the other hand, that the State create the necessary conditions for the press to be able to carry out its work freely, independently, and safely.[204] Consequently, an environment marked by constant reprisals, including the criminalization of the practice of journalism, constitutes a serious violation of the right to freedom of expression, not only of those who are directly affected, but also of the right of citizens to seek and receive information.[205]

101. The Commission renews its urgent call to the State of Nicaragua to immediately release all persons arbitrarily detained—including journalists and broadcasters—for the exercise of their work, and to provide information on their location and situation.

B. Pressure, threats, and intimidation towards journalists and media outlets

102. In 2025, the IACHR and the Office of its Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression heard complaints about the persecution of journalists and press workers in Nicaragua. According to the information received, journalists who are critical of the government and those who attempt to report on the political and social situation in the country are the target of threats, surveillance, and acts of harassment. In some cases, these attacks force journalists to remain in their homes for fear of being assaulted.[206] According to public reports, this climate of repression has generated an atmosphere of social isolation, as family members, friends, and close associates tend to distance themselves for fear of also becoming targets of reprisals.[207]

103. In this same context of increasing repression, there have also been reports of the organization of harassment and smear campaigns against journalists on social networks, including the use of *netcenters* (troll farms) and the active participation of state authorities.[208] In addition, the Commission received serious allegations of systematic pressure put on journalists to collaborate with the government, either by becoming informants or snitches, or by joining official media outlets.[209] This pressure reportedly included requests for information about journalists in exile, accompanied by threats of expulsion from the country in the event of refusal.[210] This strategy reportedly involves various state bodies and "paramilitary" groups, presenting journalists with a choice between constant harassment and surveillance or allowing direct interference in their journalism.[211]

104. Likewise, the IACHR and the Office of its Special Rapporteur received information on multiple accounts of stigmatization of Nicaraguan journalists, including those in exile. These include branding journalists as "coup plotters," "traitors," "sellouts," "opponents," and "stateless persons,"[212] as well as "worms,"

[204] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, The Inter-American Legal Framework regarding the Right to Freedom of Expression, OEA/Ser.L/V/II CIDH/RELE/INF.29/25, 2025, para. 8.
[205] UN, OSCE, IACHR/Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and Elections in the Digital Age April 30, 2020; IACHR, 2024 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B, Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 39 rev. 2, March 26, 2025, para. 123.
[206] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Gobierno de Nicaragua intensifica el hostigamiento y las represalias contra familiares de periodistas exiliados, abril-junio de 2025, p. 6.
[207] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Lejos de rendirse: el periodismo independiente en Nicaragua resiste con convicción frente a la represión y nuevos desafíos, enero-marzo de 2025, p. 10.
[208] Periodistas y Comunicadores Independientes de Nicaragua, Violencia digital y criminalización amenazan la libertad de prensa en Guatemala, May 23, 2025.
[209] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Gobierno Ortega-Murillo intenta reclutar a periodistas independientes como "orejas y soplones" del Estado, julio-septiembre de 2025, p. 6.
[210] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Gobierno Ortega-Murillo intenta reclutar a periodistas independientes como "orejas y soplones" del Estado, julio-septiembre de 2025, p. 7.
[211] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Gobierno Ortega-Murillo intenta reclutar a periodistas independientes como "orejas y soplones" del Estado, julio-septiembre de 2025, p. 6.
[212] El 19 Digital, El 19 Digital cumplirá 17 años: Informando la verdad, verdadera, August 4, 2025.

"information mercenaries," and "media terrorists."[213] Additionally, there have been statements by public officials describing journalists as "buffoons," "diabolical," and "dirty,"[214] and allusions to critical or opposition media with such language as "apocalyptic beast" and "100 percent lies."[215]

105. In this regard, the IACHR warns that stigmatizing statements encourage animosity and violence against communicators, as well as legitimize acts of violence suffered, thereby contributing to the repression of expression observed in Nicaragua. Furthermore, the Commission emphasizes that the State has the obligation to guarantee and preserve an environment conducive to the effective exercise of freedom of expression.[216] These duties imply the responsibility to exercise due care in public debate, particularly by avoiding expressions that could lead to human rights violations or expose individuals to such violations.[217] Consequently, those subject to these obligations must refrain from making statements that encourage violence or hatred,[218] as well as from statements that compromise the safety of journalists and human rights defenders.[219]

106. In addition to these facts, there is a continuation of systematic obstacles to journalistic coverage of issues of high public interest in Nicaragua, together with the imposition of restrictive administrative measures aimed at silencing critical voices and consolidating the government's information monopoly. For instance, the closure of Radio Centro 870 AM was announced; the station was regarded as an important platform for the discussion of community issues.[220]

107. Between 8 and 11 of Nicaragua's 15 departments now have no independent media,[221] and approximately 85% of those media outlets have terminated their operations.[222] In this context, independent journalists are being systematically prevented from covering State institutions.[223] In this regard, the F*undación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia (FLED)* has reported that even media outlets that toe the government line face restrictions in the exercise of their work and are forced to rebroadcast newscasts from the pro-government Radio Ya, limiting the broadcasting of local content.[224]

108. Likewise, on March 13, 2025, media outlets critical of the government, such as *La Prensa, 100% Noticias,* and *Onda Local*, reportedly lost the rights to use domain names with the .ni suffix, which is administered by the Nicaraguan State.[225] The closure of media outlets in an already restrictive environment

[213] El 19 Digital, De mercenarios a mendigos mercenarios: el triste final de los sicarios digitales, August 13, 2025.
[214] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Gobierno Ortega-Murillo intenta reclutar a periodistas independientes como "orejas y soplones" del Estado, julio-septiembre de 2025, p. 15.
[215] El 19 Digital, Editorial de Detalles del Momento: "Nacer hoy morir mañana", September 12, 2025.
[216] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, The Inter-American Legal Framework regarding the Right to Freedom of Expression, 2025 Update, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, CIDH/RELE/INF.29/25, 2025, para. 11.
[217] IACHR, Press Release No. 26/21, IACHR Notes Inflection Point for Freedom of Expression on the Internet, Calls for Dialogue in the Region, February 5, 2021.
[218] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, The Inter-American Legal Framework regarding the Right to Freedom of Expression, 2025 Update, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, CIDH/RELE/INF.29/25, 2025, para. 14.
[219] I/A Court H.R., Case of Ríos v. Venezuela, Merits, Reparations and Costs, Judgment of January 28, 2009, Series C No. 194, para. 145; I/A Court H.R., Case of Perozo v. Venezuela, Merits, Reparations and Costs, Judgment of January 28, 2009, Series C No. 195, para. 157.
[220] Radio Camoapa, Radio Centro 870 AM cierra sus puertas tras 33 años de historia en Juigalpa, June 30, 2025.
[221] Infobae, Una ONG advirtió que Nicaragua es el país con más obstáculos para el periodismo en Centroamérica por culpa del régimen de Ortega, August 30, 2025; Nicaragua Investiga, Mayoría de zonas geográficas de Nicaragua no cuentan con periodistas independientes, October 7, 2024; Divergentes, Periodistas en extinción: aumentan los "desiertos de noticias" en diez departamentos de Nicaragua, January 13, 2025; El País, Periodistas en vías de extinción en Nicaragua, January 13, 2025; Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Gobierno Ortega-Murillo intenta reclutar a periodistas independientes como "orejas y soplones" del Estado, julio-septiembre de 2025, p. 4.
[222] CB24, Crisis sin precedentes en el periodismo nicaragüense: 61 medios cerrados, September 29, 2025.
[223] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Lejos de rendirse: el periodismo independiente en Nicaragua resiste con convicción frente a la represión y nuevos desafíos, January-March de 2025, p. 6.
[224] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Lejos de rendirse: el periodismo independiente en Nicaragua resiste con convicción frente a la represión y nuevos desafíos, January-March de 2025, p. 8.
[225] Deutsche Welle, Medios críticos de Nicaragua denuncian bloqueo de sitios web, March 15, 2025; Nicaragua Investiga, Ortega ordena bloquear medios digitales dentro de Nicaragua, March 14, 2025; IACHR, Press release No. 073/25, Seven years after the beginning of the crisis in Nicaragua, IACHR condemns consolidation of the authoritarian regime, April 14, 2025.

for freedom of expression represents a serious setback for the circulation of free, pluralistic, and diverse information.[226]

109. The virtual disappearance of independent journalism in large parts of the country is particularly serious, as it not only entails a breach of the State's obligations to promote and protect media pluralism, but also prevents broad sectors of the population from accessing information on events that directly affect them.

110. In the case of Nicaragua, the IACHR reaffirms the crucial importance of community media in providing a visibility platform for the culture and the problems of historically marginalized and socially excluded groups. It also reiterates the State's duty to ensure respect for media independence and to refrain from imposing prior censorship through any State body, as well as any type of prior conditioning that could amount to censorship of information content.[227]

111. The Office of the Special Rapporteur notes that recurrent threats and the economic difficulties associated with the practice of critical journalism are forcing journalists to go into exile, abandon the profession, or seek alternative livelihoods outside of journalism.[228] According to figures released in October, at least 300 journalists are currently in exile.[229]

112. Likewise, the Commission and the Office of its Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression have received troubling information indicating that journalists have been subjected to measures resulting in the arbitrary loss of Nicaraguan nationality, or face deliberate obstacles in obtaining or renewing identification documents.[230] These practices give rise to situations of de facto statelessness, exposing the persons concerned to serious situations of legal and social vulnerability.[231] In turn, journalists and broadcasters face restrictions on entry into Nicaragua, even when they have Nicaraguan nationality.[232]

113. In exile, multiple testimonies report the impossibility of continuing journalistic activities due to the lack of stable income, difficulties in rejoining the labor market,[233] and bureaucratic obstacles related to the absence of documentation.[234] This situation has a negative impact on the ability of people in exile to access employment, education, housing, and other rights and services in host states.[235]

114. The IACHR has held that forced exile constitutes a violation of the right to freedom of expression in at least four dimensions: (i) it directly affects the individual dimension of the right by preventing journalists from practicing their profession of providing information in conditions of safety. As established in inter-American jurisprudence, journalism can only be practiced freely when those who engage in it are not the object of threats, physical, psychological, or moral aggression, or other acts of harassment; (ii) it violates the social dimension of the right by acting as a silencing mechanism designed to hinder the flow of information to society; (iii) it generates an inhibiting or chilling effect, encouraging self-censorship among journalists, media

[226] Noticias Bluefields, Radio Centro 870 AM cierra sus transmisiones tras 33 años al aire, July 1, 2025.
[227] I/A Court H.R., Case of the Maya Kaqchikel Indigenous Peoples of Sumpango et al. v. Guatemala. Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of October 6, 2021, Series C No. 440, para. 117.
[228] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Gobierno de Nicaragua intensifica el hostigamiento y las represalias contra familiares de periodistas exiliados, April-June de 2025, p. 6.
[229] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Gobierno Ortega-Murillo intenta reclutar a periodistas independientes como "orejas y soplones" del Estado, July-September de 2025, p. 5.
[230] Deutsche Welle, Periodistas nicaragüenses, la apatridia como castigo, June 26, 2025.
[231] Infobae, Denuncian que el periodismo nicaragüense vive entre la apatridia y la cárcel, September 9, 2025; Colectivo Nicaragua Nunca Más, Periodismo en resistencia: voces que enfrentan a la dictadura, September 8, 2025.
[232] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Gobierno de Nicaragua intensifica el hostigamiento y las represalias contra familiares de periodistas exiliados, April-June de 2025, p. 3.
[233] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Gobierno de Nicaragua intensifica el hostigamiento y las represalias contra familiares de periodistas exiliados, April-June de 2025, p. 10.
[234] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Gobierno Ortega-Murillo intenta reclutar a periodistas independientes como "orejas y soplones" del Estado, July-September de 2025, p. 8.
[235] Fundación por la Libertad de Expresión y Democracia, Gobierno de Nicaragua intensifica el hostigamiento y las represalias contra familiares de periodistas exiliados, April-June de 2025, p. 8.

outlets, and other social actors; and (iv) it undermines informational pluralism. The free circulation of ideas and news is only conceivable within a plurality of information sources and when there is respect for the media. This plurality is a key condition for the effective exercise of freedom of expression, and the State has the obligation to guarantee it.[236]

115. The impact on information pluralism can be observed at different levels: exile limits the diversity of voices and perspectives in public debate, it creates a significant gap in research and dissemination of quality information, and it facilitates the predominance of official narratives without effective counterweight. This scenario creates fertile ground for government propaganda, the normalization of authoritarian discourses, and the spread of fake news, while hindering access to accurate and verified information on matters of public interest. In some cases, it can lead to the creation of "silenced zones" or "news deserts," where the absence of independent media and information sources impedes the effective exercise of the right to freedom of expression.[237]

116. The Commission reaffirms that States have the obligation to adopt specific measures to identify and counter threats that may lead to the forced exile of journalists, and must refrain from acts that increase the risk of forced displacement of journalists, in accordance with their international human rights obligations.[238] In the case of Nicaragua, the IACHR emphasizes the importance of not only refraining from direct actions against journalists but also preventing the creation of adverse environments for freedom of expression.

117. Lastly, the IACHR notes that the facts described above form part of the recent constitutional reform that consolidates repressive patterns in Nicaragua.[239] In this context, it expresses deep concern at the elimination of the explicit constitutional prohibition of media censorship. The reform establishes that the State must supervise the media to prevent them from being influenced by foreign interests and to prevent the dissemination of "false news that threaten the people." It also imposes restrictions on the political rights of those who incur offenses against "peace and security."[240]

118. The IACHR recalls that States have the obligation to prohibit prior censorship and any type of pressure on the dissemination of expression, as established in Principle 5 of the IACHR Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression.[241] In this regard, the pressures imposed by the State on the work of social communicators constitute an obstruction to the full functioning of democracy. The changes introduced by the constitutional reform impose restrictions on freedom of expression that are incompatible with the American Convention and with the international commitments assumed by the State.

V. CONCLUSIONS

119. In 2025, the IACHR observed the consolidation of an authoritarian regime in Nicaragua, formalized by the entry into force of a partial reform of the Political Constitution and other regressive norms that institutionalized the subordination of the legislative, judicial, and electoral branches to presidential control. These measures definitively suppressed the separation of powers and deepened the dismantling of the rule of law, with the aim of closing any avenue for democratic restoration.

[236] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Exile of Journalists and Freedom of Expression, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, CIDH/RELE/INF.30/25, April 15, 2025, paras. 144-147.
[237] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Exile of Journalists and Freedom of Expression, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, CIDH/RELE/INF.30/25, April 15, 2025, para. 148.
[238] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Exile of Journalists and Freedom of Expression, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, CIDH/RELE/INF.30/25, April 15, 2025, para. 133.
[239] IACHR, 2024 Annual Report, Chapter IV.B Nicaragua, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 39 rev. 2, March 26, 2025, paras. 144 et seq.; Washington Office on Latin America, Constitutional reform in Nicaragua: Concentration of power and repression of human rights, December 11, 2024; Confidencial, Reforma constitucional anula las libertades individuales y públicas de los nicaragüenses, November 28, 2024.
[240] Confidencial, Reforma constitucional anula las libertades individuales y públicas de los nicaragüenses, November 28, 2024.
[241] IACHR, Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, principle 5.

120. The Commission found that civic and democratic space remains completely closed. In 2025, the criminalization of any form of social organization, public expression, or religious manifestation persisted through the closure of civil society organizations, the persecution of religious communities, and the criminalization of indigenous authorities, human rights defenders, activists, members of political parties, former military personnel, and even individuals linked to the regime itself or to the official party.

121. The IACHR is also concerned about the persistence of arbitrary detention and the deplorable conditions of detention documented in this report, characterized by ill-treatment, torture, prolonged isolation, and, in many cases, the concealment of victims' whereabouts for extended periods. In 2025, the deaths that occurred in state custody reflected an aggravation of state violence and the complete absence of due fair trial and judicial protection. For the IACHR, these facts, together with the patterns of violations of the rights to life and humane treatment recorded, constitute serious human rights violations under international law.

122. The IACHR noted the intensification of transnational repression by the Nicaraguan regime against exiled persons, their families, and civil society organizations that continue their work from exile. In 2025, the IACHR was informed of acts of harassment, threats, and assault against Nicaraguans in other countries, as well as the improper use of international cooperation mechanisms to persecute and silence dissidents beyond national territory. As noted by the Group of Experts on Human Rights in Nicaragua, these practices constitute a policy of transnational persecution that is incompatible with international human rights law, as well as posing serious challenges for the States concerned and for the international community as a whole.[242]

123. With regard to the situation of the Indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples of the Caribbean Coast, the IACHR noted that the constitutional and legal reforms in force in 2025 dismantled the autonomy regime established in 1987 and consolidated the concentration of executive power over their territories and forms of government. In turn, in its report *Violence against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua* published that year, the Commission documented a serious context of armed attacks, selective assassinations, and arrests of community leaders, as well as the granting of extractive concessions without prior, free, and informed consultation, resulting in their dispossession and displacement from their territories. In this regard, the IACHR reiterates that this set of facts pose a serious threat to the physical and cultural survival of the indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples of Nicaragua.

124. The IACHR took note of persistent violations of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights, exacerbated by the country's high vulnerability to climate impacts. Likewise, in 2025, constitutional amendments and the adoption of new laws further weakened guarantees for economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights, particularly through the elimination of environmental safeguards and participation and consultation mechanisms, thereby intensifying a climate conducive to continued dispossession and violation of collective ownership rights.

125. Lastly, in 2025, the situation of freedom of expression and the practice of independent journalism remained critical. The IACHR noted the ongoing repression of the press through arbitrary detention, reports of forced disappearance, and other acts, including overseas. In turn, the stigmatization of journalists, censorship in the digital space, and the elimination of constitutional guarantees for the protection of freedom of expression are yet further manifestations of the consolidation of an absolutist authoritarian regime in Nicaragua.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

126. Based on the foregoing analysis, the Inter-American Commission renews its call for the State to comply with and implement the recommendations issued in the Final Report of its working visit to the

[242] Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, Nicaragua: Persecution Beyond Borders. Exile and Transnational Human Rights Violations, September 23, 2025, p. 29.

country, the recommendations issued by the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI), and the recommendations issued under Chapter IV.B of the annual reports published since 2018, all of which are still in a state of non-compliance. including the following:

General recommendations

1. Adopt the necessary measures to overcome the human rights crisis by reestablishing democratic institutions, the full validity of the Rule of Law and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression.

2. End the impunity for the human rights violations committed since 2018.

3. Release all people that have been arbitrarily detained in the context of the crisis that began in 2018.

4. Restore nationality to all Nicaraguan persons affected by the arbitrary deprivation of their nationality since 2018.

5. Initiate processes that promote truth, justice and reparations for the victims of the serious crisis that the country is experiencing.

6. Effectively comply with the precautionary measures granted by the Inter-American Commission and the provisional measures of the Inter-American Court in favor of persons deprived of liberty, older persons, indigenous peoples, human rights defenders, women, and other groups at serious risk.

Civic and democratic space

7. Rescind all decrees and acts of authority relating to the cancellation of the legal status of civil society organizations that have been approved without guaranteeing due process.

8. Return to members of the organizations the facilities and all confiscated goods, in the same conditions in which they were found at the time of the search of the organization's facilities, where appropriate.

9. Immediately cease judicial persecution, repression, stigmatization, attacks, threats, and intimidation against civil society actors, in both the physical and digital environment, including journalists, human rights defenders, activists, artists, academics, political opponents, and members of religious communities.

10. Cease persecution against the Catholic Church and other faiths, as well as arbitrary arrests, confiscations, and those acts that limit the religious freedom of the population.

Persons deprived of liberty

11. Guarantee due process of law for detained persons. In particular, immediately inform the detainees, their family members and representatives of the grounds and reasons for the detention. Likewise, the right to a fair trial must be ensured, so that defendants have regular contact with their legal representatives and are involved in the preparation for their respective hearings. In addition, it is essential for legal representatives to have unrestricted access to the detainees.

12. Guarantee the dignified treatment of persons in the custody of the State pursuant to international standards. In particular, ensure that they receive medical attention appropriate to their specific health conditions, are given sufficient food with high nutritional value, and are housed in good sanitary conditions.

13. Use solitary confinement in maximum security centers on an exceptional basis and, using individualized risk assessment, implement it for the shortest amount of time possible and as a last resort. Any solitary confinement orders must be approved by a competent authority and be subject to independent review.

Human mobility and transnational repression

14. Take immediate steps to end policies and practices that generate forced displacement, exile, and statelessness, ensuring full exercise of the rights to nationality, identity, freedom of movement, and return to the country.

15. Restore annulled or confiscated documentation, civil records, and property rights, an ensure that any procedures related to nationality or immigration status are conducted in accordance with due process, with objective criteria, transparency, independent judicial oversight, and effective remedies.

16. Review and repeal constitutional and legal reforms that are incompatible with the State's international human rights obligations, particularly those related to the automatic loss of nationality, immigration control, and the use of the concept of "social risk" to restrict fundamental rights.

Indigenous and Afro-descendent communities

17. Guarantee the right of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples to territory as the first step to safeguard their basic rights. In particular, guarantee the complete and effective demarcation, titling and clearance of their territories in accordance with international standards and the recommendations issued by the bodies of the Inter-American system.

18. Adopt all legislative measures to ensure the effective exercise of the right to prior, free and informed consultation and consent of the indigenous communities, pursuant to international standards, particularly regarding development projects or for the exploitation of natural resources that could affect their rights.

19. Guarantee the right of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities and their defenders to a life without violence, in the face of threats, aggression and other acts of intimidation by third parties or companies in their territories.

20. Adopt measures to guarantee the right of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples to exercise self-determination in a practical and effective manner, in accordance with international standards.

Economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights

21. Adopt policies aimed at guaranteeing the effective enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights without discrimination and under conditions of equality, with an intersectional and intercultural approach, and in accordance with the principles of non-regression and the use of the maximum available resources.

22. Ensure, in particular, effective access to education, health, work, drinking water, and a healthy environment. Implement economic and fiscal policies with a human rights-based and progressive approach (including the review of inefficient exemptions, improved taxation of income and wealth, and the capture of extractive rents), prioritize social spending, and develop climate-sensitive social protection. In public financing, require safeguards and human rights due diligence from international financial institutions.

23. End all forms of harassment and persecution of higher education faculty and academic authorities. Guarantee academic freedom and protect university autonomy; review, investigate, and repeal or modify any regulation or practice that undermines it; restore legal personality and confiscated assets; and ensure access to academic records. Avoid indoctrination and promote participatory, inclusive, and diverse learning environments.

24. Refrain from harassing or persecuting public servants for political reasons; respect their fundamental freedoms and the right to work under safe and dignified conditions; avoid arbitrary dismissals and reprisals; and guarantee due process and a merit-based career system.

25. Guarantee access to participation, information, and justice in environmental matters, enabling organizations and communities to defend the environment without fear of reprisals. In particular, restore and strengthen public consultation in environmental impact assessment; publish open registries of concessions, EIAs and monitoring; and operate accessible grievance and remedy mechanisms, in line with inter-American standards and resolution 3/2021.

Freedom of expression

26. Immediately cease all judicial persecution, repression, stigmatization, attacks, threats and intimidation against individuals and groups who exercise their right to freedom of expression, both on and offline, including journalists, human rights defenders, activists, artists, members of the academia, political opponents and members of religious communities.

27. Refrain from exerting pressure on or interfering with the media and cable operators, both in terms of news content and editorial policy, as well as operation.

28. Refrain from arbitrarily hindering—even by indirect means—journalistic activities, including those of the local press and international correspondents. In particular, restore authorization for the international press to operate in Nicaragua, as applicable, wherever they have been arbitrarily restricted.

29. Bring domestic legislation into line with international human rights standards. In particular, repeal all laws that are contrary to the principles and standards on freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, including the Special Cybercrimes Act, the Law on Foreign Agents, the Law of Defense of the Rights of the People to Independence, Sovereignty and Self-Determination for Peace, and the Law on Regulation and Control of Non-Profit Organizations.

30. Refrain from taking measures that impede Nicaraguans' entry into or departure from the country for reasons related to the exercise of the right to freedom of expression, such as the withholding of passports or the denial of any type of migration documentation.

IV.b

Venezuela

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CHAPTER IV.B

VENEZUELA[1]

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In compliance with its conventional and statutory mandate, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (hereinafter the Commission, the IACHR, or the Inter-American Commission) has followed the human rights situation in Venezuela with special attention. Every year for the past two decades, Venezuela has been included in Chapter IV.B of the annual report due to the grave institutional and human rights situation there. From 2005 to 2016, the IACHR documented the progressive concentration of power in the executive branch. In 2017, it warned of an institutional crisis derived from the executive branch's interference in the other branches of government, and in 2019, it concluded that this crisis had eroded the rule of law.

2. In 2025, a dictatorship was consolidated in Venezuela. On January 10, after an electoral process characterized by widespread complaints of fraud, lack of transparency, and severe, systematic violations of human rights, Nicolás Maduro held on to power without democratic legitimacy. As of the preparation of this report, the National Electoral Council (CNE) had still not published the tally sheets that would purportedly confirm the final outcome. This development amounted to the total concentration of public powers in the hands of the de facto authorities, characteristic of a dictatorial regime. The seriousness of the situation calls for urgent diplomatic action to re-establish democracy and rebuild the country's institutions based on human rights and the rule of law.

3. The consolidation of the de facto regime entrenched impunity in Venezuela. In 2025, the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the judicial branch had still not investigated, prosecuted, or handed down punishment for the murders; cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment; arbitrary detentions; and violations of due process that took place during and after the 2024 electoral process. A similar situation is observed with respect to the severe and systematic violations of human rights committed in previous years, which motivated the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to launch, for the first time in the Western Hemisphere, a formal investigation of crimes against humanity. The IACHR supports the filing of a formal case with that Court, in the understanding that impunity is structural and forms part of the de facto authorities' deliberate strategy to maintain political control and silence dissident voices.

4. The lack of a democratic system has rendered the exercise of fundamental freedoms and human rights impossible, undermining their universal, indivisible, and interdependent character. This context has enabled the regime to abuse its power to politically pursue opponents or individuals perceived as such, who lack access to effective judicial protection. Concurrently, the rapid deterioration of living conditions has led to the displacement of over 6.8 million people since 2015, constituting one of most serious migratory and humanitarian crises in the world.

5. The Inter-American Commission underscores that the Venezuelan case exemplifies the close relationship among human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. These three elements form an essential triad in which they each are defined, complement, and take on meaning in function of the others. The intentional destruction of this triad, as a result of the co-opting of the public authorities and the rupture of the constitutional order, enabled the establishment of the dictatorial regime.

[1] Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido approved the report and issued a partial reasoned vote. The partial reasoned vote appears at the end of this chapter.

II. PRESENCE OF REGULATORY ELEMENTS FAVORING INCLUSION

6. After reviewing the human rights situation in Venezuela, the Commission decided to include the country in this chapter, in accordance with Article 59, paragraphs 6.a.i, 6.a.ii, 6.c.iii, 6.d.i, and 6.d.ii of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR, which set forth the following criteria for inclusion:

> a. A serious breach of the core requirements and institutions of a representative democracy mentioned in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which are essential means of achieving human rights, including:
>
> > i. there is discriminatory access to or abusive exercise of power that undermines or denies the rule of law, such as systematic infringement of the independence of the judiciary or lack of subordination of State institutions to the legally constituted civilian authority;
> >
> > ii. there has been an unconstitutional alteration of the constitutional regime that seriously impairs the democratic order; or
>
> c. The State has committed or is committing massive, serious and widespread violations of human rights guaranteed in the American Declaration, the American Convention, or the other applicable human rights instruments.
>
> > iii. serious omissions in the adoption of the necessary measures to make fundamental rights effective, or in complying with the decisions of the Commission and the Inter-American Court; […].
>
> d. The presence of other structural situations that seriously affect the use and enjoyment of fundamental rights recognized in the American Declaration, the American Convention or other applicable instruments. Factors to be considered shall include the following, among others:
>
> > ii. systematic noncompliance of the State with its obligation to combat impunity, attributable to a manifest lack of will;

7. With regard to the criteria set out in Article 59.6.a of the IACHR Rules of Procedure, the Inter-American Commission stresses that the swearing-in of Nicolás Maduro on January 10, 2025, constituted a breakdown in the constitutional order and the consolidation of a dictatorial regime. The electoral opacity, serious complaints of fraud, and systematic restrictions on political rights make it impossible for this Commission to consider the 2024 elections democratically legitimate.[2] Rather, these circumstances reflect the use of a sham electoral process to project a false appearance of democracy, and demonstrate the complete absence of the minimum conditions needed for the effective exercise of political rights in Venezuela.

8. With regard to the criterion set out in Article 59.6.c., the Inter-American Commission observes that the State's refusal to comply with its international obligations forms part of a deliberate strategy to consolidate the de facto regime. This attitude is manifested in grave omissions in the adoption of the measures needed to guarantee the effective exercise of fundamental rights, and to adhere to and implement the decisions handed down by the Commission and the Inter-American Court.

9. In this respect, the IACHR highlights that on August 21, 2025, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights published its decision on the preliminary objections in the case of Chirinos Salamanca v. Venezuela. In this decision, the Inter-American Court indicated that the legitimacy of the State's 2012 denunciation of the American Convention on Human Rights was compromised, since it had been issued in a

[2] IACHR, Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.doc. 253/24, December 27, 2024, par. 3.

context of democratic setbacks. In addition, it specified that the 2019 ratification by the interim government kept the obligations derived from the American Convention on Human Rights in force.[3]

10. This decision reaffirms the jurisdiction of the inter-American human rights system bodies with regard to Venezuela, and to the State's obligation to implement the decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the recommendations of the IACHR. Based on this decision, on September 3, 2025, the Commission requested the Venezuelan State's authorization to conduct an on-site visit in order to observe the human rights situation in the country, specifically, the conditions of the persons being held at the Metropolitan Caracas Center for Defendants and Convicted Prisoners I (Helicoide).[4] As of the date this report was prepared, the State has not responded to this request.

11. With regard to the criterion in Article 59.6.d.ii, the Inter-American Commission observes a lack of manifest will to combat impunity. As of the date this report was prepared, the State has not provided any information on progress made in the investigation, prosecution, or punishment of the grave human rights violations that took place in connection with the elections. According to information from public institutions, at least 28 murders,[5] 195 injuries,[6] and 2,229 arrests,[7] including of 158 adolescents,[8] were documented in this period. In addition, at least 29 cases of short-term enforced disappearances were recorded by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission created by the United Nations Human Rights Council (hereinafter the Fact-Finding Mission).[9]

12. Pursuant to Article 59.5 of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR, this report was prepared based on primary and secondary sources of information. As primary sources, the IACHR analyzed the testimonies received through the Special Monitoring Mechanism for Venezuela (MESEVE), and the information available on the cases, petitions, and precautionary and provisional measures; presented at public hearings; and recorded in Commission press releases and annual and thematic reports.

13. As secondary sources, the report considered the acts of public institutions at all levels and branches of government, including constitutional amendments, legislation, decrees, judicial decisions, and declarations by de facto authorities. Also taken into account were the conclusions of other international human rights bodies, including treaty bodies, rapporteurs and working groups, the Human Rights Council, and other specialized bodies and agencies of the United Nations (UN); human rights reports by governments and regional bodies; reports by civil society organizations and information submitted by those organizations and by individuals; public information widely disseminated in the media; and relevant legal and academic research.

14. Be that as it may, the IACHR underscores that, as occurs in dictatorial regimes, the opacity of information and the lack of transparency of public institutions in Venezuela seriously hamper access to verifiable data on the human rights situation. The available "official" information is scarce and fragmented, and in many cases not credible, insofar as it serves State propaganda purposes more than accountability criteria. This lack of access to trustworthy, data-based public information obstructs the independent verification of facts, limits international monitoring work, and bolsters the structural impunity that characterizes the current de facto regime.

[3] Inter-American Court of Human Rights. *Caso Chirinos Salamanca y otros Vs. Venezuela. Excepciones Preliminares. Sentencia de 21 de agosto de 2025. Serie C No.* 562 [Case of Chirinos Salamanca et al. v. Venezuela. Preliminary Objections. Judgment of August 21, 2025. Series C No. 562].

[4] IACHR, Press release 185/25, IACHR reaffirms its authority over Venezuela and seeks approval for an on-site visit, September 16, 2025.

[5] Office of the Public Prosecutor, Press conference: Attorney General Tarek William Saab on violent acts after the elections, December 2, 2024.

[6] Office of the Public Prosecutor, Press conference: Attorney General Tarek William Saab on violent acts after the elections, December 2, 2024.

[7] Swissinfo, *Suben a 2.229 los detenidos en protestas tras las presidenciales en Venezuela, dice Maduro* [Number of people detained in protests after the presidential elections in Venezuela reaches 2,229, says Maduro], August 7, 2024.

[8] IACHR, Press release 326/24, IACHR: Venezuela must release adolescents in arbitrary detention, December 20, 2024.

[9] Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, AHRC/57/CRP.5, pars. 126 and 127.

15. The IACHR approved this report on December 17, 2025. On January 20, 2026, the Commission sent a copy of the report to the State of Venezuela, in accordance with Article 59.10 of its Rules of Procedure. The State did not submit observations.

III. HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

A. Democratic institutions

1. Consolidation of a dictatorship

16. The swearing-in of Nicolás Maduro on January 10, 2025, consolidated a dictatorial regime in Venezuela. In connection with the elections, the public institutions were used as tools not only to favor the incumbent ticket, but also to obstruct and hamper the opposition's political participation. The administrative disqualification of opposition figures, obstacles to the registration of candidates, discriminatory impediments to voting abroad, and the withdrawal of international electoral observation missions were all documented, as were arbitrary detentions and acts of intimidation against people associated with the political opposition.[10] All of these factors evinced a sham electoral process meant to project the false appearance of democracy.

17. The most concerning circumstance around Nicolás Maduro's swearing-in is the lack of transparency in the face of serious, grave complaints of electoral fraud. The elections were held on July 28, 2024. On that day, the National Electoral Council reported that a "terrorist cyberattack" from North Macedonia had affected the transmission of votes. After refusing independent audits of the incident, the National Electoral Council announced Nicolás Maduro's victory.[11] As of the date of this report, the State has still not published the voting tally sheets that back the announced results. In turn, the opposition claims that it has collected 83.5% of the tally sheets nationwide, which allegedly identify opposition candidate Edmundo González Urrutia as the winner.[12]

18. The alleged opposition victory was officially recognized by various States in the region, including the United States, Argentina, Uruguay, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, and Costa Rica. In turn, while Chile and El Salvador did not expressly recognize González Urrutia as president-elect, they stated that they would not accept the results proclaimed by the National Electoral Council as legitimate. On the other hand, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Canada, Jamaica, Guyana, Haiti, and Paraguay abstained from recognizing a winner, urging the parties to preserve political dialogue and to guarantee the transparency of the electoral process.[13]

19. The consolidation of the dictatorial regime in Venezuela is also observed in the closure of civic space. In 2025, at the IACHR 193rd Period of Sessions, civil society organizations presented an investigation on the impact of the implementation of the Law on the Oversight, Regularization, Operations, and Financing of Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) and Nonprofit Social Organizations. The study, which included 101 civil associations in the country's 24 states, indicated that this law has significantly affected organizations' formalization and operations, by imposing bureaucratic hurdles (31.7%), high costs (21.8%), and excessive requirements (15.8%), leaving nearly half (41.9%) unable to regularize their legal situations.[14]

20. Furthermore, the organizations' operational capacities have shrunk, with 63.4% reporting that they have reduced or suspended their services, and 46.5% that they have lost essential financing sources.

[10] IACHR, Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.doc. 253/24, December 27, 2024, par. 3.
[11] IACHR, Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.doc. 253/24, December 27, 2024, par. 42.
[12] IACHR, Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.doc. 253/24, December 27, 2024, par. 47.
[13] Voz de América, *Estos son los países que reconocen triunfo de Maduro, quienes creen que perdió y los cautelosos* [These are the countries that recognize Maduro's victory, believe he lost, and are being prudent], October 28, 2024.
[14] IACHR, 193rd Period of Sessions, Venezuela: Attacks against human rights defenders, Thursday, July 24, 2025.

Compounded by a climate of fear and distrust, this has driven several organizations to transfer some or all of their operations abroad, directly affecting their services for vulnerable communities. In addition, the fragility of the civic space in the country is exacerbated by the fact that 62.8% of civil society organizations are uncertain about the law's consequences and how it will be enforced in the future.[15]

2. Situation of judicial independence

21. The Commission has consistently warned that Venezuela does not have an independent judiciary, which has enabled the concentration of public power in the head of the ruling party and allowed corruption and impunity for grave, systematic human rights violations, especially against critical and dissident voices.[16] The erosion of judicial independence is due to aspects such as: the high rate of temporary judges, irregular appointment of the highest judicial authorities, lack of guarantees of tenure for judges, and opacity in judicial governance and the administration of justice.[17]

22. The organization *Acceso a la Justicia* reported that on October 1, 2025, the Supreme Court of Justice approved a new regulation on the entry, permanence, promotion, and separation of non-tenured judges. Although this is presented as a measure to strengthen the judiciary, in fact it consolidates the system of provisional judges without guaranteeing their tenure. The resolution reaffirms that such tenure can only be obtained through public competitive processes, as called for in Article 255 of the Constitution. However, in practice it perpetuates the temporary nature of the positions, as judges continue to be appointed and removed directly by the Supreme Court of Justice Judicial Committee, without guarantees or prior proceedings.[18]

23. Effective public competitions have not been held since 1999, and most judges remain provisional. For 2019, only 14.7% of judges were tenured, according to the International Commission of Jurists; the State has not published recent official figures. This lack of transparency lends weight to the suspicion that judicial tenure is nearly nonexistent. Article 36 of the new regulation makes it possible for non-tenured judges to be immediately terminated, in violation of the standards of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which calls for independence, stability, and protection against external pressures.[19]

B. Political prosecution: punishment for dissent and impunity

24. The repressive patterns identified during the 2024 electoral process continued in 2025, and included arbitrary detentions, short-term enforced disappearances, and violations of due process against opposition figures, journalists, and human rights defenders. These acts reflect the persistence of a state policy geared towards curbing dissidence and restricting the exercise of fundamental freedoms.

1. Arbitrary detentions

25. According to the organization Foro Penal, in 2025, 884 persons were registered as political prisoners in Venezuela. From January to August of that year, at least 200 arbitrary detentions were documented. The State's repressive forces intensified their actions in two specific periods: the first, in connection with the swearing-in of the president on January 10, with 84 arrests (67 men and 17 women); and the second, during the May 25 elections, with 42 arrests (34 men and 8 women). Between these two episodes,

[15] Acceso a la Justicia, *TSJ aprueba normativa para jueces no titulares sin resolver su provisionalidad* [Supreme Court of Justice approves regulation for non-tenured judges without addressing their provisional status], October 30, 2025.
[16] Acceso a la Justicia, *TSJ aprueba normativa para jueces no titulares sin resolver su provisionalidad* [Supreme Court of Justice approves regulation for non-tenured judges without addressing their provisional status], October 30, 2025.
[17] Acceso a la Justicia, *TSJ aprueba normativa para jueces no titulares sin resolver su provisionalidad* [Supreme Court of Justice approves regulation for non-tenured judges without addressing their provisional status], October 30, 2025.
[18] Acceso a la Justicia, *TSJ aprueba normativa para jueces no titulares sin resolver su provisionalidad* [Supreme Court of Justice approves regulation for non-tenured judges without addressing their provisional status], October 30, 2025.
[19] Acceso a la Justicia, *TSJ aprueba normativa para jueces no titulares sin resolver su provisionalidad* [Supreme Court of Justice approves regulation for non-tenured judges without addressing their provisional status], October 30, 2025.

there were 13 more detentions (11 men and 2 women), and between June and August, 61 more (43 men and 18 women).[20]

26. The documented arbitrary detentions were clearly politically motivated. According to information provided by the political group Comando "ConVzla," at least 70 people associated with the opposition leader María Corina Machado and other political organizations were detained between January and October 2025. The main forces involved in carrying out these detentions were the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN), General Directorate of Military Counterintelligence (DGCIM), Bolivarian National Police (PNB), National Anti-Extortion and Kidnapping Command (CONAS), and Bolivarian National Guard (GNB). The most common seizure sites include residences, public spaces, workplaces, areas near voting centers, control points, and healthcare facilities.[21]

27. Comando "ConVzla" reported the following 70 detentions: Willman Coronado (02/02/2025), Rafael Tudares (01/07/2025), Marianela Ojeda (01/07/2025), Francisco Graterol (01/07/2025), Carlos Martínez (01/07/2025), Nereida Briceño (01/08/2025), Héctor Uzcátegui (01/08/2025), Jesús Ramírez (01/08/2025), Carmen Salazar (01/09/25), Carlos Alfredo Aponte Yépez (01/09/25), Germán Eduardo Antillano Yépez (01/09/2025), José Cipriano Díaz (01/09/2025), Zyad Naime (01/09/2025), Yarely Reina (01/09/25), José Daniel López (01/09/25), Daniel García (01/09/2025), Lisandro Arturo Henríquez Figueira (01/09/2025), Ruperto Contreras (01/09/25), Rommel Zabala (01/09/25), Julio César Balza (01/09/25), Roalmi Cabeza (01/09/25), Rosa Elena Urbina (01/09/25), Miguel Ángel García Montenegro (01/09/2025), Pedro Alvarado (01/09/25), Noel Álvarez (01/10/25), Guaiker González (01/15/25), Danis Anulfo (Lenin) Ojeda (01/28/25), Dannnis Arnulfo Ojeda (01/28/2025), Lionmary Espina (02/21/25), Manuel Mora (02/27/25), Jesús Ángel Manrique (05/06/2025), Juan Pablo Manrique (05/06/2025), Hostari Molina (05/21/25), Lourdes Villareal (05/22/2025), Eliecer Ramón Sánchez Linarez (05/23/25), Yraida Coromoto Ruiz (23/05/25), José Manuel Robles (23/05/25), Ángel Luna (06/06/25), Catalina Ramos (26/05/25), Elgio Enrique Pedreañez Paz (05/27/2025), Ulises Martínez (06/08/25), Rodrigo Pérez (07/06/25), Luis José Magallanes (06/07/25), Manuel Enrique Ferreira (19/07/25), Guillermo Segnini (18/07/25), Luis Andrés Cabrera Coronel (07/22/2025), Albany Milagros Colmenares Mendoza (07/23/25), Nikoll Arteaga Hernández (07/23/25), Diliangela Guedez (07/28/25), Ada María Anciani Velásquez (08/12/25), Roberto José Campero Reyes (08/14/2025), Lorenia Gutiérrez (08/25/25), Yones Molina (08/31/25), Jesús Castillo (08/31/25), José Patricio Mena (02/09/2025), Jorge Herrera (03/09/25), Julio Velazco (03/09/25), Juan Torres (10/09/25), Elizabeth Rodríguez (09/10/25), Alexánder Suarez (09/16/2025), Mario José Aldana Becerra (09/17/25), Pedro Andrade (09/21/25), Hommel Torres (09/21/25), Juan Enrique Pérez (09/27/2025), Ricardo Berrio (09/29/25), Lewis Mendoza (10/04/25), Orangel Tabares (10/11/25), Ismael Ortiz (10/11/25), Xiomara Ortiz (10/13/25), Luz Maria Rodriguez (10/13/25), Alexis Jesus Guedez (10/13/25), Rafael Trinidad Mendoza Gonzalez (10/13/25), Mirla del Carmen Catire (10/13/25), Franklin Rivero (10/15/2025), José Castellanos (10/17/2025), Blanca Guerrero de Loaiza (10/17/2025), Omario Castellanos (10/17/2025), Aracelis Balza (10/19/2025), Wladimir Alejandro Yépez Soto (10/22/2025), Javier Cisneros (10/24/2025).[22]

28. In general terms, arbitrary detentions were characterized by a lack of factual and legal grounds that would justify them, as well as by delays in bringing the detainees before the competent judicial authorities. The observed *modus operandi* reproduces repressive patterns previously documented by this Commission, involving arrests made by unidentified agents, often hooded, who do not show warrants or

[20] Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. (2025). Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (A/HRC/60/61). United Nations Human Rights Council, par. 22.

[21] Vente Venezuela, *Agresiones y violaciones de DDHH a María Corina Machado, aliados y afiliados de Vente Venezuela durante la campaña postelectoral, Enero - Octubre 2025*, [Attacks and human rights violations against María Corina Machado, allies, and members of Vente Venezuela during the post-election campaign, January - October 2025], communication received on October 30, 2025.

[22] Vente Venezuela, *Agresiones y violaciones de DDHH a María Corina Machado, aliados y afiliados de Vente Venezuela durante la campaña postelectoral, Enero - Octubre 2025*, [Attacks and human rights violations against María Corina Machado, allies, and members of Vente Venezuela during the post-election campaign, January - October 2025], communication received on October 30, 2025.

communicate the grounds for the arrest. Also documented were cases of the excessive, disproportionate use of force during entry into residences and the transfer of persons in vehicles without official identification.[23]

29. In 2025, the State security forces ramped up the arbitrary detention of foreigners and of individuals with dual citizenship, with the apparent purpose of using them as bargaining chips for Venezuelan citizens deprived of liberty abroad. In February 2025, Nicolás Maduro announced the detention of over 150 foreigners, who he classified as "mercenaries;"[24] the IACHR has been unable to corroborate this figure. In turn, the International Fact-Finding Mission registered 84 cases (81 men and 3 women), while the organization Justicia, Encuentro y Perdón (JEP Venezuela) documented 83.[25] As reported by JEP Venezuela[26] and Foro Penal,[27] as of the date of this report, the arrested individuals have been unable to exercise their right to consular assistance,[28] established in the applicable international treaties.[29]

30. The arbitrarily arrested foreigners allegedly included: Juan Camilo Vargas Picón (8/10/2024); José Maria Basoa Vadovinos (9/2/2024); Andrés Martínez Adasme (9/2/2024); Jan Darmovrzal (9/14/2024); Manuel Alejandro Tiques Chaves (9/14/2024); Arlei Danilo Espitia Lara (9/14/2024); Said Awuada (9/14/2024); Luis Oswaldo Landazuri Leon (9/25/2024); Cristian Cenusse (9/27/2024); Carlos Alberto Cañas Carrero (9/30/2024); Martin Emilio Rincón Quitan (9/30/2024); Yaakov Harari (10/10/2024); Ricardo Aurelio Meléndez Guerrero (10/18/2024); Yevenhii Trush (10/20/2024); Gunter Sandau (11/7/2024); Danner Gonzalo Barajas Luque (11/7/2024); Alberto Trentini (11/15/2024); Ray Noorhassan (11/17/2024); Nahuel Agustín Gallo (12/8/2024); Marco Antonio Madrid Martínez (12/19/2024); Aidel Suárez Medina (12/24/2024); Justin Van Der Ramder (12/25/2024); MyKhailo Kostiv (1/7/2025); Oleh Rudenko (1/7/2025); Michael Alfred Gustav (1/7/2025); Enit Kasmi (5/19/2025); Antun Mrdeza (5/21/2025); Germán Darío Guiliani (5/21/2025); Sharif Qamar (5/21/2025); Muhamad Azhar (5/21/2025); Zohaib Llagar Liaqat (5/21/2025); Buttnaham Islam (5/21/2025); Yaacob Hartary (5/21/2025); Angelique Corneille (6/18/2025); Zsuzsanna Bossanyi (6/18/2025); Ender Yesid Gomez Soto (7/1/2025); Petter Distefano Padilla Rea (7/27/2025); Jose Luis De La Asunción Aragón (detained after the elections); Alvaro Javier Ojeda Melendez (detained in January 2025, date not specified); Luis Eduardo Quinchia (detained in January 2025, date not specified); Segundo Manuel Cortes Preciado (detained in July 2024, date not specified); Pantaleon De La Asunción Aragón (detained in July 2024, date not specified).[30]

31. The Venezuelans with dual citizenship who were arbitrarily arrested allegedly include: Jorge Alayeto Bigott (8/6/2017); Ángela Lisbeth Expósito Carillo (9/21/2018); Ovidio Andrés Carrasco Mosqueda (2/4/2019); Jhon Hader Betancurt Restrepo (8/16/2019); Juan Carlos Marruffo Capozzi (10/2/2019); Juan Francisco Rodríguez Dos Ramos (10/2/2019); María Auxiliadora Delgado Tabosky (10/2/2019); Leonardo David Chirinos Parra (4/21/2020); Gerardo José Cotichia Guerra (4/23/2020); Victor Alejandro Pimienta Salazar (5/4/2020); Fernando Andrés Noya Contramaestre (5/4/2020); Karen Hernández Rodríguez (5/5/2020); Roberto Andrés Rondón Restrepo (5/6/2020); Carla Rosaura Da Silva Marrero (5/6/2020); José Ibienay Ruiz Delgado (5/8/2020); Rafael Enrique Castro Sandoval (5/9/2020); Oscar Leonardo Aguillón Garcés (5/10/2020); Miguel Ángel Plaza Méndez (5/10/2020); Cesar Junior Altamar Sarmiento (5/11/2020); Leandro Leomar Chirinos Parra (5/12/2020); José Alexander Sanquino Escalante (5/16/2020); Bruno Juárez (11/3/2021); Olvani Marian Gaspari Bracho (3/31/2023); Uaiparu Guerere López (5/31/2023); Adrián De Gouveia (1/18/2024); Alejandro José Gonzales de Canales (2/9/2024); Rocío del Carmen San Miguel Sosa (2/9/2024); Miguel Alexander Duarte Solís (7/29/2024); Francesca Isabella Martinelli García (7/29/2024); Daniel Enrique Echenagucia Vallenilla (8/2/2024); Carmen Yalexy Picón Leon (8/10/2024); Perkins Rocha

[23] Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. (2025). Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (A/HRC/60/61), United Nations Human Rights Council, par. 23.

[24] Swissinfo, *Nicolás Maduro dice que suben a «más» de 150 extranjeros los detenidos en Venezuela* [Nicolás Maduro says the number of detained foreigners in Venezuela has risen to "over" 150], January 9, 2025.

[25] Meeting with the organization Justicia, Encuentro y Perdón, August 7, 2025.

[26] Meeting with the organization Justicia, Encuentro y Perdón, August 7, 2025.

[27] Meeting with the organization Foro Penal, August 7, 2025.

[28] Meeting with the organization Justicia, Encuentro y Perdón, August 7, 2025.

[29] Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Document A/CONF.25/12.

[30] Meeting with the organization Justicia, Encuentro y Perdón, August 7, 2025.

(8/27/2024); Biagio Pilieri (8/28/2024); Dorensky Rojas (8/28/2024); Jeralmy Celeste Barradas Espinoza (9/19/2024); Antonio Gerardo Buzzetta Pacheco (9/30/2024); Sofía Sahagún (10/23/2024); Luis Carlos Peña (10/31/2024); Jorge Arturo Yespica Dávila (11/1/2024); Roberto Baldo (11/29/2024); Monserrat Espinosa Irbern (11/29/2024); Luis Arnaldo Palocz Vegas (12/14/2024); Gabriel Alejandro Carrasquero Aponte (1/10/2025); Javier Sebastián Rosales Patiño (1/10/2025); Ignacio Monllau Medina (2/20/2025); Catalina Ramos (5/26/2025); Jesús Castillo (8/31/2025); Reinaldo Emilio Gutiérrez (10/26/2025); Reinaldo Andrés Gutiérrez Santander (10/26/2025).[31]

32. On July 18, 2025, a trilateral agreement among El Salvador, United States, and Venezuela was disclosed; with this agreement, El Salvador delivered 252 people who had been held in maximum-security prisons, including individuals deported from the United States to the Venezuelan authorities. In turn, Venezuela committed to releasing 80 people. By July 24, 2025, human rights organizations had verified the release of 71 people, most of whom had been arrested during the post-election protests of 2024 and including 10 United States nationals.[32] Diverse civil society organizations warned that Venezuelan State security forces have used arbitrary detentions as a means for diplomatic pressure: "hostage diplomacy" to negotiate the release of Venezuelans deprived of liberty abroad.[33]

33. Although there have been numerous releases, the freed individuals remain subject to measures that restrict their personal liberty. According to information provided by the organizations Foro Penal and JEP Venezuela, these individuals are still required to regularly appear at courts with jurisdiction over anti-terrorism matters and are prohibited from leaving the country and from participating in public activities. These requirements trigger the constant fear of once again being deprived of liberty, especially every time they need to appear in court. Likewise, the released individuals' family members, many of whom live in remote areas and have scarce financial resources, reportedly have to request financial support to travel to Caracas to visit.[34]

34. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights strongly condemns the use of criminal law as a mechanism for repression and political persecution of opposition figures, journalists, and human rights defenders. It also categorically rejects the use of persons deprived of liberty as a tool for negotiation or political exchange meant to improve the international image of the dictatorial regime or strengthen its position vis-a-vis other States. The IACHR calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners and individuals detained as retaliation against their work in defense of human rights, including Javier Tarazona, Rocío San Miguel, Carlos Torres, Freddy Superlano, Williams Dávila, Juan Pablo Guanipa, Biagio Pilieri, Perkins Rocha, Luis Palocz, and Jesús Armas.

2. Enforced disappearances and isolation regimes

35. The practice of enforced disappearance as a strategy to persecute individuals perceived as opposition figures continued in Venezuela in 2025. Pursuant to Article II of the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, "forced disappearance is considered to be the act of depriving a person or persons of his or their freedom, in whatever way, perpetrated by agents of the state or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support, or acquiescence of the state, followed by an absence of information or a refusal to acknowledge that deprivation of freedom or to give information on the whereabouts of that person, thereby impeding his or her recourse to the applicable legal remedies and procedural guarantees."[35]

[31] Meeting with the organization Justicia, Encuentro y Perdón, August 7, 2025.

[32] France 24, *Venezolanos deportados a El Salvador aterrizan en Caracas tras canje por presos políticos y estadounidenses* [Venezuelans deported to El Salvador land in Caracas after exchange for political prisoners and U.S. nationals], July 18, 2025.

[33] Meeting with the organization Justicia, Encuentro y Perdón, August 7, 2025.

[34] Meeting with the organization Justicia, Encuentro y Perdón, August 7, 2025; meeting with the organization Foro Penal, August 7, 2025.

[35] Article 2, Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons.

36. The United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has insisted that "there is no time limit, no matter how short, for an enforced disappearance to occur."[36] Accordingly, this Commission considers that the authorities' deliberate reluctance to provide information on the whereabouts of detainees, combined with the failure to bring them before a court within the legal period of 48 hours, constitutes enforced disappearance.

37. In a report published in September 2025, the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights and Foro Penal organizations documented 96 enforced disappearances between July 28, 2024, the date of the presidential elections, and July 27, 2025, the date of the municipal elections. Most of the cases were registered in the months following the presidential elections and during the period prior to the May 2025 parliamentary and gubernatorial elections, which demonstrates the intensification of State repression in contexts of greater political mobilization and participation in Venezuela.[37]

38. The geographic distribution of arbitrary detentions changed significantly between 2024 and 2025. In 2024, after the disputed presidential elections, the cases were primarily concentrated in the border states of Táchira, Apure, and Zulia, with smaller groups registered in Sucre, Vargas, and Amazonas. Conversely, in 2025 most detentions took place in Caracas, with secondary concentrations in the states of Carabobo and Miranda, while in the rest of the country few incidents were reported. This variation suggests a shift of the repressive focus towards the direct control of urban zones and of the national political/administrative apparatus.[38]

39. According to the IACHR, the most emblematic cases documented in 2025 include the following: Eduardo Torres Muñoz, PROVEA attorney, human rights defender, and university professor, who disappeared on May 9, 2025, and was subsequently accused of conspiracy and other crimes; Lucas Hunter, French-American tourist, who disappeared on January 7, 2025, near the border with Colombia and was released on July 18, 2025, as part of the prisoner swap; Maykelis Borges, partner of an opposition military lieutenant and pregnant when she was detained, who disappeared on January 29, 2025; Nahuel Gallo, Argentine corporal first class, who disappeared on December 8, 2024, after arriving in Venezuela and was subsequently associated with alleged terrorist acts. Lastly, Naomi Arnaudez, attorney and political activist, was arrested on May 23, 2025, and accused of terrorism, while Rory Branker, journalist for the *La Patilla* web portal, disappeared on February 20, 2025, and was accused of extortion and of disseminating false information.[39]

40. Through its mechanisms for monitoring and receiving testimonies, the IACHR showed that in 2025, dozens of political prisoners were held incommunicado from their families and legal counsel, even when their detention location was known unofficially. It was further observed that as of April 2025, 65 families had not received formal notification of the detention center where their relatives were being held, and that in some cases information on the detainees' status or whereabouts came from other prisoners or SEBIN employees who requested supplies. The IACHR also documented mistreatment and degrading treatment of family members who went to the detention centers, including groping and invasive searches of women, as well as the deliberate refusal to allow visits or provide information on the detainees' state of health.[40]

41. The Inter-American Commission urges the Venezuelan State to immediately release all political prisoners, ensuring respect for and protection of their lives and personal integrity at all times, in line with the international obligations taken on by the State. The IACHR also considers it imperative that urgent

[36] United Nations Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, August 10, 2015, A/HRC/30/38, par. 102.

[37] Foro Penal & Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. (2025). Electoral Repression, Enforced Disappearances and Political Control in Venezuela.

[38] Foro Penal & Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. (2025). Electoral Repression, Enforced Disappearances and Political Control in Venezuela.

[39] Foro Penal & Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. (2025). Electoral Repression, Enforced Disappearances and Political Control in Venezuela.

[40] IACHR, Press release 72/25, IACHR urges Venezuela to immediately release political prisoners and to end the practice of holding them incommunicado, April 11, 2025.

measures be adopted to check detainees' health status and to ensure their access to regular visits from trusted family members and legal representatives, in conditions that ensure their dignity, personal safety, and due process.[41]

3. Violations of due process and other fair-trial guarantees

42. In Venezuela, the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the judiciary form part of the de facto regime's repressive apparatus, which has led to a near total lack of fair-trial guarantees and of effective access to justice, especially for members of the political opposition and individuals perceived as such. Various civil society organizations have reported systematic violations of due process, including the appointment of ex officio public defenders without the consent of the accused, the holding of remote hearings in which the competent judges or prosecutors are not identified; and the refusal to hear legal appeals, including habeas corpus. Likewise, there are records of late court appearances, the use of vague criminal charges, and a lack of access to legal files,[42] all of which consolidate a climate of structural impunity and annul the guarantees of effective judicial protection.

43. Grave violations of procedural guarantees were observed in initial appearance hearings. Despite relatives being present in certain cases of children and adolescents, most hearings are held virtually, often at night and from remote detention centers or courthouses, while the judges and public defenders are in Caracas. This modality hinders effective interaction between the defendants and the judicial authorities, impairing the right to defense and the principle of immediacy.[43] Furthermore, according to information received from civil society organizations, none of the detained foreigners have been able to exercise their right to consular assistance, in violation of the applicable international treaties.[44]

C. Situation of freedom of expression

1. Enforced disappearance and arbitrary arrests of journalists and media workers

44. The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (SRFOE or the Office) warns about the continuing repression and persecution of the independent press and critical voices in Venezuela, which ratcheted up after the presidential elections on July 28, 2024.

45. The year 2025 saw new arrests of journalists, the use of criminal law to intimidate and silence, threats, the arbitrary shutting down of media outlets, obstacles to accessing public information, and stigmatizing discourse. This situation intensified in connection with the municipal and regional elections held during the year.

46. According to public reports, the journalist and activist Ángel Godoy has been missing since January 8, 2025, after being seized, allegedly arbitrarily, by hooded, unidentified figures when arriving at his residence in Los Teques in the state of Miranda. Godoy, human rights defender, director of the Movimiento Democracia e Inclusión (MDI) and writer for the Punto de Corte online portal, was reportedly intercepted by two unidentified vehicles in the parking lot of his residence.[45]

[41] IACHR, Press release 72/25, IACHR urges Venezuela to immediately release political prisoners and to end the practice of holding them incommunicado, April 11, 2025.

[42] Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, (2025). Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (A/HRC/60/61). United Nations Human Rights Council, par. 41.

[43] Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, (2025). Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (A/HRC/60/61). United Nations Human Rights Council, par. 42.

[44] Meeting with the organization Justicia, Encuentro y Perdón, August 7, 2025.

[45] Espacio Público, *Enero: se profundiza la censura* [January: censorship gets worse], February 5, 2025; Espacio Público, *10 al 12 Ene: desapariciones, detenciones y bloqueos* [Jan 10 to 12: disappearances, detentions, and blocking], January 13, 2025.

47. Likewise, the National Association of Journalists (CNP), Zulia chapter, reported the detention of the journalist Edison Castro, who is also a professor at the Humanities and Education School of the University of Zulia, coordinator of the broadcasting courses and member of the CNP Zulia Disciplinary Board.[46] He was reportedly seized in La República square, in the city of Maracaibo, during the protest called by opposition leader María Corina Machado this past January 9, 2025. The organization Aula Abierta also reported what had occurred and expressed its concern about the persistent patterns of politically motivated criminalization, persecution, threats, harassment, and arbitrary detentions of members of the educational community.[47] According to reports, Edison Castro was released later that night.[48]

48. The Venezuelan National Union of Press Workers (SNTP) reported that journalist Julio Balza, member of opposition leader Maria Corina Machado's press team, had been detained by Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN) agents.[49] According to public information, the detention occurred on January 9, 2025, in the municipio of Chacao, when Balza was heading to his vehicle after a demonstration called by the opposition. Family members allegedly went to various detention centers in Caracas without receiving confirmation of his location, as well as to the Office of the Public Prosecutor and Palace of Justice (courthouse) to file a writ of habeas corpus, which was not accepted or processed.[50] The Vente Venezuela party also reportedly indicated that it was unaware of the journalist's whereabouts.[51]

49. On January 9, 2025, the SNTP also registered the arrest of journalist Leandro Palmar, information coordinator for Luz Radio 102.9 FM, and of his technical assistant Belices Salvador Cubillán, photographer and videographer, while they were covering a protest called by the opposition in La República square, in the state of Zulia.[52] Both were reportedly detained by Bolivarian National Guard personnel and, according to public reports, were accused of the crimes of terrorism, incitement to hatred, conspiracy, and disturbing the peace.[53] Family members reported that they were not allowed to engage private defense counsel

[46] CNP, Zulia chapter, [@cnpzulia], (January 9, 2025), *Denunciamos y rechazamos la detención en Plaza de La República del periodista Edinson Castro* [We denounce and reject the detention of the journalist Edinson Castro in La República square], X, https://x.com/cnpzulia/status/1877402571565887749?t=JdFbQfK_Cc2Iv4sNIJQnjg&s=08; EvTv, *Denuncian que el periodista Edinson Castro fue detenido en Maracaibo* [Edinson Castro is reported to have been detained in Maracaibo], January 9, 2025; Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, [@RELE_CIDH], (January 9, 2025), *En la jornada de movilizaciones del #ENE9, RELE registra con preocupación la detención del periodista Edinson Castro en Zulia* [On the January 9 (*#ENE9*) day of protests SRFOE registers, with concern, the detention of journalist Edinson Castro in Zulia], X, https://x.com/RELE_CIDH/status/1877508352525128140.

[47] La TV Calle, *CNP denunció la detención del periodista Edinson Castro en Zulia* [CNP reports the detention of journalist Edinson Castro in Zulia], January 9, 2025.

[48] Aula Abierta, [@AaulaAbiertaLA], (January 10, 2025), *Recibimos información que en horas de la noche del jueves #9Ene fue liberado el profesor universitario de @LUZadn, Edison Castro* [We have received information that Edison Castro, @LUZadn university professor, was released on the night of Thursday, January 9 (#9Ene)], X, https://x.com/AulaAbiertaLA/status/1877692848986013926.

[49] National Union of Press Workers (SNTP), [@sntpvenezuela], (January 9, 2025), *Denunciamos la detención del periodista Julio Balza, miembro del equipo prensa de María Corina Machado* [We denounce the detention of journalist Julio Balza, member of María Corina Machado's press team], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1877524356940837214.

[50] Espacio Público, *Julio César Balza: periodista cumple 12 días en desaparición forzada* [Julio César Balza: journalist missing for 12 days after enforced disappearance], January 21, 2025; Tal Cual, *Madre de Julio Balza: "Les pido que liberen a mi hijo, él es periodista no terrorista"* [Julio Balza's mother: "I am asking them to release my son, he is a journalist, not a terrorist"], January 10, 2025; RunRun.es, *"Nadie nos ha dicho nada": Padres del periodista Julio Balza claman por su liberación* ["No one has told us anything": Journalist Julio Balza's parents call for his release], January 11, 2025; Efecto Cocuyo, *Tribunal rechaza habeas corpus a favor de periodista Julio Balza, denuncia el Sntp* [Court rejects habeas corpus for journalist Julio Balza, reports the SNTP], January 15, 2025.

[51] El Carabobeño, *Detienen al periodista Julio Balza, del equipo de prensa de MCM* [Journalist Julio Balza, from the MCM press team, is detained], January 9, 2025; Vente Venezuela Human Rights, [@VenteDDHH], (January 9. 2025), *Nuestro periodista del @convzlacomando, Julio Balza, se encuentra desaparecido desde casi las 4pm de hoy* [Our journalist from @convzlacomando, Julio Balza, has been missing since close to 4 p.m.], X, https://x.com/VenteDDHH/status/1877507515421741523.

[52] SNTP, [@sntpvenezuela], (January 10, 2025), *El periodista Leandro Palmar, reportero de LUZ Radio, fue detenido este #9Ene por la Guardia Nacional en la manifestación de Plaza de la República, en #Maracaibo* [Journalist Leandro Palmar, reporter for LUZ Radio, was detained this January 9 (*#9Ene*) by the National Guard at the demonstration in La República square, in #Maracaibo], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1877839014570467350; DW, *Periodista y asistente acusados de terrorismo en Venezuela* [Journalist and assistant accused of terrorism in Venezuela], January 13, 2025; Espacio Público, [@espaciopublico], (January 11, 2025), *El equipo de LUZ Radio 102.9 FM informó que recientemente detuvieron al coordinador de la emisora, Leandro Palmar* [LUZ Radio 102.9 FM team reported that station coordinator Leandro Palmar was recently detained], X, https://x.com/espaciopublico/status/1878151259510702424.

[53] NTN24, *Imputan terrorismo a periodista y su asistente tras documentar la represión del 9E en Maracaibo* [Journalist and his assistant charged with terrorism after documenting the January 9 repression in Maracaibo], January 13, 2025; Efecto Cocuyo, *Imputan por*

and were assigned a public defender.[54] In turn, the National Association of Journalists, Zulia chapter, reportedly rejected what occurred, describing it as an attempt to criminalize the reporting work of both media professionals.[55]

50. The arrest by SEBIN agents of the journalist Rory Branker, editor of the news portal La Patilla, at his residence in Caracas, was reported on February 20, 2025.[56] According to public versions, he was allegedly first brought to the El Helicoide detention center, although his family was unable to locate him after trying at various prisons, prosecutors' offices, courts, and intelligence headquarters. Subsequently, SEBIN officers reportedly searched his home and confiscated laptop computers and mobile phones.[57] On February 26, the Minister of the Interior, Justice, and Peace, Diosado Cabello, affirmed in his "Con el Mazo Dando" [Hammering Away] program that the journalist had been arrested due to alleged extortion and dissemination of false information, but did not present any evidence or provide details on his state of health or exact location.[58]

51. In turn, on August 27, 2025, the IACHR issued resolution 62/2025, which granted precautionary measures for Branker, in the consideration that he was at serious, urgent risk of suffering irreparable harm to his rights to life and personal integrity in Venezuela.[59] After nearly seven months of enforced disappearance and detention, in September the journalist was confirmed to be in custody at the Bolivarian National Police holding cells in Boleíta (Zone 7), Caracas.[60]

52. On March 4, 2025, it was reported that journalist Román Comacho had been detained by SEBIN officers in a shopping center in the municipio of Sucre, in Caracas, state of Miranda. According to public reports, he was transferred to a Scientific, Criminal and Criminalistic Investigations Corps (CICPC) facility in El Hatillo.[61] At the initial appearance hearing, he was reportedly accused of the alleged crimes of incitement to hatred, obstruction of justice, and dissemination of false news, for having publishing a video associated with the murder of a person in the José Félix Ribas neighborhood in Petare. On March 7, Camacho was reportedly

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delitos de terrorismo a periodista Leandro Palmar en Zulia [Journalist Leandro Palmar charged with crimes of terrorism in Zulia], January 12, 2025.

[54] SNTP, *El aislamiento intermitente de Leandro Palmar y Belices Cubillán* [The intermittent isolation of Leandro Palmar and Belices Cubillán], July 13, 2025.

[55] CNP, Zulia chapter, *El CNP Zulia rechaza la privación de libertad dictada en contra del periodista Leandro Palmar* [CNP Zulia rejects the deprivation of liberty handed down against journalist Leandro Palmar], January 13, 2025.

[56] El Tiempo, *Denuncian la detención arbitraria de otro periodista en Venezuela* [Arbitrary detention reported of another journalist in Venezuela], February 21, 2025; Reporters Without Borders (RSF), *VENEZUELA | La detención del periodista Rory Branker, un nuevo símbolo de la represión contra la libertad de prensa* [VENEZUELA | The detention of Rory Branker, a new symbol of repression against freedom of the press], February 26, 2025; Venezuela Press and Society Institute (IPYS), *Alerta IPYSve | Periodista Rory Branker fue detenido arbitrariamente* [IPYSve Alert | Journalist Rory Branker was arbitrarily detained], March 5, 2025; SRFOE, [@RELE_CIDH], (February 20, 2025), *La RELE registra y condena la detención del periodista Rory Branker de @la_patilla, en hechos registrados este jueves #20FEB* [The SRFOE registers and condemns the detention of journalist Rory Branker of @la_patilla, in acts registered this Thursday #20FEB], X, https://x.com/RELE_CIDH/status/1892751421512040793.

[57] La Patilla, *Desaparición forzada de Rory Branker: el silencio que acecha a la prensa en Venezuela* [Enforced disappearance of Rory Branker: the silence stalking the press in Venezuela], March 20, 2025.

[58] International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), *Venezuela: Exigen la libertad del periodista Rory Branker* [Venezuela: Calls for freedom for journalist Rory Branker], March 7, 2025; Ifex, *Periodista Rory Branker fue detenido arbitrariamente* [Journalist Rory Branker was arbitrarily detained], March 14, 2025; Reporte Ya, [@ReporteYa], (May 15, 2025), *Ministro Cabello confirmó este #14May en su programa "Con el mazo dando"* [Minister Cabello confirmed this #14May in his program "Con el mazo dando"] X, https://x.com/ReporteYa/status/1922992343638012166?t=E6rq4XTQfd_yKgXqOmIf7Q&s=08; CNP Caracas, [@CNPCaracas], (May 15, 2025), *Ministro Diosdado Cabello arremete contra periodistas y medios en su programa "Con el Mazo Dando"* [Minister Diosdado Cabello lashes out at journalists and the media in his program "Con el Mazo Dando"], X, https://x.com/CNPCaracas/status/1923025429457158384.

[59] IACHR, Resolution 62/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 906/25, Rory Daniel Branker regarding Venezuela, August 29, 2025; La Patilla, *CIDH otorgó medidas cautelares al periodista Rory Branker en Venezuela* [IACHR granted precautionary measures to journalist Rory Branker in Venezuela], September 3, 2025.

[60] Efecto Cocuyo, *Tras 206 días de desaparición forzada, la familia del periodista Rory Branker dio con su paradero* [Journalist Rory Branker located by his family after 206 days of enforced disappearance], September 15, 2025; Espacio Público, *Septiembre: detenciones arbitrarias y hostigamiento para silenciar* [September: arbitrary detentions and harassment to silence], October 6, 2025.

[61] Espacio Público, *Detienen al periodista Román Camacho* [Journalist Román Camacho detained], March 6, 2025; NTN24, *Detenido el periodista Román Camacho en Caracas* [Journalist Román Camacho detained in Caracas], March 4, 2025; SRFOE, [@RELE_CIDH], (March 4, 2025), *RELE recibe con preocupación reportes sobre la detención del periodista Román Camacho* [SRFOE receives with concern reports on the detention of journalist Román Camacho], X, https://x.com/search?q=from%3ARELE_CIDH%20camacho&src=typed_query.

released after being held for over 70 hours. Over social media, the journalist confirmed that the investigation against him continues and that he is forbidden from speaking publicly about the case.[62]

53. Furthermore, on March 20, 2025, Juan Francisco Alvarado, social communications student, was reportedly arrested by Bolivarian National Guard officers in the municipio of Anzoátegui, state of Cojedes, and accused of alleged instigation to hatred after publishing complaints on his Facebook account.[63] According to the SNTP, Alvarado was detained while heading home in the town of Apartadero, and was transferred to a Bolivarian National Guard command in Agua Blanca, state of Portuguesa.[64]

54. On April 10, 2025, civil society organizations reported the disappearance and detention of journalist Nakary Ramos, of the media outlet Impacto Venezuela, who was with her partner Gianni González at the time of the acts.[65] According to public reports, Ramos was detained by State officers under accusations of instigation to hatred and dissemination of false news, after reporting on the increase in thefts in Caracas. The arrest took place a few days after the Minister of the Interior, Justice, and Peace, Diosdado Cabello, classified several reports of crime disseminated on social media as fake news and called for action against people who share this type of content.[66] On June 17, 2025, the First Control Court of the Caracas Metropolitan Area reportedly ratified the custodial measure against the journalist.[67]

55. On May 22, 2025, the arbitrary detention of the 76-year-old media professional José Raúl Amiel was reported; he was allegedly detained by hooded SEBIN agents who entered his Caracas residence without a warrant. According to reports, the detention was associated with a blog publication that criticized

[62] Efecto Cocuyo, *Excarcelan al periodista Román Camacho tras más de 48 horas preso* [Journalist Román Camacho released after over 48 hours in custody], March 7, 2025; Voces del Sur, *Excarcelaron al periodista Román Camacho* [Journalist Román Camacho released], July 18, 2025.

[63] Espacio Público, [@espaciopublico], (March 25, 2025), *El joven Juan Francisco Alvarado, quien estudia Comunicación Social, resultó detenido por efectivos de la GNB* [The young man Juan Francisco Alvarado, who studies social communication, was detained by members of the GNB], X, https://x.com/espaciopublico/status/1904615737135706620; Espacio Público, *Detienen y acusan de instigación al odio al estudiante Juan Francisco Alvarado* [Student Juan Francisco Alvarado detained and accused of instigation to hatred], March 25, 2025; Efecto Cocuyo, *Presentarán en tribunales a estudiante de periodismo por sus críticas en redes sociales* [Journalism student to be brought before the courts due to his criticism on social media], March 24, 2025; SRFOE, [RELE_CIDH], (March 22, 2025), RELE condena detención arbitraria del estudiante de periodismo Juan Francisco Alvarado [SRFOE condemns arbitrary detention of journalism student Juan Francisco Alvarado], X, https://x.com/RELE_CIDH/status/1903603169461965216; IPYS Venezuela, *Alerta IPYSve | Detienen a estudiante de periodismo Juan Francisco Alvarado en Cojedes* [IPYSve Alert | Journalism student Juan Francisco Alvarado detained in Cojedes], March 31, 2025.

[64] Espacio Público, *Marzo: censura establecida* [March: censorship established], April 5, 2025; SNTP, *Juan Francisco Alvarado, un estudiante de comunicación preso a consecuencia de la persecución digital* [Juan Francisco Alvarado, communications student imprisoned due to digital persecution], July 13, 2025.

[65] Tal Cual, *CNP Caracas denuncia detención de la periodista Nakary Ramos* [CNP Caracas reports detention of journalist Nakary Ramos], April 10, 2025; EvTv, *CNP denuncia detención de periodista Nakary Ramos de Impacto Venezuela* [CNP reports detention of Impacto Venezuela journalist Nakary Ramos], April 10, 2025; SNTP, [@sntpvenezuela], (April 10, 2025), *La periodista Nakary Ramos, de @ImpactoVE, se encuentra desaparecida desde el pasado #8Abr* [Journalist Nakary Ramos of @ImpactoVE missing since last April 8 (*#Abr*)], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1910359931305468407; SRFOE, [@RELE_CIDH], (April 10, 2025), *RELE recibe con preocupación reportes sobre la detención de la periodista Nakary Ramos, cuyo paradero se desconocía* [SRFOE receives with concern reports on the detention of the journalist Nakary Ramos, whose whereabouts were unknown], X, https://x.com/RELE_CIDH/status/1910424030114611666.

[66] Efecto Cocuyo, *CNP Caracas denuncia detención de periodista Nakary Ramos* [CNP Caracas condemns detention of journalist Nakary Ramos], April 10, 2025; Efecto Cocuyo, *Nakary Mena Ramos, la única mujer periodista presa en Venezuela, cumple 100 días de encarcelamiento* [Nakary Mena Ramos, the only woman journalist imprisoned in Venezuela, marks 100 days in custody], July 17, 2025.

[67] Espacio Público, *Tribunal ratifica privativa de libertad a la periodista Nakary Mena* [Court ratifies imprisonment of journalist Nakary Mena], June 18, 2025.

the elections of deputies and governors.[68] Civil society organizations warned about his delicate state of health, including knee mobility and blood pressure issues, and expressed concern over his physical integrity.[69]

56. On May 23, 2025, the journalist and university professor Carlos Marcano was reportedly detained by Bolivarian National Police officers, who entered his family residence in Caracas by force, breaking the gate without showing a search or arrest warrant. According to reports, after being apprehended, Marcano was forcibly disappeared until June 5, when his mother was able to see him at the Bolivarian National Police headquarters in La Yaguara, Caracas. The next day, he was reportedly once again transferred to an undisclosed location.[70]

57. The Office of the Rapporteur also learned that Colombian journalist and photojournalist Scheyder Vladimir Mendoza, of the agency AFP in Cúcuta, was detained by members of the Bolivarian National Guard on September 11, 2025, upon crossing the Francisco de Paula Santander International Bridge in Ureña, while covering the Venezuelan military deployment on the border with Colombia. According to public reports, before releasing him, the officers allegedly forced him to delete the audiovisual material and photographs he had taken.[71]

58. The Office of the Rapporteur continued to monitor the situation of journalists who had been arbitrarily detained, especially in connection with the 2024 presidential elections, including journalist and radio host José Gregorio Camero, whose relatives warned about his deteriorating health after he had suffered several decompensations while being held at a CICPC cell in the state of Guárico.[72] As was documented in the previous annual report,[73] Camero was arrested on August 3, 2024 by officers of the General Directorate of Military Counterintelligence (DGCIM) in Valle de la Pascua, and accused of terrorism, incitement to hatred, and

[68] Tal Cual, *Denuncian detenciones de un comunicador y un defensor de derechos humanos* [Detentions of media professional and human rights defender condemned], May 23, 2025; CNP Caracas, [@CNPCaracas], (May 22, 2025), *Denunciamos la detención arbitraria del comunicador Raúl Amiel* [We condemn the arbitrary detention of media professional Raúl Amiel], X, https://x.com/CNPCaracas/status/1925747065872629797; Espacio Público, *Detienen a periodistas y defensores horas antes del proceso electoral del #25May* [Journalists and defenders detained hours before the #25May elections], May 24, 2025; SRFOE, [RELE_CIDH], (May 23, 2025), *Según reportes públicos, el comunicador José Raúl Amiel, habría sido detenido arbitrariamente* [According to public reports, media professional José Raúl Amiel was arbitrarily detained]. *La RELE urge a autoridades a informar condiciones en que se encuentra* [The SRFOE urges authorities to disclose his condition], X, https://x.com/RELE_CIDH/status/1925906820175905092.

[69] DDHH Vente Venezuela, [@VenteDDHH], (May 23, 2025), *José Raúl Amiel Diazviana, periodista venezolano fue secuestrado este jueves* [José Raúl Amiel Diazviana, Venezuelan journalist, was kidnapped this Thursday], X, https://x.com/VenteDDHH/status/1926044840208302528.

[70] SNTP, [@sntpvenezuela], (May 23, 2025), *La noche de este #22May fue detenido el periodista Carlos Marcano* [Journalist Carlos Marcano detained the night of this #22May], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1925979367177433310; IPYS Venezuela, *Alerta IPYSve | Detienen arbitrariamente al periodista Carlos Marcano en Caracas* [IPYSve Alert | Journalist Carlos Marcano arbitrarily detained in Caracas], May 26, 2025; IPYS Venezuela, [@ipysvenezuela], (May 23, 2025), *Carlos Marcano, comunicador y colaborador de organizaciones sociales* [Carlos Marcano, media professional and collaborator with social organizations], X, https://x.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1926001282885575080; Espacio Público, *Periodista Carlos Marcano en desaparición forzada* [Journalist Carlos Marcano in enforced disappearance], June 9, 2025; SRFOE, [@RELE_CIDH], (May 23, 2025), *RELE expresa preocupación por la detención del periodista y docente Carlos Marcano hoy en su residencia en Sucre, Caracas* [SRFOE expresses concern over the detention of journalist and professor Carlos Marcano today at his residence in Sucre, Caracas] , X, https://x.com/RELE_CIDH/status/1926015131411976674?t=AnI7I-iMt92T_HdILXbeZQ&s=08.

[71] Efecto Cocuyo, *Detienen a periodista y lo liberan luego tras hacerlo borrar material del despliegue militar venezolano en Táchira* [Journalist detained and then released after being forced to delete material on the Venezuelan military deployment in Táchira], September 11, 2025; SNTP, [@sntpvenezuela], (September 11, 2025), *Scheyder Vladimir Mendoza, periodista y reportero gráfico de agencias internacionales, fue detenido por la Guardia Nacional* [Scheyder Vladimir Mendoza, journalist and graphic reporter for international agencies, detained by the National Guard], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1966241448619069760.

[72] Espacio Público, *Familiares del periodista José Gregorio Camero alertan sobre problemas de salud tras su detención* [Relatives of journalist José Gregorio Camero warn about health problems following his detention], February 11, 2025; IACHR, SRFOE, Press release R088/25, SRFOE warns about the serious deterioration of the media ecosystem in Venezuela and urges the State to respect and guarantee freedom of expression and of the press, May 5, 2025.

[73] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Annual Report 2024, OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 39, March 3, 2025, pars. 1294 and 1300.

conspiracy, after an opposition protest against the election results announced on July 28 by the National Electoral Council. On July 21, 2025, the SNTP reported his release.[74]

59. Likewise, the Office of the Special Rapporteur learned that the journalist Víctor Ugas was hospitalized from February 4 to 6 due to asthma complications attributed to the environmental conditions in the Tocorón prison, where he has been held since August 2024.[75]

60. Reports also emerged that journalist, union leader, and political activist Carlos Julio Rojas was being held in solitary confinement at the SEBIN headquarters in El Helicoide. According to the information available, he was not being allowed visits nor deliveries of medication, clothing, or food, even though he has high blood pressure and needs treatment.[76] Rojas was arrested on April 15, 2024, and civil society organizations, activists, family members, and colleagues have been calling for his release ever since.[77] The IACHR granted precautionary measures in favor of the journalist, in the consideration that he faces a serious, urgent risk of suffering irreparable harm to his rights in Venezuela.[78]

61. Likewise, it was disclosed that the wife of journalist and political leader Biagio Pilieri reported that he has been kept isolated and incommunicado since he was detained on August 28, 2024, by SEBIN agents at the El Helicoide office in Caracas.[79]

62. The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression received reports indicating that journalist Roland Carreño's defender had unofficially informed SNTP that he had been notified of the alleged transfer of Carreño and Freddy Superlano, political leader, from El Helicoide to an undisclosed location.[80] Since his detention on August 2, 2024, in the post-election period, Carreño has reportedly not received visits or telephone calls, which has led to growing concern among his family members.[81] Notably, the

[74] El Impulso, *Excarcelan a periodista José Gregorio Camero: quedan 19 detenidos, advierte el SNTP #22Jul* [Journalist José Gregorio Camero released: 19 still detained, SNTP warns], July 22, 2025; VPItv, [@VPITV], (July 21, 2025), *Como parte de las excarcelaciones de las últimas horas en Venezuela, el periodista José Gregorio Camero* [Journalist José Gregorio Camero, among the individuals released in the past few hours], X, https://x.com/VPITV/status/1947465844713251310?t=W_oa40SDsvbVzpK-Frio7g&s=19.

[75] Espacio Público, *Febrero: expresión perseguida y condenada* [February: speech targeted and criminalized], March 5, 2025.

[76] SNTP, [@sntpvenezuela], (June 14, 2025), *El periodista y activista político Carlos Julio Rojas, encarcelado hace un año y dos meses, se encuentra en una celda de castigo desde hace dos semanas* [Journalist and political activist Carlos Julio Rojas, imprisoned one year and two months ago, held in a punishment cell for the past two weeks], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1934012796779311362?t=zpTeMTurjAVxnaCrAB3yBg&s=08; Efecto Cocuyo, *CNP Caracas denuncia que Carlos Julio Rojas tiene dos semanas en aislamiento* [CNP Caracas reports that Carlos Julio Rojas has been in solitary confinement for two weeks], August 9, 2025; Crónica Uno, *Periodista Carlos Julio Rojas es sometido a aislamiento por segunda vez en dos meses* [Journalist Carlos Julio Rojas subjected to solitary confinement for the second time in two months], August 12, 2025.

[77] Espacio Público, *Carlos Julio Rojas cumple un año de injusta detención* [Carlos Julio Rojas has been unfairly detained for one year], April 15, 2025; RunRun.es, *Piden libertad para periodista Carlos Julio Rojas a once meses de su detención* [Freedom requested for journalist Carlos Julio Rojas eight months after he was detained], March 16, 2025; Efecto Cocuyo, *Piden libertad para Carlos Julio Rojas a 400 días de haber sido arrestado* [Freedom requested for Carlos Julio Rojas 400 days after he was arrested], May 30, 2025; IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Annual Report 2024, OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 39, March 3, 2025, par. 1289.

[78] IACHR, Resolution 7/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 205-24, Carlos Julio Rojas regarding Venezuela, January 20, 2025.

[79] SNTP, *Esposa de Biagio Pilieri denuncia 10 meses de aislamiento: "No sabemos nada de su salud"* [Wife of Biagio Pilieri denounces 10 months of isolation: "We know nothing about his health"], July 9, 2025.

[80] SRFOE, [@RELE_CIDH], (September 4, 2025), *RELE monitorea con preocupación el traslado del periodista Roland Carreño y el político Freddy Superlano (beneficiarios de MC)* [SRFOE monitors with concern the transfer of journalist Roland Carreño and politician Freddy Superlano (beneficiaries of precautionary measures)], X, https://x.com/RELE_CIDH/status/1963638779178016968.

[81] SNTP, *El periodista Roland Carreño fue sacado de El Helicoide y llevado a un lugar desconocido* [Journalist Roland Carreño taken from El Helicoide and brought to an undisclosed site], undated; NTN24, *Denuncian que los presos políticos venezolanos Roland Carreño y Freddy Superlano habrían sido trasladados del Helicoide a paradero desconocido* [Venezuelan political prisoners Roland Carreño and Freddy Superlano reportedly transferred from Helicoide to undisclosed location], September 1, 2025; El Impulso, *Voluntad Popular exige fe de vida de Ronald Carreño y Freddy Superlano #2Sep* [Voluntad Popular party demands proof that Ronald Carreño and Freddy Superlano are alive #2Sep], September 2, 2025; Efecto Cocuyo, *Sntp denuncia traslado de Roland Carreño a sitio desconocido* [SNTP condemns Roland Carreño's transfer to undisclosed site], September 2, 2025; NTN24, *Aurora Silva, esposa de Freddy Superlano, habla de últimas informaciones sobre el dirigente político* [Aurora Silva, wife of Freddy Superlano, discusses the most recent information about the political leader], September 2, 2025.

IACHR granted precautionary measures to the journalist Roland Carreño in the consideration that he faces a serious, urgent risk of suffering irreparable harm to his rights in Venezuela.[82]

63. In a report for the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela documented 18 cases of journalists being detained while working, from August 2024 to August 2025, due to their being considered opponents of the government, whether or not that was true. The report also indicates that between January and June 2024, 144 attacks on freedom of expression were documented, including 44 associated with incidents in digital environments. These acts form part of a pattern of sustained repression that restricts the exercise of journalism and citizens' right to be informed.[83]

64. The IACHR and its Office of the Rapporteur reiterate that journalism is the primary and principal manifestation of freedom of expression, since it is journalists and the media that keep society informed of matters of public interest and contribute to the existence of a broad, robust, and plural public debate.[84] An independent and critical press is fundamental to ensuring respect for other liberties that form part of a democratic system of government.[85]

65. As the Special Rapporteurs for Freedom of Expression indicated in their Joint Declaration of 2013, the State "has the duty to ensure that journalists and media workers [...] are not arrested, threatened, assaulted, or limited in any manner in their rights as a result of practicing their profession."[86] Moreover, the States are obligated to create the conditions for journalists to exercise their profession freely, independently, and safely.[87]

66. Attacks aimed at silencing critical voices or inhibiting citizen participation in matters of public interest constitute a clear violation of human rights and the fundamental principles of the rule of law.[88] The IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur strongly condemn the systematic repression and persecution of the independent press in Venezuela and urge the Venezuelan State to immediately put an end to all forms of aggression against journalists, the media, and individuals exercising their right to freedom of expression. They also call for the cessation of arbitrary detentions and the immediate release of all persons who have been detained for political motives.

2. Threats and attacks against the press

67. In addition to the detentions, other forms of aggression against the press continue to be reported, including raids, threats of arrest, and attacks on media facilities with a view to intimidating and silencing. On March 18, 2025, Bolivarian National Guard and Office of the Public Prosecutor agents allegedly

[82] IACHR, Resolution 50/2024, Precautionary Measure No. 883-24, Roland Oswaldo Carreño Gutiérrez regarding Venezuela, August 17, 2024.

[83] SNTP, [@sntpvenezuela], (September 22, 2025), *La Misión Internacional Independiente de Determinación de los Hechos de la ONU confirmó 18 detenciones de periodistas en Venezuela, "por ser considerados opositores al Gobierno, de manera real o percibida"* [UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission confirmed 18 detentions of journalists in Venezuela "for being considered actual or perceived opponents of the government," X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1970252648109547969; Espacio Público, *Misión Independiente documenta en un año 18 casos de detenciones de periodistas en el ejercicio de su trabajo* [In one year, Independent Mission documents 18 cases of detentions of journalists], September 22, 2025.

[84] Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Advisory Opinion OC-5/85, "Compulsory membership in an association prescribed by law for the practice of journalism (Arts. 13 and 29 American Convention on Human Rights), November 13, 1985, par. 71; IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Background and Interpretation of the Declaration of Principles, undated.

[85] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Background and Interpretation of the Declaration of Principles, undated.

[86] United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Protection and Promotion of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, and Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Joint declaration on violence against journalists and media workers in the context of protests, September 13, 2013.

[87] IACHR, SRFOE, *Marco Jurídico Interamericano sobre el derecho a la libertad de expresión: actualización 2025* [Inter-American legal framework regarding the right to freedom of expression, 2025 update], OEA/Ser.L/V /II CIDH/RELE/INF.29/25, pars. 6-8, 338, and following.

[88] IACHR, SRFOE, Press release R088/25, SRFOE warns about the serious deterioration of the media ecosystem in Venezuela and urges the State to respect and guarantee freedom of expression and of the press, May 5, 2025.

raided the apartment of journalist Charito Rojas in Valencia, state of Carabobo. According to reports, the agents checked the property and demanded that the storage room be opened. In June 2024, a Carabobo criminal court reportedly issued a warrant for Rojas's arrest for an alleged pattern of aggravated fraud and conspiracy.[89]

68. Likewise, the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression learned of reports of threats against the journalist Jesús Hermoso, who allegedly received at least three warnings of a possible arrest warrant against him due to his journalism work. According to public statements, Hermoso asserted: "we received information from various channels that I would be apprehended. First, due to the exposure and the things I write. Second, because Diosdado Cabello threatened the sectors on the left that meet with opposition figures. He sent that message about five weeks ago on his program."[90] In the face of these threats, the journalist announced on his social media accounts that he had decided to self-exile: "I never wanted to leave Venezuela, but it was either that or keep quiet at the risk of being imprisoned. Today the fight for my country continues, but in relative safety abroad."[91]

69. In turn, the journalist Gustavo Azócar reported that a warrant for his arrest had been issued by the Ninth Control Court of the Judicial Circuit of the state of Táchira, for the alleged crimes of incitement to hatred and aggravated unlawful disclosure of personal information. According to Azócar, his attorneys have not been given access to the file, in violation of his right to defense.[92]

70. Furthermore, the SNTP warned about serious threats received by Venezuelan journalist and activist Melanio Escobar, founder of the Redes Ayuda organization dedicated to defending freedom of expression, digital rights, and the security of journalists and activists. According to Escobar's own public statements, he has been subjected to constant threats and recently received messages that include direct threats to kidnap his family to force them to return to Venezuela to be "disappeared, tortured, or killed." Some messages reportedly contained references to the alleged addresses of his relatives' homes.[93] Civil society organizations warned that this type of harassment demonstrates the dangers faced by Venezuelan journalists even when in exile, and demanded the immediate cessation of acts of intimidation against the press and their families.[94] A similar act was reported by the journalist Orlando Avendaño, who indicated that both he and the journalist Jesús Medina Ezaine had received threats of potential kidnapping with a view to bringing them back to Venezuela.[95]

71. In September 2025, new cases were registered of harassment of journalists in Venezuela. On September 18, Andreina Badual, journalist and human rights activist, reported that she had been followed by a man on a motorcycle after attending an event at the French embassy in Caracas, in what she classified as part of a pattern of intimidation against the individuals who speak out about the situation of political prisoners. Some days later, on September 25, Francesca Díaz, journalist at Correo del Caroní and Radio Fe y Alegría, reported that she had been subjected to threats and smear campaigns on social media, where she was falsely

[89] Espacio Público, *Marzo: censura establecida* [March: censorship established], April 5, 2025.

[90] Espacio Público, *El periodista Jesús Hermoso recibió alertas de captura* [Journalist Jesús Hermoso received arrest warnings], undated.

[91] Jesús Noel Hermoso, [@Jesus_Hermoso], (September 15, 2025), *Nunca quise irme de Venezuela, pero era eso o mantenerme en silencio a riesgo de ser encarcelado* [I never wanted to leave Venezuela, but it was either that or keep quiet at the risk of being imprisoned], X, https://x.com/Jesus_Hermoso/status/1967619027863580995?t=QYyPt7df-6l80xDNmcUR1w&s=08.

[92] Espacio Público, *Marzo: censura establecida* [March: censorship established], April 5, 2025; SNTP, [@sntvenezuela], (March 27, 2025), *El periodista Gustavo Azócar Alcalá denunció la existencia de una orden de captura en su contra* [Journalist Gustavo Azócar Alcalá reported the existence of an arrest warrant against him], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1905353473283240331.

[93] SNTP, *El periodista Melanio Escobar denuncia amenazas de secuestro y agresión* [Journalist Melanio Escobar reports threats of kidnapping and assault], September 8, 2025; Melanio Escobar, [@MelanioBar], *Gracias a todos por la solidaridad pública y privada ante las amenazas de muerte hacia mi* [Thank you all for your public and private support in the face of the death threats against me], X, https://x.com/MelanioBar/status/1964979530202054985?t=GVltX6MYw3_dAMXEV9Hm4Q&s=19.

[94] IPYS Venezuela, [@ipysvenezuela], (September 8, 2025), *El periodista exiliado @MelanioBar denunció en su cuenta de X haber recibido amenazas directas contra su familia* [Exiled journalist @MelanioBar reported on her X account that she had received direct threats against her family], X, https://x.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1965143471586451566?t=ooWwVL-WvhPoNcH-oEnSzQ&s=08.

[95] Orlando Avendaño, [@OrlvndoA], (September 9, 2025), *Me llegó información de que el régimen pretende secuestrarnos* [I received information that the regime plans to kidnap us], X, https://x.com/OrlvndoA/status/1965548111528399237?t=QioOOIyrdyX0cQ7y59d2OA&s=08.

accused of collaborating with security forces. The journalist indicated that "over the past few years I have been censored precisely due to my journalistic approach and have even lost radio slots for defending the truth."[96]

72. Lastly, on July 6, 2025, unidentified individuals reportedly broke into the CNP Caracas headquarters illegally. During the assault, they reportedly subdued the security personnel and destroyed a banner with the faces of journalists detained in Venezuela, most of whom had been arrested after the July 28, 2024, presidential elections. The general secretariat of the CNP Caracas publicly reported that the banner was torn down by armed and hooded individuals and demanded an immediate investigation.[97]

73. The IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression recall that principle 9 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression indicates that the "murder, kidnapping, intimidation of and/or threats to social communicators, as well as the material destruction of communications media violate the fundamental rights of individuals and strongly restrict freedom of expression. It is the duty of the state to prevent and investigate such occurrences, to punish their perpetrators and to ensure that victims receive due compensation."[98] The Commission and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression have asserted that attacks on journalists are intended to silence them, and therefore also constitute violations of society's right to have free access to information.[99]

74. On January 9, 2025, during protests called by the opposition in several cities in Venezuela to reject the results announced by the National Electoral Council declaring Nicolás Maduro victorious, multiple acts of harassment and violence against journalists covering the protests were registered. For example, media worker Frank Daza was injured while covering a demonstration in the municipio of Pedro María Ureña, state of Táchira.[100] According to reports, hooded figures aboard a vehicle attacked the protestors, allegedly injuring Daza.[101] That same day, journalists Joanna Barboza and Felipe López were allegedly assaulted while reporting from the La República square, state of Zulia. Allegedly, Barboza's cell phone was taken, and an officer struck López and destroyed his ID.[102] In addition, work equipment belonging to the journalists Reinaldo Campins and Randolfo Blanco was reported to have been stolen while they were covering the demonstrations.[103]

75. Multiple obstacles and instances of intimidation of the press were also documented during the May 25, 2025, elections. According to public reports, in Mérida, a member of the Plan República security force asked to photograph credentials as a requirement for access; in Caracas, a reporter for the *Tal Cual* daily

[96] Espacio Público, *Septiembre: detenciones arbitrarias y hostigamiento para silenciar* [September: arbitrary detentions and harassment to silence], October 6, 2025; Espacio Público, *Andreína Baduel: "Soy una perseguida"* [Andreína Baduel: I am being persecuted], July 7, 2025.

[97] IPYS Venezuela, [@ipysvenezuela], (July 6, 2025), *La madrugada de este domingo #6Jul, sujetos no identificados ingresaron ilegalmente* [Early this Sunday #6Jul, unidentified individuals entered illegally], X, https://x.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1941886180771197051?t=633GwikF5d7dRFhpHWHsNg&s=08; RunRun.es, Irrupción violenta en el CNP: encapuchados se llevaron pancarta de periodistas presos [Violent break-in of the CNP: hooded individuals took banner of imprisoned journalists], July 6, 2025; CNP Caracas, [@CNPCaracas], (July 6, 2025), *Los sujetos encapuchados amenazaron con arma de fuego a personal de vigilancia y rompieron cerco eléctrico para ingresar* [The hooded figures threatened security staff with firearms and broke electric fence to get in], X, https://x.com/CNPCaracas/status/1941757177292562680.

[98] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, 2000, principle 9.

[99] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Background and Interpretation of the Declaration of Principles, undated; IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Annual Report 2022, OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 50, March 6, 2025, par. 41.

[100] SNTP, [@sntpvenezuela], (January 9, 2025), *El comunicador Frank Daza fue herido mientras daba cobertura a la concentración opositora* [Media worker Frank Daza injured while covering the opposition rally], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1877437642528186830.

[101] La Nación, *Alcalde de Ureña repudia ataque a manifestación opositora que dejó dos heridos* [Mayor of Ureña repudiates attack on opposition protest that left two people injured], January 9, 2025.

[102] SNTP, [@sntpvenezuela], (January 9, 2025), *Joanna Barboza y Felipe López fueron agredidos* [Joanna Barboza and Felipe López were assaulted], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1877386029188936150?t=LwEPkgvth3-IEppHujvGfg&s=08.

[103] SNTP, [@sntpvenezuela], (January 9, 2025), *Motorizados identificados con grupos oficialistas* [Motorcyclists identified with pro-government groups], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1877375879036190866?t=qkr7o6c03_Rny_7lQaSQrQ&s=08; CNP Venezuela, [@cnpvenezuela], (January 9, 2025), Carabobo @CNP_Carabobo *Periodista Randolfo Blanco fue despojado de celular por func Guardia Nacional* [Journalist Randolfo Blanco had his cell phone taken by National Guard members], X, https://x.com/cnpven/status/1877407215318909164?t=uWeIWHxTdkQG6R9wr6vDxg&s=08.

newspaper was prevented from entering a voting center, on the grounds that only VTV teams were allowed to do so.[104] In addition, armed civilians threatened journalist Daniel Garrido, correspondent for Telemundo News, and his team, forcing them to show their credentials.[105]

76. In the July 27 municipal elections,[106] in Barquesimeto, state of Lara, journalists were reportedly forced to remain outside the polling station while a candidate for mayor of Irivarren was voting.[107] In Puerto Ordaz, journalists Félix Requena and Edwin Rosal were reportedly harassed and monitored while they were covering the voting.[108] Furthermore, in Cojedes, journalist Pilar Guerra was reportedly denied access to a polling station,[109] and in Lara the El Impulso newspaper team was forced to delete photographic material taken at the La Salle school, even though the polling station coordinator had authorized the coverage.[110] Certified journalists were also reportedly blocked in Aragua and Zulia.[111] Lastly, in Nueva Esparta, a soldier prevented a journalist from filming supporting footage around the polling station in the Madre Guadalupe school in Maneiro.[112]

77. Furthermore, a pattern continues to be observed, in which foreign journalists seeking to cover the political, social, and human rights situation in Venezuela are deported. On August 27, 2025, Mexican journalists Israel Navarro and Gerardo Torres, from the media outlet Milenio, were deported by Venezuelan authorities after trying to enter the country. According to public reports, they arrived at the Simón Bolívar de Maiquetía International Airport on August 25 and were held by migration and counterintelligence personnel for at least 24 hours, during which their passports, mobile phones, and work equipment were confiscated. The SNTP reported that the authorities forbade them from communicating in any way with Milenio and kept them under surveillance in a room guarded by soldiers before they were deported. In an interview, journalist Navarro stated that the Venezuelan officers justified the measure by insisting that journalistic activities "are not allowed" in the country.[113]

78. These acts take place against the backdrop of increasing stigmatization of the press, pushed by the highest-level State authorities, including governors and mayors. For example, Nicolás Maduro publicly accused the Spanish agency EFE of conducting "a dirty little campaign against the country," affirming that "all the EFE journalists serve as media hitmen against Venezuela, they are the face of fascism."[114] Minister of the Interior, Justice, and Peace Diosdado Cabello also criticized EFE after an interview of political activist Magalli Meda. Three days later, the internet observatory VE sin Filtro reported that operators like CANTV, G-Network,

[104] SNTP, [@snptvenezuela], (May 25, 2025), *En dos hechos, a un mismo reportero del @DiarioTalCual se le impidió el acceso al centro de votación Edoardo Crema* [On two occasions, the same @DiarioTalCual reporter was denied access to the Edoardo Crema polling station], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1926675329558393294.

[105] SNTP, [@snptvenezuela], (May 25, 2025), *Civiles armados y sin identificación amenazaron al periodista Daniel Garrido* [Armed and unidentified civilians threatened journalist Daniel Garrido], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1926727769104196020.

[106] SNTP, *SNTP: Restricciones, intimidación y censura en la cobertura periodística de las elecciones municipales 2025* [SNTP: Restrictions, intimidation, and censorship in the journalistic coverage of the 2025 municipal elections], July 27, 2025.

[107] SNTP, *Plan República restringe cobertura de periodistas durante la votación de Henri Falcón* [Plan República restricts journalists' coverage during Henri Falcón vote], July 27, 2025.

[108] SNTP, *Periodistas son fotografiados y señalados de "saboteadores" en Puerto Ordaz* [Journalists are photographed and called "saboteurs" in Puerto Ordaz], July 27, 2025.

[109] SNTP, *Plan República impide labor de periodista en San Carlos durante jornada electoral* [Plan República prevents journalist from working in San Carlos on election day], July 27, 2025.

[110] SNTP, *Comandante de la GNB obliga a equipo de El Impulso a borrar fotos de la cobertura* [GNB commander forces El Impulso team to delete photos from their coverage], July 27, 2025.

[111] SNTP, *Periodistas enfrentan restricciones en centros de votación de Aragua y Zulia* [Journalists face restrictions at polling stations in Aragua and Zulia], July 27, 2025.

[112] SNTP, *En el municipio Maneiro le impiden a periodista grabar a las afueras de centro de votación* [In the municipio of Maneiro journalist is prevented from recording around the polling station], July 27, 2025.

[113] El Diario, *SNTP denunció que dos periodistas mexicanos fueron deportados cuando intentaban ingresar a Venezuela* [SNTP reported that two Mexican journalists were deported when they tried to enter Venezuela], August 27, 2025; Espacio Público, *Periodistas de México inadmitidos: "aquí es diferente"* [Mexican journalists denied entry: "it's different here"], August 30, 2025; SNTP Venezuela, *Periodistas de Milenio denuncian que fueron deportados al intentar ingresar a Venezuela* [Milenio journalists report that they were deported when trying to enter Venezuela], August 27, 2025; NTN24, *Dos periodistas mexicanos que buscaban cubrir la tensión entre Estados Unidos y el régimen madurista fueron deportados de Venezuela* [Two Mexican journalists deported from Venezuela while attempting to cover U.S.-Maduro tensions], August 27, 2025.

[114] Espacio Público, *Nicolás Maduro hostiga a la agencia EFE* [Nicolás Maduro harasses the agency EFE], January 31, 2025.

Airtek, Movistar, NetUno, Digitel, Supercable, and Thundernet had blocked the EFE website through DNS and HTTPS.[115]

79. Likewise, public reports indicate that in Trujillo, Governor Gerardo Márquez threatened to arrest individuals who, in his opinion, produce hate speech or content that instigates hatred on social media, warning that a "Tun Tun" [Knock Knock] operation would occur, in allusion to security organizations arbitrarily detaining and forcibly disappearing individuals perceived as opposition figures.[116]

80. The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression warns that these kinds of statements create a hostile climate for the exercise of journalism. Public servants serve as guarantors of people's fundamental rights and, therefore, their statements cannot ignore those rights nor constitute forms of direct or indirect interference with or harmful pressure on the rights of those who seek to contribute to public deliberation by expressing and disseminating their thoughts, like journalists.[117] Consequently, this Office makes an urgent call to the national and local authorities to abstain from issuing statements that could threaten, stigmatize, or disqualify the independent press in Venezuela.

3. Arbitrary closure and sustainability of media outlets

81. The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression continued to receive information on the closure of local radio programs and stations, in many instances due to pressure or orders from agents of the National Telecommunications Commission (CONATEL). According to public information, on January 24, CONATEL staff ordered the closure of Criolla 100.7 FM, a radio station operating since 2020 in the municipio of Angostura, state of Bolívar, and seizure of its equipment, alleging that it was operating "underground."[118] Furthermore, on February 21, the stations Victoria 100.9 FM and Stilos 93.1 FM, located in Biscucuy, state of Portuguesa, reportedly stopped operating after a CONATEL visit in which their equipment was seized.[119]

82. On March 31, CONATEL ordered the closure of Radio Mundial 860 AM, after declaring its concession title terminated; this station had been operating for over 70 years in San Cristóbal, state of Táchira. Public reports indicate that it was one of the few medium-wave broadcasters in the region, meaning its shutdown creates an additional information vacuum.[120] On May 22, Admirable Stereo 106.1 FM went off the air in San Antonio del Táchira, after a CONATEL operation in which its equipment was confiscated due to lack of proper authorization. The station, active since 2020, had requested the permit but had not received a response.[121]

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[115] Espacio Público, *Bloquean acceso al portal web de la Agencia EFE* [Access to EFE web portal blocked], March 25, 2025; Correo del Caroní, *VE sin Filtro denuncia bloqueo del portal de noticias EFE* [VE sin Filtro condemns blocking of EFE news portal], March 23, 2025.

[116] SNTP, [@sntpvenezuela], (January 27, 2025), *El gobernador de #Trujillo, Gerardo Márquez, amenazó con cárcel a quienes escriban en redes sociales mensajes que puedan ser considerados de odio* [#Trujillo governor Gerardo Márquez threatened to jail social media users whose posts could be considered hate speech], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1883984861482160234.

[117] Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Case of Ríos et al. v. Venezuela, Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations, and Costs, Judgment of January 28, 2009, Series C No. 194, par. 139.

[118] Tal Cual, *Conatel cierra Criolla 100.7FM en Bolívar y decomisa varios equipos del medio* [Conatel shuts down Criolla 100.7FM in Bolívar and seizes several pieces of equipment], January 24, 2025; Espacio Público, *Conatel cerró la emisora Criolla 100.7 FM en el estado Bolívar* [Conatel shut down the station Criolal 100.7 FM in the state of Bolívar], January 25, 2025.

[119] SNTP, [@sntpvenezuela], (February 22, 2025), *Las emisoras Victoria 100.9 FM y Stilos 93.1 FM, de Biscucuy* [The Biscucuy stations Victoria 100.9 FM and Stilos 93.1 FM], X, https://x.com/sntpvenezuela/status/1893433243354976384?t=6oqHDdv5SpFyM6BsbWaT5w&s=08.

[120] El Impulso, *Radio Mundial 860 AM en Táchira cesa sus transmisiones tras orden de Conatel* [Radio Mundial 860 AM in Táchira ends broadcasts after Conatel order], March 31, 2025; Efecto Cocuyo, *Conatel ordena cierre de emisora Radio Mundial en Táchira: tenía 70 años de transmisiones* [Conatel orders shutdown of Radio Mundial in Táchira, after 70 years of broadcasts], March 31, 2025; Espacio Público, *Sale del aire Radio Mundial 860 AM en Táchira por órdenes de la Conatel* [Radio Mundial 860 AM in Táchira goes off the air on Conatel orders], April 1, 2025; IPYS Venezuela, *Radio Mundial 860 AM en Táchira sale del aire por orden de Conatel* [Radio Mundial 860 AM in Táchira goes off the air on Conatel orders], April 1, 2025.

[121] IPYS Venezuela, [@ipysvenezuela], (May 23, 2025), *Este jueves #22May la emisora Admirable Stereo 106.1 FM salió del aire* [This Thursday #22May the station Admirable Stereo went off the air], X, https://x.com/ipysvenezuela/status/1925980633509101629?t=B5Bg4d3DeRRAU-h_ku41Vw&s=08.

83. Likewise, the private telecommunications company SuperCable announced that it would definitively shut down on August 18, 2025, in compliance with an order issued by CONATEL. The company, with over 30 years of operations in Venezuela, provided subscription television and internet services. In a statement, SuperCable asserted that it was up to date with its legal and tax obligations. Previously, on March 14, CONATEL had informed SuperCable users that it was revoking SuperCable ALK Internacional S.A.'s administrative licenses.[122]

84. The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression has also expressed concern over the lack of economic and structural conditions to ensure media sustainability in Venezuela, which has led to the progressive closure of news outlets. In this context, it was reported that the Táchira Regional Television (TRT) had partially shut down its operations on August 29, 2025, and had dismissed nine employees, including two journalists, two camera operators, the studio director, an audio operator, an administrator, and two security guards.[123]

85. Furthermore, on September 5, the digital media outlet El Martillo Venezuela announced its partial shutdown, after operating for nearly five years, due to the lack of resources needed to maintain its team of journalists. The founder and director, journalist José Mireles, informed SNTP that the portal had been running for the past six months on personal funds while they tried to find financing. The decision left seven press workers unemployed.[124]

86. The Commission and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression recall that the media plays an essential role as a vehicle for the exercise of freedom of expression and information, in its individual and social dimensions, in a democratic society.[125] Freedom of expression is especially important for the press; while it is the media's responsibility to disseminate information and ideas on matters of public interest, the public has the right to right to be informed.[126] Accordingly, the UN, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and OAS rapporteurs affirmed in their joint declaration in 1999 that an "independent and pluralistic media is essential to a free and open society and accountable government."[127]

87. They also recall that direct or indirect pressure meant to silence the informative work of media professionals is incompatible with the right to freedom of expression. According to principle 13 of the IACHR Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, the "exercise of power and the use of public funds by the State, the granting of customs duty privileges, the arbitrary and discriminatory placement of official advertising and government loans; the concession of radio and television broadcast frequencies, among others, with the intent to put pressure on and punish or reward and provide privileges to social communicators and communications media because of the opinions they express threaten freedom of expression, and must be explicitly prohibited by law."[128]

[122] Espacio Público, *SuperCable: cierre definitivo* [SuperCable: definitive shutdown], August 19, 2025.

[123] Espacio Público, [@espaciopublico], (August 30, 2025), *La Televisora Regional del Táchira (TRT) cerró parcialmente sus operaciones este viernes* [Táchira Regional Television (TRT) partially shut down its operations this Friday], X, https://x.com/espaciopublico/status/1961747707820666935?t=9qDlAh7hbE-Q4zAJ1MuiOw&s=08.

[124] SNTP, *El medio digital El Martillo anuncia el cese parcial de sus operaciones* [Digital media outlet El Martillo announces partial shutdown of its operations], September 6, 2025; El Martillo Venezuela, [@ElMartilloVen], (September 5, 2025), *El Martillo Venezuela anuncia el cese parcial de sus operaciones* [El Martillo Venezuela announces partial shutdown of its operations], X, https://x.com/ElMartilloVen/status/1964110289940381953.

[125] Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Case of Herrara Ulloa v. Costa Rica, Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations, and Costs, Judgment of July 2, 2004, Series C No. 107, par. 117; Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Case of Ivcher-Bronstein v. Peru, Reparations and Costs, Judgment of February 6, 2001, Series C No. 74, par. 149.

[126] Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Case of Ivcher-Bronstein v. Peru. Reparations and Costs, Judgment of February 6, 2001, Series C No. 74, par. 153.

[127] UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, and OAS Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, First Joint Declaration of the Rapporteurs for Freedom of Expression, 1999.

[128] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, 2000.

4. Criminalization of critical and citizen voices exercising their right to freedom of expression

88. On the eve of the presidential inauguration, planned for January 10, repression of various civil society stakeholders was observed to escalate; these stakeholders included human rights defenders, academics, activists, political leaders, and journalists. The acts of repression occurred in connection with the protests and demonstrations convened by opposition groups to repudiate the inauguration of Nicolás Maduro. Furthermore, new reprisals against the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association, assembly, and academic freedom were also documented. All of this was compounded by implementation of the "Law on the Oversight, Regularization, Operations, and Financing of Nongovernmental and Nonprofit Social Organizations" as well as by the cutbacks in international cooperation funding, which have significantly affected the operations of civil society organizations and of the media in Venezuela.

89. On January 7, 2025, Carlos Correa, director of the organization Espacio Público, journalist, and human rights defender, was intercepted in downtown Caracas by hooded individuals dressed in black and was taken to an undisclosed location. His family members and colleagues looked at various detention centers but were unable to obtain official information about his whereabouts, while the authorities denied having him in custody.[129] On January 8, his wife, Mabel Calderín, filed a writ of habeas corpus at the Palace of Justice in Caracas.[130] According to public information, Correa was brought before the courts on January 9 and released on January 16.[131]

90. While defender Carlos Correa was detained, the IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression called on the Venezuelan authorities to provide information on his whereabouts and guarantee his rights.[132] Likewise, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression expressed their profound concern about the case and about the conditions restricting the exercise of public participation in Venezuela.[133]

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[129] Espacio Público, *Exigimos la liberación inmediata del defensor Carlos Correa* [We demand the immediate release of defender Carlos Correa], January 8, 2025; RSF, *Presunta desaparición forzada del director de Espacio Público en Venezuela: RSF exige respuestas a las autoridades* [Alleged enforced disappearance of Espacio Público director in Venezuela: RSF demands answers from the authorities], January 10, 2025.

[130] Provea, [@_Provea], (January 8, 2025), *Tras más de dos horas de haber introducido un recurso de Hábeas Corpus* [Over two hours after filing a writ of habeas corpus], X, https://x.com/_Provea/status/1877050833923199259; Espacio Público, [@espaciopublico], (January 8, 2025), *Con el apoyo de varios defensores de derechos humanos, Mabel Calderín* [With support from various human rights defenders, Mabel Calderín], X, https://x.com/espaciopublico/status/1877060495682711732.

[131] Espacio Público, [@espaciopublico], (January 15, 2025), *Mabel Calderín, esposa de nuestro director Carlos Correa* [Mabel Calderín, wife of our director Carlos Correa], X, https://x.com/espaciopublico/status/1879643926036152398?s=46&t=MqOVYcsFpR9jsgswGpJsmw; Espacio Público, [@espaciopublico], (January 16, 2025), *En las primeras horas de este #16ene, nuestro director Carlos Correa fue excarcelado* [Early this January 16 (#16ene), our director Carlos Correa was released], X, https://x.com/espaciopublico/status/1879824400062751059?s=46; El Tiempo, *Tras 9 días detenido por el régimen venezolano, liberan a Carlos Correa, activista y director de ONG* [Carlos Correa, activist and NGO director, released after 9 days held by the Venezuelan regime], January 16, 2025; Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) Américas, [@CPJAmericas], (January 16, 2025), CPJ @pressfreedomwelcomes the release of Espacio Público director Carlos Correa, X, https://x.com/CPJAmericas/status/1879922690833924427.

[132] IACHR, [@CIDH], (January 8, 2025), *#CIDH y su @RELE_CIDH condenan la detención arbitraria y desaparición forzada de Carlos Correa* [IACHR (*#CIDH*) and its Special Rapporteur (@RELE_CIDH) condemn the arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance of Carlos Correa], X, https://x.com/CIDH/status/1877048782472253897.

[133] Pedro Vaca Villarreal, [@PVacaV], (January 16, 2025), *Informan sobre la excarcelación de Carlos Correa en la madrugada de hoy* [Reports indicate Carlos Correa released from prison early this morning], X, https://x.com/PVacaV/status/1879851958611374168; Gina Romero, [@Ginitastar], (January 9, 2025), *En nuestra condición de Relatores Especiales para la Libertad de asociación y reunión pacífica ONU y de libertad de expresión de la OEA externamos nuestra grave preocupación por Carlos Correa y las garantías para la participación pública en Venezuela* [In our capacity as Special Rapporteurs for Freedom of Association and Peaceful Assembly of the United Nations and for Freedom of Expression of the OAS, we express our grave concern about Carlos Correa and the guarantees for public participation in Venezuela], X, https://x.com/Ginitastar/status/1877415368643190966?t=DSlCwF6xe8FL6y3tQgBhbw&s=08; Espacio Público, [@espaciopublico], (January 9, 2025), *Exrelatores de la libertad de expresión de la CIDH condenan la desaparición de nuestro director Carlos Correa* [Former IACHR rapporteurs for freedom of expression condemn the disappearance of our director Carlos Correa], X, https://x.com/espaciopublico/status/1877542168157376571.

91. On January 9, 2025, in the context of demonstrations called by the opposition, opposition leader María Corina Machado was taken and held after participating in a rally in Chacao, Caracas.[134] According to public reports, government employees fired against the motorcycles in which she was being transported, and while detained she was forced to record several videos; she was subsequently released.[135] The Commission recalls that María Corina Machado is a beneficiary of precautionary measures, granted to ensure that she can "carry out her political participation activities without being subjected to threats, harassment, or acts of violence in the exercise thereof."[136] After these events, Minister of the Interior, Justice, and Peace Diosdado Cabello denied the detention, calling it a "lie" and accusing the opposition of inventing it to generate media coverage.[137] In turn, Minister of Information Freddy Ñáñez disseminated a video in which Machado asserts that she is "good and free," and affirmed that the complaint was a "publicity distraction" due to the scant participation in the protests. Similarly, Attorney General Tarek William Saab indicated that this "staging" was intended to "sow chaos and violence."[138]

92. According to public information, on January 9, 2025, Roalmi Alberto Cabeza Cedeño, Central University of Venezuela student, was arbitrarily detained by the Bolivarian National Police at the Altamira interchange, during the operation meant to apprehend opposition leader María Corina Machado. Cabeza reportedly brought Machado from the demonstration in Chacao to the detention site. On January 13, Minister of the Interior, Justice, and Peace Diosdado Cabello published a video on social media showing the student, with little clothing, narrating his detention. Cabeza was reportedly brought before the authorities for the alleged crimes of conspiracy and simulation of a punishable act, with the intention to create unrest in the country.[139]

93. On May 23, 2025, the Office of the Rapporteur learned of reports that Juan Pablo Guanipa, opposition leader, had been taken by security forces two days before the regional and legislative elections.[22] The authorities reportedly accused him of forming part of an alleged network to "boycott" the elections and of planning "terrorist acts."[140] After he was detained, family members complained that he remained missing, with no contact whatsoever nor information provided about his health status for over a month.[141] Civil society organizations and political leaders classified the act as a "kidnapping" and condemned it as part of an escalation of repression meant to silence dissident voices.[142]

94. The transfer of political leader Freddy Superlano from the SEBIN facilities in El Helicoide to an undisclosed location was reported on August 31, 2025. According to the available information, the

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[134] Comando ConVzla, [ConVezlComando], (January 9, 2025), *María Corina (@MariaCorinaYA) fue violentamente interceptada a su salida de la concentración en Chacao* [María Corina (@MariaCorinaYA) was violently intercepted upon leaving the rally in Chacao], X, https://x.com/convzlacomando/status/1877435670278410688?s=48; Efecto Cocuyo, [@EfectoCocuyo], (January 9, 2025), *La líder opositora María Corina Machado fue detenida* [Opposition leader María Corina Machado detained], X, https://x.com/EfectoCocuyo/status/1877440474174087522.

[135] CNN, *Comando con Venezuela reportó liberación de María Corina Machado; Gobierno de Maduro niega detención de la líder opositora* [Comando con Venezuela reported release of María Corina Machado; Maduro government denies detention of the opposition leader], January 9, 2025; RPP, *María Corina Machado fue secuestrada, forzada a grabar videos y luego liberada, informó su equipo* [María Corina Machado was kidnapped, forced to record videos, and then released, reported her team], January 9, 2025; Noticias Caracol, "*María Corina Machado ha sido liberada": subdirector de la División de las Américas de HRW* ["Mariá Corina Machado has been released": Americas deputy director of HRW], January 9, 2025.

[136] IACHR, Press release 009/25, The IACHR condemns the ongoing practices of state terrorism in Venezuela and recalls that María Corina Machado is a beneficiary of precautionary measures, January 9, 2025.

[137] The New York Times, Venezuela's Opposition Leader is Forcibly Detained and Then Released, January 9, 2025.

[138] BBC News, *La oposición denuncia la detención y posterior liberación de María Corina Machado en Venezuela tras reaparecer en las protestas contra la toma de posesión de Maduro* [The opposition denounces the detention and subsequent release of María Corina Machado en Venezuela after she reappeared in the protests against Maduro's inauguration], January 9, 2025.

[139] Aula Abierta, *Situación de la libertad académica, la libertad de asociación, el derecho a la educación y las universidades en Venezuela* [Situation of academic freedom, freedom of association, the right to education, and universities in Venezuela], January 2025; Tal Cual, *Preguntas que deja video de la presunta detención de Roalmi Cabeza, motorizado de Machado* [Questions raised by video of the alleged detention of Roalmi Cabeza, Machado's motorcyclist], January 14, 2025.

[140] Crónica Uno, "*Detienen por presunto terrorismo al opositor Juan Pablo Guanipa tras 134 días en la clandestinidad*" [Opposition figure Juan Pablo Guanipo arrested for alleged terrorism after 134 days missing], May 23, 2025.

[141] Correo del Caroní, *Denuncian que Juan Pablo Guanipa cumple un mes en desaparición forzada* [Juan Pablo Guanipo reported to have been in enforced disappearance for one month], June 23, 2025.

[142] DW News, *El régimen venezolano detiene al opositor Juan Pablo Guanipa* [Venezuelan regime detains opposition figure Juan Pablo Guanipa], May 23, 2025.

authorities did not inform Superlano's family members of his whereabouts nor of the reasons for his transfer.[143] Freddy Superlano had previously been detained on July 30, 2024, in the city of Caracas, allegedly by SEBIN officials. In view of these events, the IACHR issued resolution 55/2024, granting him precautionary measures, in the consideration that he faces a serious, urgent risk of suffering irreparable harm to his rights in Venezuela.[144]

95. On June 18, 2025, the Third Trial Court of the state of Monagas, based in Maturín, sentenced Merlys Oropeza, 25 years old and resident of the Las Carolinas community, to ten years in prison for the alleged crimes of instigation to hatred and conspiracy.[145] The judgment was based on her publication of a critical message, spread through her WhatsApp status in August 2025, in which she questioned the distribution of food through the government Local Supply and Production Committees (CLAP) program. In July 2025, she was reported to have been released.[146]

96. Information was also revealed about the ten-year prison sentence handed down to citizens Génesis Gabriela Pabón Paredes and Rocío Del Mar Rodríguez Guillén for allegedly committing the crimes of incitement to hatred, treason, and terrorism. According to the reports, the judgment was associated with the printing of t-shirts containing a picture of a post-election protest, in which several people knock down a statue of former president Hugo Chávez.[147] These events reportedly occurred after the July 28, 2024, presidential elections. Over the course of 2025, the Office received reports of arrests and the opening of criminal cases against individuals who criticized the government or simply disseminated information about various matters. The individuals involved in these cases include Oscar Duque Díaz,[148] Alexis Zárraga,[149] Ashley Aways,[150] and Michael Palin[151].

[143] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, [@oveprisiones], (September 2, 2025), *Aurora Silva, esposa de @freddysuperlano, recibió la información de que al preso político lo trasladaron de las celdas del Sebin de El Helicoide* [Aurora Silva, wife of @freddysuperlano, was informed that the political prisoner had been transferred out of the Sebin cells in El Helicoide], X, https://x.com/oveprisiones/status/1962899062371602510; Freddy Superlano, [@freddysuperlano], (September 2, 2025), *Hoy nuevamente nos arrebantan la tranquilidad y nos surmegen en horas de incertidumbre y agonía* [Today we have once again been robbed of our peace and plunged into hours of uncertainty and agony], X, https://x.com/freddysuperlano/status/1962915050294821313.

[144] IACHR, Press release 193/24, IACHR Grants Precautionary Measures to Political Leader Freddy Superlano in Venezuela, August 26, 2025, IACHR, Resolution 55/2021, Precautionary Measure 899-24, Freddy Francisco Superlano Salinas regarding Venezuela, August 26, 2024.

[145] NTN24, *"Ya no me quedan fuerzas": Joven condenada a 10 años de cárcel por un estado en WhatsApp contra la jefe de un Consejo Comunal después de las elecciones* ["I've got no strength left": young woman sentenced to 10 years in jail for a WhatsApp status targeting a community council leader following the elections], June 24, 2025; Investigative Journalism Agency, *Merlys Oropeza: condenada a prisión por criticar al gobierno de Maduro en redes* [Merlys Oropeza: sentenced to prison for criticizing the Maduro government on social media], June 30, 2025; El Nacional, *La historia de Merlys Oropeza: detenida, torturada y condenada a 10 años de cárcel por un WhatsApp* [The story of Merlys Oropeza: detained, tortured, and sentenced to 10 years in jail for a WhatsApp status], July 3, 2025.

[146] Efecto Cocuyo, *Excarcelan a joven en Maturín, que fue condenada a 10 años de prisión por criticar a una jefa del Clap* [Young woman who was sentenced to 10 years in prison for criticizing a Local Committee for Supply and Production boss, released], July 23, 2025; La Opinión, *Régimen de Maduro libera a joven que fue condenada a 10 años por un mensaje en WhatsApp* [Maduro regime releases young women who was sentenced to 10 years for a WhatsApp message], July 23, 2025.

[147] Espacio Público, [@espaciopublico], (July 17, 2025), *A las ciudadanas Génesis Pabón y Rocío Rodríguez las condenaron a 10 años de prisión por los delitos de "instigación al odio", "traición a la patria" y "terrorismo"* [Citizens Génesis Pabón and Rocío Rodríguez sentenced to 10 years in prison for the crimes of "instigation to hatred," "treason," and "terrorism"], X, https://x.com/espaciopublico/status/1945923207250268617; Tal Cual, *Condenadas a 10 años de cárcel por estampar franela con caída de estatua de Chávez* [Sentenced to 10 years in jail for stamping t-shirt with fall of Chávez statue], July 17, 2025; Efecto Cocuyo, *Las 2 merideñas a las que condenaron a 10 años de cárcel por estampar franelas de protesta poselectoral* [The two women from Mérida who were sentenced to 10 years in jail for stamping post-election protest t-shirts], July 19, 2025.

[148] Espacio Público, *Ciudadano detenido en Táchira por gritar consignas contra Maduro* [Citizen detained in Táchira for shouting slogans against Maduro], January 4, 2025.

[149] Espacio Público, *Privan de libertad a un médico en Falcón por publicar mensajes críticos en WhatsApp* [Doctor in Falcón deprived of liberty for publishing critical messages on WhatsApp], February 18, 2025.

[150] Espacio Público, *Ministerio Público detiene a adolescente por contenido en TikTok* [Office of the Public Prosecutor arrests adolescent for TikTok content], February 26, 2025.

[151] Espacio Público, Septiembre: detenciones arbitrarias y hostigamiento para silenciar [September: arbitrary detentions and harassment to silence], October 6, 2025.

5. Social protest

97. The IACHR report on "Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections," published January 7, 2025, documents grave abuses by law enforcement personnel between July 28 and 30, 2024, in connection with the post-election protests. At least 25 people, all men ages 15 to 56, were killed. Ten of the deaths are attributed to state security forces (eight to the military and two to the police), and six to armed groups, which act with the State's tolerance or acquiescence and are legally part of the "People's System for Protecting Peace."[152]

98. Likewise, between July 28 and August 24, 2024, civil society organizations reported 1,542 detentions in connection with the post-election protests, including of women, adolescents, people with disabilities, Indigenous people, journalists, and media workers. Against this backdrop, according to public information, Nicolás Maduro made stigmatizing comments about the demonstrators, asserting that "thanks to the response and reaction capacity of the civic-military-police union we dealt with the fascist outbreak in accordance with the Constitution and in peace" and warning that "this time there will be no pardon, this time there will be Tocorón" (referring to a prison in the state of Aragua).[153]

99. In turn, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela indicated that acts of repression, including the death of at least 25 people and the detention of over 2,220, were registered in connection with the 2024 post-election protests. The Mission also documented cases of enforced disappearances—some of short duration—as well as acts of torture; cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment; and sexual and gender-based violence. Although some detainees were released during this period, arbitrary detentions of members of the opposition and of individuals perceived as such continued systematically.[154]

100. The organization Espacio Público published its report on the overall status of the right to peaceful demonstration in Venezuela 2024, in which it recorded 407 demonstrations over the course of the year. Peaceful protest continued to be a key tool for complaining, especially with regard to demands for basic services and workers' rights. Demonstrations, led by communities and trade associations, held constantly from the beginning of the year. That said, after the mass protests against the election results, an increase in repression was reported, with over 1,500 people detained according to official figures, at least 20 murdered, and cases of enforced disappearances.[155]

101. According to the Venezuelan Observatory of Social Conflict (OVCS), during the first half of 2025 approximately 1,249 protests were recorded in the country.[156] Furthermore, from January to August 2025, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela documented at least 200 detentions. State repression reportedly intensified at key moments, like the presidential inauguration on January 10, during which 84 people were detained (67 men and 17 women), and the elections on May 25, with 42 detentions (34 men and 8 women). In the period between these two events, the Mission reported 13 additional detentions (11 men and 2 women), and between June and August, another 61 (43 men and 18 women).[157]

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[152] IACHR, Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.doc. 253/24, December 27, 2024, pars. 63 and 64.

[153] IACHR, Venezuela: Serious human rights violations in connection with the elections, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.doc. 253/24, December 27, 2024, pars. 71 and 72.

[154] United Nations Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, September 10, 2025, par. 10.

[155] Espacio Público, *Situación general del derecho a la manifestación pacífica en Venezuela 2024* [Overall situation of the right to peaceful demonstration in Venezuela 2024], May 2, 2025.

[156] OVCS, Conflictividad Social en Venezuela en el primer semestre de 2025 [Social Conflict in Venezuela in the first half of 2025], July 10, 2025.

[157] United Nations Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, September 10, 2025, par. 22.

102. On January 9, 2025, demonstrations were reported in different parts of the country, in opposition to the inauguration of Nicolás Maduro, as were pro-government marches called by the president himself in support of Chavismo and against the opposition leader Edmundo González.[158] In this context, public reports indicated that military forces had repressed protests in Maracaibo with tear gas, and that multiple demonstrators were loaded into security vehicles.[159] Furthermore, in Valencia, Maracay, Nueva Esparta, and Zulia, National Guard members, along with groups, had tried to disperse demonstrations called by the opposition. In Maracay, for example, citizens who tried to gather in squares like San Juan and Estudiante were reportedly dispersed with tear gas by motorcycle riders and security forces.[160]

103. Social protest, which includes the exercise of the right to peaceful and unarmed assembly, freedom of association, and freedom of expression, is a fundamental tool in the defense of democracy and of human rights, and the State is obliged to respect, protect, and guarantee these rights.[161] As for the obligation to respect, the IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression have indicated that "the exercise of freedom of assembly through social protest should not be subject to government authorization or excessive requirements that make it difficult to carry out."[162]

104. Likewise, with regard to the obligation to protect and facilitate, the Commission has underscored that "the overriding social interest in the right to take part in public demonstrations gives rise to a general presumption in favor of its exercise."[163] As noted in the IACHR report on protest and human rights, States must act on the basis of the lawfulness of protests and public demonstrations and on the assumption that they do not constitute a threat to public order, even in cases where they are unannounced.[164] Lastly, with regard to the obligation to guarantee, the IACHR has established that it "entails first and foremost the duty to investigate and punish any violation that occurs within the framework of a public demonstration."[165]

105. The IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression have also held that the "application of criminal law to the acts of participants in a demonstration constitutes a serious restriction with far-reaching consequences for freedom of expression, as well as the rights of assembly, association, and political participation, which under the principles developed above can only be used on a very exceptional basis and is subject to a heightened level of scrutiny."[166]

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[158] RCN, *Manifestaciones de venezolanos en Colombia este 9 de enero: en estos puntos se concentrarán* [Protests by Venezuelans in Colombia this January 9: gathering points], January 8, 2025.

[159] AlbertoRodnews, [@AlbertoRodnews], (January 9, 2025), *Detenciones y gases lacrimógenos para dispersar a los ciudadanos* [Detentions and tear gas to disperse citizens], X, https://x.com/AlbertoRodNews/status/1877375929422422387; La Silla Vacía, *Avanzan marchas en Bogotá y Venezuela contra posesión de Maduro* [Marches advance in Bogotá and Venezuela against Maduro's swearing-in], January 9, 2025; Crónica Uno, *Represión y agresiones a periodistas marcaron convocatorias opositoras en las regiones* [Repression and attacks on journalists mark opposition demonstrations in the regions], January 9, 2025.

[160] AlbertoRodnews, [@AlbertoRodnews], (January 9, 2025), *Detenciones y gases lacrimógenos para dispersar a los ciudadanos* [Detentions and tear gas to disperse citizens], X, https://x.com/AlbertoRodNews/status/1877375929422422387; La Silla Vacía, *Avanzan marchas en Bogotá y Venezuela contra posesión de Maduro* [Marches advance in Bogotá and Venezuela against Maduro's swearing-in], January 9, 2025; Crónica Uno, *Represión y agresiones a periodistas marcaron convocatorias opositoras en las regiones* [Repression and attacks on journalists mark opposition demonstrations in the regions], January 9, 2025.

[161] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Protest and Human Rights, OEA/Ser.L/V/II CIDH/RELE/INF. 22/19, September 2019, Prologue and pars. 1-46.

[162] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Protest and Human Rights, OEA/Ser.L/V/II CIDH/RELE/INF. 22/19, September 2019, par. 91.

[163] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Protest and Human Rights, OEA/Ser.L/V/II CIDH/RELE/INF. 22/19, September 2019, par. 91.

[164] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Protest and Human Rights, OEA/Ser.L/V/II CIDH/RELE/INF. 22/19, September 2019, par. 93.

[165] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Protest and Human Rights, OEA/Ser.L/V/II CIDH/RELE/INF. 22/19, September 2019, par. 246.

[166] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Protest and Human Rights, OEA/Ser.L/V/II CIDH/RELE/INF. 22/19, September 2019, par. 185.

6. Academic freedom

106. In 2025, the university environment in Venezuela has been marked by a hostile climate and violations of academic freedom, including detentions, persecution, harassment, and threats. According to civil society organizations, members of the university community have been subjected to retaliation for their critical work, whether the analysis of the State's economic policies, research and attention to human rights violations, the organization of venues for criticism within the university, or active participation in the debate over public affairs.[167]

107. From January 1 to October 10, 2025, at least 22 people with direct ties to the academic sphere were reportedly arrested and/or harassed (19 detained and 3 persecuted). They include: nine university professors, five students, two university workers and human rights defenders, one researcher, one representative of the student federation, and one representative of the student association. Of the 19 detainees, 7 were accused and/or formally charged before courts with jurisdiction over terrorism issues. In addition, from July 28, 2024, until October 10, 2025, the organization Aula Abierta documented a total of 95 incidents of retaliation against university professors and students, comprising 54 detentions, 40 cases of harassment, and the cancellation of a university professor's passport.[168]

108. Among the registered cases, on July 18, 2025, the Central University of Venezuela Student Federation (FCU-UCV) denounced the detention of student Simón Bolívar, university representative and student leader, presumably at the hands of hooded figures. According to the FCU-UCV, this act constitutes a repressive action that undermines the university's autonomy and was intended to silence dissident voices by restricting the rights to free expression and democratic participation, within the university sphere and nationwide.[169]

109. Similarly, according to public reports, professor and union leader Roberto Campero was arrested on August 14, 2025, after intelligence agents forcibly removed him from his home in Turmero, state of Aragua. Campero is a member of the Teachers' Union (Sitraenseñanza), which is affiliated with the national labor union federation Fetramagisterio.[170] Also reported were the allegedly arbitrary detentions of other stakeholders in the academic sphere, including: Carlos Alfredo Aponte Yépez, Edison Castro, Manuel Alejandro Muñoz Camacho, Roalmi Cabeza, Eduardo Torres, Enrique Jesús Gómez Méndez, Naomi Gabriela Arnaudez Ramos, Catalina Ramos, and Rodrigo Cabeza, among others[171].

110. Acts of stigmatization and potential threats against members of the academic community were also registered. On May 28, 2025, Minister of the Interior, Justice, and Peace Diosdado Cabello called academics in Venezuela "terrorists" during an address broadcast on national television, reportedly while presenting an alleged network of actors who, according to Cabello, sought to "boycott" the May 2025 elections, allegedly made up of social and political leaders, many of whom are also professors, researchers, and other members of Venezuelan academia.[172]

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[167] Information sent by the organization Aula Abierta, October 14, 2025. Archive of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.

[168] Information sent by the organization Aula Abierta, October 14, 2025. Archive of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.

[169] RunRun.es, *Denuncian detención de dirigente universitario ucevista Simón Bolívar* [Detention of UCV student Simón Bolívar condemned], July 18, 2025; Efecto Cocuyo, *Primero Justicia demanda que se diga dónde está Simón Bolívar Obregón* [Primero Justicia party demands answers on Simón Bolívar Obregón's whereabouts], July 21, 2025; AlbertoNews, *FCU-UCV denuncia la detención arbitraria del dirigente estudiantil Simón Bolívar* [FCU-UCV condemns the arbitrary detention of student leader Simón Bolívar], July 18, 2025.

[170] Efecto Cocuyo, *Quién es Roberto Campero, el docente detenido en Aragua* [Who is Roberto Campero, the professor detained in Aragua], August 15, 2025; NTN24, *En menos de 48 horas el régimen de Maduro suma al sindicalista Roberto Campero a la lista de presos políticos* [In less than 48 hours the Maduro regime adds Roberto Campero to the list of political prisoners], August 15, 2025.

[171] Information sent by the organization Aula Abierta, October 14, 2025. Archive of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.

[172] Information sent by the organization Aula Abierta, October 14, 2025. Archive of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.

111. The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression learned of reports of a statement issued by the National Radio of Venezuela (RNV) accusing the Central University of Venezuela Development Studies Center, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Provea, and the Political Ecology Observatory (OEP) of acting as alleged "instruments of political interference." According to the statement, these organizations operate with international support, under an "academic and environmentalist facade," with the aim of destabilizing the State. Reports indicate that activists and academics like Alexandra Martínez, Emiliano Terán Mantovani, Edgardo Lander, Santiago Arconada, and Francisco Javier Velasco were mentioned directly, and accused of leading campaigns that were critical of the State policies.[173]

112. Similarly, on January 8, 2025, during the State channel Venezolana de Televisión's broadcast of the program "Con el Mazo Dando," the Minister of the Interior, Justice, and Peace, Diosdado Cabello, stated that there was an alleged plan in place to make an attempt on the life of Miguel Ángel Suárez, president of the Central University of Venezuela Student Federation. According to public statements, this was a "false positive" designed to blame the government and provoke a reaction from the university community to "sow chaos."[174]

113. Civil society organizations have denounced that the public classification of academics as "terrorists" on television media constitutes the formalization of a state policy geared towards the prosecution and repression of students, professors, and researchers. They allege that the objective of this practice is to silence critical voices in the academic sphere that actively participate in public debate and warn that these acts reveal a deliberate attempt to restrict the influence of the university and its community in forming a critical consciousness and in defending the civic space in Venezuela.[175]

114. Moreover, a police presence was reported at various academic institutions in the country. On January 9, 2025, Aula Abierta disclosed complaints of the excessive presence of police officers at the entrance of the Office of the Dean of Economics and Business of Lisandro Alvarado Central-Western University (UCLA). On January 15, state police checkpoints were reported to have been set up around the University of Oriente (UDO), in the state of Anzoátegui. That same day, the Central University of Venezuela University Council issued a statement rejecting the massive presence of security forces at the main campus access points.[176]

115. Lastly, on May 14, 2025, it was reported that the Central University of Venezuela University Council had publicly denounced the dispossession of the Rental Zone university income-generating area in Caracas, after the construction of a bus station and installation of a statue commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Soviet victory in World War II, works carried out by the Office of the Mayor of the municipio of Libertador without the university's legal consent or authorization. The university considered these actions to be part of a policy to systemically dispossess it of its goods, which are essential to its operation. On May 20, the University Council reportedly demanded the immediate restitution of the Northern Rental Zone and re-establishment of its legal rights over the property.[177]

116. The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression has indicated that murder, kidnapping, intimidation, assault, harassment, threats, gender-based violence, and other attacks against individuals because of their participation in the academic community or the exercise of activities violate the fundamental rights of individuals, restrict academic freedom, and prompt self-censorship in society, as do

[173] Aula Abierta, *Venezuela: Alerta ante graves señalamientos desde la RNV contra ONGs de derechos humanos, académicos e investigadores científicos*, [Venezuela: Alarm over the RNV's serious accusations against human rights NGOs, academics, and scientific researchers], August 15, 2025.

[174] Aula Abierta, *Situación de la libertad académica, la libertad de asociación, el derecho a la educación y las universidades en Venezuela* [Situation of academic freedom, freedom of association, the right to education, and universities in Venezuela], January 2025.

[175] Information sent by the organization Aula Abierta, October 14, 2025. Archive of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.

[176] Aula Abierta, *Situación de la libertad académica, la libertad de asociación, el derecho a la educación y las universidades en Venezuela* [Situation of academic freedom, freedom of association, the right to education, and universities in Venezuela], January 2025; Information sent by the organization Aula Abierta, October 14, 2025. Archive of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression.

[177] Aula Abierta, *2 nuevos zarpazos a la autonomía universitaria en Venezuela* [2 new blows to university autonomy in Venezuela], July 1, 2025.

physical attacks against institutions, libraries, or laboratories. It is the States' duty to prevent and investigate these acts, punish the perpetrators, and ensure adequate reparation to the victims, regardless of whether the injurious acts occurred through analog or digital means.[178] The IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression call on the Venezuelan State to cease all acts of harassment, intimidation, and prosecution against the members of the academic community who participate in the discussion of matters of public interest.

7. Closure of the civic space and increasing restrictions on the exercise of freedom of association

117. The Law on the Oversight, Regularization, Operations, and Financing of Nongovernmental and Nonprofit Social Organizations, intended to regulate civil society organizations in Venezuela, went into effect in November of 2024. According to the information registered, this law established two deadlines for 2025: by February 13, the organizations would have to obtain a certificate showing that they had submitted documentation to the Public Registry; and by May 14, they would have to update their bylaws and obtain the formal registration. Civil society organizations reported that in some cases they were ordered to submit financial records dating back to their founding, despite the law not stipulating that condition. In addition to being burdensome, these requirements reportedly led to legal uncertainty, since many organizations lack the guarantees needed to keep operating. The organizations whose bylaws are not aligned with the requirements of the law had to modify them before May 14, under the threat of being dissolved or penalized.[179]

118. The entry into force of the new law was compounded by the reduction in foreign aid funding from the United States previously provided through cooperation programs with multilateral agencies and international organizations. This decrease has reportedly had a significant impact on the sustainability and operability of organizations in Venezuela. Along these lines, it was reported that on March 13, 2025, the organization Transparency Venezuela announced it had closed its offices in the country and would begin operating in exile, indicating that its work was "incompatible" with the new legal framework. Other organizations have also reportedly closed their doors without publicizing it, in order to protect their workers.[180]

119. In this context, Minister of the Interior, Justice, and Peace Diosdado Cabello publicly stated that he had a list of 500 individuals allegedly investigated by the FBI for a "corruption scheme" associated with USAID. According to public reports, his statements suggest that accusations of foreign financing may be used as political justification for conducting criminal investigations against civil society actors. In other television appearances, Cabello has publicly pointed to the media, activists, opposition leaders, and human rights organizations, accusing them of conspiring with USAID.[181]

120. Freedom of association implies the right of organizations to establish their own internal structures, activities, and plans of action without the intervention of authorities restricting or hampering the exercise of this right. Any restriction on the exercise of the right to association must be clearly established by law, and formulated ahead of time in an express, precise, and strictly defined manner. Furthermore, it must pursue a lawful aim and be necessary and proportional in a democratic society. In this regard, the IACHR has indicated that the States "should refrain from promoting laws and policies that use vague, imprecise, and broad

[178] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Special Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights, Inter-American Principles on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy, 2021, Principle V: Protection against acts of violence.

[179] WOLA, Venezuela's New NGO Law and U.S. Funding Freeze Are a Death Blow to Country's Civil Society., April 9, 2025.

[180] WOLA, Venezuela's New NGO Law and U.S. Funding Freeze Are a Death Blow to the Country's Civil Society, April 9, 2025; Transparency Vzla, [@NoMasGuiso], (March 13, 2025), La persecución no los hará menos corruptos [Persecution won't make them any less corrupt], X, https://x.com/NoMasGuiso/status/1900155614711394609; Transparency Venezuela, *Mercedes De Freitas: "Transparencia Venezuela continúa desde el exilio con la obligación de seguir combatiendo la corrupción venezolana"* [Mercedes De Freitas: "Transparency Venezuela carries on in exile with the obligation to keep fighting Venezuelan corruption], March 13, 2025.

[181] WOLA, Venezuela's New NGO Law and U.S. Funding Freeze Are a Death Blow to Country's Civil Society. April 9, 2025. Con el Mazo Dando, *Cabello sobre escándalo de la USAID: Los ladrones que están viviendo allá están muy preocupados* [Cabello on USAID scandal: The thieves living there are very worried], February 3, 2025.

definitions of the legitimate motives for restricting the establishment and operation of human rights organizations."[182]

121. When a State impedes this right by any means incompatible with international standards, it not only restricts defenders' freedom of association, but also obstructs their work of promoting and defending human rights and, consequently, the free exercise of the right to defend those rights.[183]

8. Freedom of expression and internet

122. The State continued to block digital platforms and independent media as a control mechanism to restrict the dissemination of information, limit freedom of expression, and obstruct organization and social protest. According to the organization Conexión Segura y Libre, from July 4, 2024, to January 31, 2025, 79 new cases of website blocking were registered. The affected websites included media outlets, social media, tools for avoiding censorship, public DNS servers, human rights organizations' pages, and sites with content critical of the government, especially ones focused on publishing election results based on the tally sheets collected by the opposition.[184]

123. Along these lines, according to public reports, between January 7 and February 5, 2025, at least nine internet providers in Venezuela blocked nighttime access to the social media platform TikTok. The first block was registered on January 7 on Supercable, followed in the next few days by Cantv, Net Uno, Digitel, Movistar, G-network, Inter, V-net, and Airtek.[185] Over the course of the year, there were reports of blocked access to Google's public DNS servers[186] and to the mobile phone application Telegram.[187] Organizations and experts have indicated that although these private companies act under government pressure to implement these blocks, they are also duty-bound to inform their users of the restrictions implemented.[188]

124. The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression also observed that high-level government officials continue to make statements pushing for the elimination of certain applications. For example, Nicolás Maduro called WhatsApp "Zionism's" and "imperialism's tool for espionage," claiming that it "reads your messages, has your photos, your location, and controls your life." He added: "I did my part by saying so a year ago. I said it on August 28 last year. And I say it again to the people. WhatsApp is the main tool for spying on the peoples of the world, and the main tool that has been used to massacre entire peoples. So get rid of WhatsApp. Get WhatsApp out of your life. Kick WhatsApp out of your life and be free and live happy."[189]

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[182] IACHR, Second Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 66, December 31, 2011, par. 183.

[183] IACHR, Second Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 66, December 31, 2011, par. 156.

[184] Conexión Segura y Libre, Ve sin Filtro, *Redes de control: censura y represión digital en las elecciones presidenciales en Venezuela* [Networks of control: censorship and digital repression in the presidential elections in Venezuela], 2025.

[185] VE sin Filtro, [@cesinfiltro], (7 de enero de 2025), *Bloquearon TikTok por 6h esta madrugada en #Venezuela* [TikTok blocked for 6 hours early this morning in #Venezuela], X, https://x.com/vesinfiltro/status/1876631558754283825; Ve sin Filtro, *Bloquean DNS públicos, VPN y Tiktok en Venezuela* [Public DNS, VPN, and TikTok blocked in Venezuela], January 9, 2025.

[186] VE sin Filtro, [@cesinfiltro], (January 8, 2025), *CANTV bloquea el acceso a los servidores DNS públicos de Google* [CANTV blocks access to Google's public DNS servers], X, https://x.com/vesinfiltro/status/1876862765454840035.

[187] VE sin Filtro, [@cesinfiltro], (January 10, 2025), *Última Hora #10ene: Bloquearon Telegram en #Venezuela* [Breaking January 10 *(#10ene*): Telegram blocked in #Venezuela], X, https://x.com/vesinfiltro/status/1877894687991664848; Efecto Cocuyo, *Bloqueo a Telegram duró varias horas en Venezuela, reporta VE Sin Filtro* [Telegram blocked for several hours in Venezuela, reports VE Sin Filtro], January 11, 2025; Efecto Cocuyo, *Venezuela Sin Filtro registra nuevo bloqueo a Telegram desde Cantv* [Venezuela Sin Filtro registers new block of Telegram from Cantv], May 2, 2025.

[188] Efecto Cocuyo, *Bloqueo nocturno de Tik Tok en Venezuela cumple 10 días* [Nighttime blocking of TikTok in Venezuela reaches 10-day mark], January 16, 2025.

[189] NTN24, *Maduro volvió a pedir a sus seguidores que eliminen WhatsApp: "Sirve de instrumento al espionaje para perseguir y matar"* [Maduro once again asks his followers to eliminate WhatsApp: "It serves as an instrument of espionage for persecution and murder"], September 12, 2025; Efecto Cocuyo, *VE Sin Filtro a Maduro: WhatsApp no lee tus mensajes ni escucha tus llamadas* [VE Sin Filtro to Maduro: WhatsApp does not read your messages or listen to your calls], September 12, 2025; Primicias, *Nicolás Maduro acusa de "espionaje" a WhatsApp y desinstala la aplicación de su teléfono* [Nicolás Maduro accuses WhatsApp of "spying" and uninstalls the application from his phone], June 30, 2025; VE sin Filtro, [@cesinfiltro], (September 12, 2025), *La guerra de Maduro contra WhatsApp es*

125. In addition, in its report "*Redes de control: censura y represión digital en las elecciones presidenciales en Venezuela* [Networks of control: digital censorship and repression in the presidential elections in Venezuela]," the organization Conexión Segura y Libre documented multiple repressive practices in the digital sphere, including threats made from the official accounts of security forces, disinformation and government propaganda campaigns, use of surveillance technologies, random telephone checks in public spaces, and the dissemination of opposition figures' and demonstrators' personal data over official channels or accounts tied to the government, with the objective of harassing them or facilitating their capture.[190]

126. According to available reports, cell phone checks were resumed at checkpoints nationwide in connection with the presidential inauguration on January 10. The use of drones as a surveillance tool was also documented. Civil society organizations reported at least 20 publications on social media showing drones flying over opposition rallies in Caracas and other cities.[191] They warn that beyond monitoring protests, these devices could be used for political espionage. For example, on January 7, María Corina Machado reported drones flying over the home of her mother, Corina Parisca, in Caracas.[192]

127. The Venezuelan State has also been reported to use information technologies for the mass collection of personal data without adhering to basic standards of responsibility, transparency, or supervision. According to civil society reports, citizens are obliged to enter sensitive information on platforms like VenApp or VePatria to access public services and benefits. This practice gravely jeopardizes individual privacy and facilitates the unlawful use of personal data, in a context that lacks guarantees for the protection of fundamental rights.[193]

128. Against this backdrop, the Office of the Rapporteur received information about official campaigns urging citizens to inform on neighbors allegedly involved in subversive activities. Many arrests of demonstrators and political leaders were shared by State media outlets and social media as propaganda, most notably the so-called "Tun Tun" operation, which involved police and military forces. In other cases, it was citizens themselves who documented and shared arrests and evidence of repression over social media or in direct complaints. Starting in December 2024, after opposition leader Edmundo González announced his return to Venezuela for the presidential inauguration, intimidating videos associated with this operation reappeared and continued to circulate even after January 10, 2025.[194]

129. The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression indicates that these are not isolated acts but rather form part of a systematic government pattern to control the public narrative, restrict the flow of information, silence critical voices, and obstruct mobilization and social protest, both on and offline. As the Office has pointed out, measures such as the blocking of websites, platforms, domains, and IP addresses to combat disinformation are a form of censorship that limits access to information, affects journalistic work, and may conceal human rights violations. These measures are only justified when they are necessary in order

una excusa para aumentar el control y la censura [Maduro's war on WhatsApp is an excuse to increase control and censorship], X, https://x.com/vesinfiltro/status/1966587581459582983?t=fVVFJ-ooa3U73fmGnypcTA&s=08.

[190] Conexión Segura y Libre, Ve sin Filtro, *Redes de control: censura y represión digital en las elecciones presidenciales en Venezuela* [Networks of control: censorship and digital repression in the presidential elections in Venezuela], 2025.

[191] Conexión Segura y Libre, Ve sin Filtro, *Redes de control: censura y represión digital en las elecciones presidenciales en Venezuela* [Networks of control: censorship and digital repression in the presidential elections in Venezuela], 2025.

[192] Swissinfo.ch, *María Corina Machado denuncia el sobrevuelo de drones en la casa de su madre en Caracas* [María Corina Machado reports drones flying over her mother's house in Caracas], January 7, 2025; María Corina Machado, [@MariaCorinaYA], (January 7, 2025), *Desde hace unas horas, agentes del régimen han rodeado la casa de mi mamá, han puesto alcabalas en toda la urbanización y sobrevolado con drones* [In the past few hours, regime agents have surrounded my mother's house, set up checkpoints throughout the development, and have been flying drones overhead], X, https://x.com/MariaCorinaYA/status/1876724382502162628; Efecto Cocuyo, *Funcionarios de seguridad del Estado rodean casa de la madre de María Corina Machado, denunció la dirigente* [State security agents surround María Corina Machado's mother's house, the leader reported], January 7, 2025.

[193] Espacio Público, *Privacidad y gestión de datos personales en Venezuela* [Privacy and personal data management in Venezuela], March 1, 2025.

[194] Conexión Segura y Libre, Ve sin Filtro, *Redes de control: censura y represión digital en las elecciones presidenciales en Venezuela* [Networks of control: censorship and digital repression in the presidential elections in Venezuela], 2025.

to protect human rights or legitimate public interests, and proportionate, that is, when there are no less invasive alternative measures that could preserve those interests.[195]

D. Situation of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights

1. The economic crisis and persistent scarcity of basic services

130. The Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights (REDESCA) is following the serious violations of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights with concern. The progressive concentration of power in the executive branch, together with the weakening of the rule of law, have shaped an environment characterized by severe restrictions on civil and political rights, which in turn negatively affects the protection and guarantee of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights.

131. According to the Center for Political and Government Studies at Andrés Bello Catholic University (UCAB), the Venezuelan economy continues on its hyperinflationary trend, with a 26% increase in the month of May alone.[196] In the first five months of 2025, cumulative inflation surpassed 105.5%, with a year-on-year forecast to potentially exceed 200%. In a context in which the minimum wage remains frozen at symbolic levels and where over 80% of the population lives below the poverty line, each additional percentage point of inflation means a real decrease in people's capacity to access food, medication, and essential services.[197]

132. The intensification of the economic crisis and persistent scarcity of essential services have adversely impacted the population's exercise of their economic and social rights. Over 20 million Venezuelans live in multidimensional poverty,[198] and 13.5 million have critical needs.[199] The violations of workers' rights and lack of access to food, medicine, quality education, and essential services have created grave obstacles and major challenges to guaranteeing decent living conditions and citizens' overall wellbeing.[200]

133. Along these lines, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported that, from May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025, people in Venezuela continued to face major challenges in accessing healthcare services, decent work, and an adequate standard of living. It highlighted that the lack of public financial data on sanctions precludes the comprehensive assessment of their impact on the human rights of the population in Venezuela.[201]

2. Structural difficulties in healthcare and challenges in access to food and water

134. In the health sector, hospitals remain collapsed, with a shortage of supplies, medications, and workers.[202] All told, 75% of health centers lack doctors and 74% do not have sufficient nursing staff on

[195] IACHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Digital Inclusion and Internet Content Governance, OEA/Ser.L/V/II CIDH/RELE/INF. 28/24, June 2024, par. 215.

[196] PolítiKa UCAB, *Venezuela: Entre la tormenta económica y la encrucijada política* [Venezuela: Between the economic storm and the political crossroads], June 30, 2025.

[197] DW, *En Venezuela medir la inflación es un acto subversivo* [In Venezuela, measuring inflation is a subversive act], June 25, 2025.

[198] Human Rights Watch, Venezuela: Rights Crisis Deepens as Maduro is Sworn in, January 16, 2025.

[199] La Silla Vacía, *Venezuela 2025: Una emergencia que no cesa* [Venezuela 2025: An unending emergency], February 12, 2025.

[200] Center for Political and Government Studies, UCAB, La Consolidación de una transición Democrática [Consolidation of a Democratic Transition], Vol. 2. 2025.

[201] United Nations, OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025.

[202] El Nacional, *Los sistemas de salud de América Latina, golpeados por problemas comunes (el de Venezuela en situación crítica)* [Latin American healthcare systems plagued by common problems (with Venezuela's in a critical state)], January 5, 2025.

board.[203] The childhood vaccination rate remains low, and key programs like the Organ and Tissue Procurement System have not been restarted.[204]

135. In its report on the situation in Venezuela,[205] the OHCHR stated that it had received information indicating that health problems persisted among Indigenous peoples, especially with regard to exposure to malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS.[206] The lack of medication and medical supplies, and of routes and transportation, further strained local capacities to respond effectively to outbreaks. The OHCHR received concerning reports about morbidity and maternal mortality in the Ye'kwana and Sanemá Indigenous territories. According to that same information, only 3 medical doctors were available for every 7,448 inhabitants, and the 20 community health centers in the territory lack medications, basic materials, and equipment, including diagnostics. Some patients have also reported difficulties in accessing emergency services, which are often hundreds of kilometers away, with no available transportation.[207]

136. In 2025 grave violations of the rights of the elderly continued in Venezuela and were associated with insufficient income and barriers in access to healthcare. Over the course of the year, the Venezuela Social Security Institute (IVSS) standard pension held at 130 bolivars (approximately US$1.25), far below the cost of living, which pushed broad sectors of the elderly into vulnerability and social protest due to their incomes and healthcare. At the same time, specialized reports indicated that the humanitarian crisis continued to hinder effective access to medication, medical checkups, and essential services for this age group.[208]

137. Likewise, the "Wayamoutheri" Venezuelan Program for the Promotion of Indigenous Rights, PROVEA, and the ODEVIDA Coalition have documented the consequences of the rise in legal and illegal extractive activities,[209] including the extreme health situation facing several Indigenous peoples due to the growth of mining. Morbidity and mortality have increased exponentially as a result of diseases like malaria and tuberculosis in mining areas like the Alto Orinoco region in the state of Amazonas, where reports from the communities themselves reference numerous cases of the two diseases. These organizations have also specified that the serious problems of survival, socioeconomic impoverishment, lack of healthcare, and discrimination have led several Indigenous peoples to migrate to neighboring countries like Colombia and Brazil.[210]

138. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) also reported the specific harms caused by the prolonged crisis, which has led to the collapse of essential social services, in particular affecting children, pregnant women, and Indigenous communities.[211] In 2025, 7.7 million people, including 3.8 million children, need humanitarian assistance.[212] UNICEF estimates that 406,000 children and women access primary healthcare in the centers it supports, and 656,000 children receive nutritional support to prevent or treat acute malnutrition.[213]

[203] El Nacional, *Los sistemas de salud de América Latina, golpeados por problemas comunes (el de Venezuela en situación crítica)* [Latin American healthcare systems plagued by common problems (with Venezuela's in a critical state)], January 5, 2025.
[204] El Nacional, *Los sistemas de salud de América Latina, golpeados por problemas comunes (el de Venezuela en situación crítica)* [Latin American healthcare systems plagued by common problems (with Venezuela's in a critical state)], January 5, 2025.
[205] United Nations, OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025.
[206] United Nations, OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025, par. 22.
[207] SURVIVAL, Venezuela: Yanomami people engulfed in worst health crisis for decades, July 11, 2025.
[208] El Comercio, *IVSS ya paga pensión de julio 2025: estos son los montos actualizados y requisitos para solicitarlo* [IVSS is already paying July 2025 pensions: updated amounts and application requirements], June 24, 2025.
[209] PROVEA, *Informe Especial: Pueblos y liderazgos indígenas en grave riesgo* [Special Report: Indigenous peoples and leaders at grave risk], June 21, 2025.
[210] PROVEA, *Informe Especial: Pueblos y liderazgos indígenas en grave riesgo* [Special Report: Indigenous peoples and leaders at grave risk], June 21, 2025.
[211] UNICEF, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela HIGHLIGHTS, 2025.
[212] UNICEF, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela HIGHLIGHTS, 2025.
[213] UNICEF, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela HIGHLIGHTS, 2025.

139. The IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights learned of complaints about the lack of access to water and sanitation, according to which the shortages are particularly severe in rural areas, Indigenous communities, and regions affected by extractive activities (mining, oil), where access to potable water and sanitation is even more limited than in other parts of the country. The most vulnerable families typically spend hours collecting and storing water, with negative repercussions on their health, quality of life, and access to other human rights.[214]

140. The fishing communities in Falcón state have denounced the pollution of the water and local marine ecosystem from oil spills allegedly caused by a damaged pipeline nearby.[215] This pollution has affected the food security and overall livelihoods of these communities. The OHCHR was able to corroborate oil slicks in the Triste Gulf, covering 195 km^2.[216] In turn, the Venezuelan Observatory of Social Conflict has reported that the precariousness of public services continues to be a decisive factor in social conflict. The lack of effective responses from the authorities has exacerbated the crisis of access to drinking water, electricity, transportation, and domestic gas, leading to multiple demonstrations in various regions of the country.[217]

141. The IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights take note of the data provided by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)[218] on water, sanitation, and hygiene services showing that many communities, especially in rural areas, continue to rely on surface water or rainwater due to their lack of access to safe sources. In addition, the deteriorated sanitation systems and limited access to hygiene products exacerbate health risks, especially in rural communities in the rainy season. OCHA information shows that the communities' resilience and capacity to respond to emergencies, especially in connection with floods and rainfall events, has been compromised in the context of weak healthcare capacity and lack of investment in sustainable infrastructure in critical zones like Amazonas, Sucre, Miranda, and Delta Amacuro. Therefore, according to this institution, to prevent further deterioration of public health and mitigate the impact of climate and epidemiological emergencies, water, sanitation, and hygiene projects must be implemented in communities, health centers, and schools without delay.[219]

142. In turn, with regard to Venezuela, the Global Report on Food Crises emphasizes concern over hunger.[220] From October 2024 to May 2025, Venezuela's food security was Stressed (IPC Phase 2) at the area level, and as the year goes on, the Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes will persist for a number of the poorest households. In that same period, between 1 and 1.49 million people faced food insecurity.[221] Furthermore, in June the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights indicated that the average monthly salary had remained unchanged since March 2022, at 130 bolivars, equivalent to US$1, or half the price of a carton of eggs.[222]

[214] El Diario, *¿Cuáles son las medidas que aplican los venezolanos para sobrellevar las fallas del servicio de agua en el país?* [What measures are Venezuelans taking to cope with water service disruptions in the country?], March 22, 2025.
[215] El Nacional, *Pescadores de Falcón piden soluciones ante derrame de petróleo en el Golfete de Coro* [Falcón fisherman request solutions for the oil spill in the Gulf of Coro], January 22, 2025.
[216] United Nations, OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025.
[217] OVCS, Conflictividad Social en Venezuela en el primer semestre de 2025 [Social conflict in Venezuela in the first half of 2025], February 19, 2025.
[218] Reliefweb, OCHA, *Reporte de Situación Venezuela (marzo – abril 2025)* [Venezuela Situation Report (March–April, 2025)], June 17, 2025.
[219] Reliefweb, OCHA, *Reporte de Situación Venezuela (marzo – abril 2025)* [Venezuela Situation Report (March–April, 2025)], cited above.
[220] UN News, *El hambre extrema alcanza un máximo histórico* [Extreme hunger hits record high], May 16, 2025.
[221] FEWS Net, Venezuela, *Informe de monitoreo remoto* [Remote monitoring report].
[222] United Nations, OHCHR, HC Türk updates Council on the human rights situation in Venezuela, June 27, 2025.

3. Job insecurity and hostile environment for the defense of workers' and union rights

143. With regard to the guarantee of workers' rights in Venezuela,[223] the end of the first half of 2025 was characterized by a hostile[224] and repressive climate towards human rights defenders, unionists,[225] and workers.[226] In this context, on March 17, 2025, the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) urged the government to speed up implementation of the commitments taken on in connection with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry adopted in 2019, with regard to the Minimum-Wage Fixing Convention (No. 26); the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention (No. 87); and the Tripartite Consultation Convention (No. 144).[227] The Governing Body also requested immediate measures to facilitate the presence of the ILO special advisor on social dialogue in the country and invited the government to convene the fifth social dialogue forum without delay, which reveals the high level of conflict surrounding working conditions.[228]

144. The Venezuelan Observatory of Social Conflict (OVCS) documented a total of 401 protests during the month of January 2025 alone. Of those, 305 addressed civil and political rights and 96, or 24%, were to demand economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights.[229] These protests were mainly driven by the labor sector, which faces increasingly precarious economic conditions. Reports were made of 36 protests repressed, involving injuries and arrests, and an increase in prosecution against human rights defenders, journalists, and unionists.[230]

4. Restrictions on the right to education and academic freedom

145. The education system in Venezuela is facing an unprecedented structural crisis, characterized by a sustained regression that threatens to leave the country without a new generation of professional teachers in less than one decade.[231] The drop in enrollment in education programs, exodus of teachers, increasing deficit of educators, low salaries, and precarious labor conditions, together with exclusion at all educational levels and the deterioriating infrastructure, reflect a gradual collapse closely linked to the country's economic, political, and social crises.[232] These issues are compounded by teachers' low wages, the persistence of problems in accessing basic services in schools, and the sustained drop in school[233] and university[234] attendance.

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[223] DW, *Cómo el chavismo manipula la vulnerabilidad social* [How Chavismo manipulates vulnerability], May 12, 2025.

[224] Infobae, *Crisis en Venezuela: alarmante persecución del Servicio Bolivariano de Inteligencia contra dirigentes de la Coalición Sindical* [Crisis in Venezuela: alarming persecution of Labor Union Coalition leaders by the Bolivarian Intelligence Service], March 25, 2025.

[225] Infobae, *El régimen de Maduro intensifica la persecución contra sindicalistas venezolanos: "Es el precio por defender la democracia"* [Maduro regime intensifies persecution of Venezuelan unionists: the price of defending democracy], April 6, 2025.

[226] Infobae, *Trabajadores venezolanos protestaron contra los sueldos de "hambre y miseria" en el país* [Venezuelan workers protest the "hunger and misery" wages in the country], May 1, 2025.

[227] International Labour Organization (ILO), Decision concerning the developments in the full implementation by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela of the agreed plan of action to give effect to the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry in respect of Conventions Nos 26, 87 and 144, March 17, 2025.

[228] United Nations, OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025.

[229] OVCS, *Conflictividad Social en Venezuela en el primer semestre de 2025* [Social conflict in Venezuela in the first half of 2025], February 19, 2025.

[230] OVCS, *Conflictividad Social en Venezuela en el primer semestre de 2025* [Social conflict in Venezuela in the first half of 2025], February 19, 2025.

[231] El Nacional, *Venezuela podría quedarse sin nuevos docentes profesionales en siete años* [Venezuela could be left without new teaching professionals in seven years], February 17, 2025.

[232] El Nacional, *Déficit de docentes: Venezuela necesita al menos 60 años para cubrir las más de 250.000 vacantes existentes* [Deficit of teachers: Venezuela needs at least 60 years to cover the more than 250,000 vacancies], January 31, 2025.

[233] El Ucabista, *Especialistas: urge integrar a 3 millones de niños y jóvenes al sistema educativo* [Experts: 3 million kids and young people must be urgently integrated into the education system], April 29, 2025.

[234] PolítiKa UCAB, *Venezuela: Entre la tormenta económica y la encrucijada política* [Venezuela: Between the economic storm and the political crossroads], June 30, 2025.

146. Reports by NGOs and academia point to a pattern of government interference[235] that includes the arbitrary appointment of university authorities, imposition of educational policies aligned with the official political agenda, and creation of parallel universities under government control.[236]

147. By the end of the first half of 2025, Venezuela had not implemented effective measures to protect university autonomy.[237] Rather, as documented by NGOs and the academic community itself, budgetary restrictions, political persecution, and government control over public universities have all intensified.[238]

148. In January 2025, the IACHR warned, through the Special Follow-up Mechanism for Venezuela (MESEVE), of the continued persecution, criminalization, threats, and harassment against the university community, indicating that these actions remain State policies and affect freedom of expression and academic liberty.[239]

149. In June 2025, the National Council of Universities (CNU) eliminated internal and diagnostic tests for admission to public universities, centralizing 100% of the process through the National Admission System (SNI) of the University Sector Planning Office (OPSU), under the Ministry of Higher Education.[240] The Government of Venezuela justified this measure as a mechanism to guarantee a "free, high-quality university-level education for all" and to prioritize inclusion and merit. However, in a statement disseminated on X, students expressed their strong and categorical rejection of the CNU's June 26, 2025, decision, which, they argue, eliminates universities' power to define their own admission mechanisms;[241] they also called it a grave violation of Article 109 of the Constitution, which establishes autonomy, and demand it be reversed[242]. Autonomous universities like the Central University of Venezuela (UCV) have invoked their autonomy and announced that they will keep their own internal admission tests,[243] in defense of their power to define their own admission mechanisms, protected by Article 109 of Constitution and the Law on Universities.[244]

150. In April, the Human Rights Observatory of the University of the Andes (ODHULA), in partnership with the Human Rights Committee of the School of Legal and Political Sciences of the University of Zulia, Aula Abierta, and the "Padre Luis María Olaso" Center for Peace and Human Rights of the Central University of Venezuela, documented incidents that affect the right to education and other human rights in the university context.[245] This report emphasized that a high number of incidents had been reported: from budgetary squeezing (54 %-67 %), aggressions, and the imposition of illegal rules, to restrictions on electing authorities, especially at ULA, LUZ, and UCV.

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[235] Aula Abierta, *Aula Abierta presenta graves preocupaciones en materia de libertad académica ante Universidad de Ottawa* [Aula Abierta voices serious concerns over academic freedom to the University of Ottawa], March 26, 2025.

[236] University of the Andes, *Plan de la Patria 2019-2025: Consolidación del Sistema Universitario Paralelo en Venezuela* https://www.uladdhh.org.ve/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Plan-patria-2019-2025-sistema-universidades-paralelas-venezuela-Def.pdf [Plan for the Homeland 2019-2025: Strengthening the Parallel University System in Venezuela].

[237] Infobae, *El perverso plan para implosionar a universidades copándolas de estudiantes que respondan a la revolución bolivariana* [The perverse plan to implode universities by flooding them with students loyal to the Bolivarian revolution], July 2, 2025.

[238] Infobae, *El perverso plan para implosionar a universidades copándolas de estudiantes que respondan a la revolución bolivariana* [The perverse plan to implode universities by flooding them with students loyal to the Bolivarian revolution], July 2, 2025.

[239] Aula Abierta, *Venezuela: CIDH alerta que la persecución y criminalización contra la comunidad universitaria siguen siendo políticas de Estado* [Venezuela: IACHR warns that the persecution and criminalization of the university community continue to be State policies], January 7, 2025.

[240] El Nacional, *Cómo será el ingreso a las universidades públicas tras eliminación de pruebas internas* [What university admissions will be like after elimination of internal tests], June 30, 2025.

[241] SWI swissinfo.ch, *Estudiantes denuncian eliminación de pruebas de ingreso a universidad pública en Venezuela* [Students denounce elimination of admissions tests for public university in Venezuela], June 30, 2025.

[242] Infobae, *Estudiantes venezolanos denunciaron la modificación del ingreso a la universidad: "Es una violación a la autonomía"*, [Venezuelan students denounced the change to university admissions: "It's a violation of autonomy"], July 1, 2025.

[243] NTN24, *UCV apela a su autonomía y acuerda mantener las pruebas internas de admisión* [UCV invokes its autonomy and agrees to keep internal admissions testing], July 4, 2025.

[244] Noticiero Digital, *APUCV: La UCV perdió 50% de su plantilla de profesores por los bajos salarios* [APUCV: The UCV has lost 50% of its teaching staff due to low wages], July 9, 2025.

[245] Human Rights Observatory of the University of the Andes (ODHULA), *Reporte Mensual. Situación de las Universidades en Venezuela* [Monthly Report. Situation of Universities in Venezuela], April 2025.

5. Climate emergency and healthy environment

151. In the first six months of 2025, Venezuela has experienced multiple extreme climate events: a sustained increase in temperatures, with severe, prolonged droughts, especially in the Zulia region;[246] unprecedented forest fires that affect vast extensions of protected ecosystems and rural areas during the first half of the year;[247] and torrential rainfall, floods, landslides, and the rapid disappearance of the Andean glaciers, creating severe environmental and social fragility.[248]

152. The country experienced one of the worst droughts in recent years, with reduced rainfall and lower levels of water in hydroelectric reservoirs.[249] The National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMEH) documented minimum temperatures above normal in most of the country during the first quarter of 2025,[250] except for in northern Zulia and Táchira, which intensified the drought.[251]

153. To mitigate the effects of the climate emergency and energy crisis, according to an official statement issued by the Ministry of People's Power for Electric Energy,[252] the State implemented contingency measures, including the reduction of working hours in public institutions and the use of the contingency electricity system called 1x1, in which the energy supply is rotated among regions to reduce the pressure on the national electricity system affected by the drought and the low levels of the hydroelectric reservoirs.[253]

154. Starting in the month of May, the situation worsened. Venezuela faced nine tropical waves, with torrential rainfall that triggered extreme climate events like floods, especially in the coastal and Andean zones, causing landslides, damage to road infrastructure, the collapse of water and electricity grids, and massive agricultural losses.[254] All told, 70% of the vegetables eaten in the country are produced in flood-affected areas,[255] meaning this situation could lead to food insecurity.

155. The IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights take note of the state of emergency in the states of Mérida, Táchira, Trujillo, and Barinas caused by intense rainfall—made stronger by tropical waves—between June 24 and 25. Over 8,000 families were affected, nearly 370 residences damaged (103 collapsed, 110 total losses), and 25 bridges destroyed, with 16 of them beyond repair.[256] The ground collapse and isolation of rural communities forced hundreds—and potentially thousands—of people to temporarily relocate within the country.[257] In response, the State activated the "Andes 2025 Task Force" with the participation of the Civil Protection, Bolivarian National Armed

[246] El País, *Investigadores que estudian el cambio climático ven una "injusticia científica" en Colombia y Venezuela* [Researchers who study climate change see "scientific injustice" in Colombia and Venezuela], July 17, 2025.
[247] El País, *Investigadores que estudian el cambio climático ven una "injusticia científica" en Colombia y Venezuela* [Researchers who study climate change see "scientific injustice" in Colombia and Venezuela], July 17, 2025.
[248] El País, *Investigadores que estudian el cambio climático ven una "injusticia científica" en Colombia y Venezuela* [Researchers who study climate change see "scientific injustice" in Colombia and Venezuela], July 17, 2025.
[249] El Nacional, *Venezuela registró más de 20 incendios forestales en menos de una semana* [Venezuela registered over 20 forest fires in less than a week], March 27, 2025.
[250] National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMEH), *El Fenómeno de la Niña y su influencia en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela* [La Niña and its influence on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela], January-March 2025.
[251] Extra News Mundo, *En Venezuela habrá más calor hasta el 2 de mayo ¿Cómo podemos sortear este clima?* [Venezuela to be hotter until May 2; how can we cope with this climate?], March 24, 2025.
[252] Ministry of People's Power for Electric Energy, *Comunicado-Poderes públicos darán el ejemplo en las próximas seis semanas de dura sequía por el calentamiento global* [Statement: Public authorities will set the example in the next six weeks of severe drought due to global warming], March 23, 2025.
[253] Ciudad CCS, *Ante emergencia climática el Gobierno anuncia horario especial* [Government announces special schedule due to climate emergency], March 24, 2025.
[254] El País, *Pueblos bajo el agua y ocho mil familias afectadas: las lluvias tropicales arrasan en Venezuela* [Towns under water and 8,000 families affected; tropical rains ravage Venezuela], June 27, 2025.
[255] El País, *Pueblos bajo el agua y ocho mil familias afectadas: las lluvias tropicales arrasan en Venezuela* [Towns under water and 8,000 families affected; tropical rains ravage Venezuela], June 27, 2025.
[256] El Estímulo, *Estados andinos en emergencia: Fuertes lluvias dejan a familias damnificadas y vías incomunicadas* [Emergency in the Andean states: Heavy rains devastate families and block roads], June 25, 2025.
[257] Infobae, *Intensas lluvias por una onda tropical dejan más de 8000 familias aisladas y destruyen 25 puentes en el occidente de Venezuela* [Intense rainfall due to a tropical wave isolates over 8,000 families and destroys 25 bridges in Western Venezuela], June 27, 2025.

Forces, and state authorities.[258] In addition, on June 26, 2025, the State ordered a study of the climate's impact on the country's bodies of water and soils, with a view to preventing future potential adverse impacts.[259]

156. In addition, the Indigenous communities (Waraos) have expressed their concern over the alarming levels reached by the Orinoco River, which according to statements will lead to the displacement of persons.[260] The Government of the State of Amazonas reported that over 200 families had been evacuated due to the Orinoco River's rise in the month of July.[261] Furthermore, the expansion of illegal mining in the Venezuelan Amazon has led to deforestation, mercury pollution, and the forced displacement of Indigenous and rural communities to midsize cities like Puerto Ayacucho and Ciudad Bolívar.[262]

157. The ocean's encroachment on the coasts of the state of Anzoátegui is already displacing communities, with no State interventions or short-term solutions being offered. The Ecology and Development Foundation (ECODES) warns that erosion, pollution, and the lack of adaptation plans could lead to the displacement of entire populations in the coming years.[263]

158. In the 2025 Global Report on Internal Displacement published by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Venezuela is still included among the countries with internal migration driven by environmental crises, although the figures for the country are notably under-reported due to a lack of official data.[264] According to IDMC data, Venezuela posted 52,000 cases of internal displacement due to extreme climate events, primarily floods, between 2020 and 2024 (source). Although exact official figures are unavailable, the IDMC estimated that by the end of the first half of 2025 thousands of people will be displaced due to hydrometeorological causes.[265]

159. The major environmental challenges facing Venezuela include rapid deforestation, pollution of bodies of water, and illegal mining. The Venezuelan Amazon is exposed to growing threats.[266] According to data from MapBiomas Venezuela, 32,600 km^2 of forest have been lost in the past 39 years due to agriculture, as well as to illegal mining and the growth of cities.[267]

160. The pollution of rivers, lakes, and soils due to oil spills, industrial waste, and illegal mining continues to be a structural problem.[268] In the Sixth Report of the Southern Venezuela Socio-environmental Observatory, the organization SOS Orinoco offers a diagnostic assessment for the January-April 2025 period, of the Guayana region in the country's south, characterized by a grave socioenvironmental crisis mainly caused by illegal mining, whose implications go beyond ecological degradation to significant impacts on the systematic

[258] Ministry of the People's Power for Habitat and Housing, *¡Junto a la Fuerza de Tarea Andes 2025! GMVV y GMBNBT se mantienen en estados afectados por lluvias* [Standing with the Andes 2025 Task Force! GMVV and GMBNBT stay in states affected by rain], June 30, 2025.

[259] Ministry of the People's Power for Economy and Finance, *Ordenan estudio del impacto climático en cuerpos de agua y suelos de Venezuela* [Study ordered of the impact of the climate on Venezuelan bodies of water and soils], June 26, 2025.

[260] Correo del Caroní, *Waraos temen que las lluvias aceleren la crecida del río Orinoco* [Waraos fear rainfall will speed up Orinoco River's rise], June 26, 2025.

[261] MundoUR, *Más de 200 familias afectadas por la crecida del rio Orinoco* [Over 200 families affected by the Orinoco River's rise], July 8, 2025.

[262] El País, *El avance de la minería ilegal en la Amazonía venezolana: impacto ambiental y migración forzada hacia las ciudades intermedias* [The advance of illegal mining in the Venezuelan Amazon: environmental impact and forced migration towards midsize cities], February 28, 2025.

[263] Mongabay, *Venezuela: el aumento del nivel del mar amenaza con destruir dos pueblos en Anzoátegui* [Venezuela: sea level rise threatens to destroy two towns in Anzoátegui], June 2, 2025.

[264] Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Country Profile Venezuela.

[265] Mongabay, *Desplazados climáticos en Venezuela se reconstruyen entre los escombros del huracán Beryl* [Climate-displaced people in Venezuela rebuild amidst the wreckage from Hurricane Beryl], May 29, 2025.

[266] Mongabay, *Venezuela perdió más de 4 millones de hectáreas de sus ecosistemas naturales en casi cuatro décadas (Estudio)* [Venezuela lost over 4 million hectares of its natural ecosystems in nearly four decades (Study)], February 26, 2025.

[267] Correo del Caroní, *Minería ilegal fue el principal problema ambiental de Venezuela en 2024, según Vitalis* [Illegal mining was Venezuela's main environmental problem in 2024, according to Vitalis], July 8, 2025.

[268] El Ucabista, *Recuperar la Economía venezolana cuidando el ambiente sí es posible* [Yes, an environmentally friendly economic recovery is possible in Venezuela], January 28, 2025.

violation of human rights, the erosion of democracy, and the absence of effective rule of law.[269] The report also indicates that illegal mining has devastated large areas of the Amazon rainforest, causing massive deforestation, mercury pollution of rivers, and the displacement of communities in the state of Amazonas. The report underscores that the use of mercury in extracting gold threatens aquatic biodiversity and the health of the Indigenous communities, which depend on those resources for sustenance.[270]

161. The IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights take note of the presentation of the first Climate Transparency Report,[271] which contains 78 adaptation targets and 43 mitigation targets to be reached before 2030. These targets include the creation of community councils, communes, and social movements as local mechanisms for adaptation. The report acknowledges that the country's lack of a national adaptation plan hampers fulfillment of its commitments to economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights and climate transparency.[272]

6. Mining operations and impacts on communities

162. The Venezuelan State has a legal framework and public policies in place on the activities of extractive industries in the country, geared towards preventing, regulating, and punishing the adverse impacts on economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights and the environment,[273] including the Constitution, Organic Law on the Environment, and Criminal Law on the Environment, among other pieces of legislation. However, according to the OHCHR, some Indigenous communities continue to suffer the impacts of illegal mining on their lands, even in areas previously declared to be free of mining in the state of Amazonas and elsewhere, as asserted by the Deputy High Commissioner in her oral update on Venezuela to the Human Rights Council on March 20, 2025.[274]

163. More recently, in its report submitted to the Human Rights Council on June 26, 2025,[275] the OHCHR indicated that it had received allegations that illegal mining activities continued in Indigenous territories in the state of Amazonas, including in the Yapacana National Park, despite this Park having been declared 'free of mining' in 2023, following military operations.[276] The OHCHR added that illegal gold mining in Ye'kwana territories in Amazonas allegedly led to violent clashes between the Indigenous communities and individuals associated with the mines. The Office expressed its concern over the delay in the investigations into the previously reported killings and other violations against Indigenous peoples.

164. In the same report, the OHCHR noted that the creation of technical working groups of the Ministry of Ecosocialism and the State-owned oil company Petroleos de Venezuela S.A. was announced in September 2024. The groups' aim was to evaluate actions to control and address oil spills, which is an important step in line with the OHCHR's previously formulated recommendations.[277] However, the OHCHR also noted that oil spills have continued up to the date of the Report, and that the fishing communities in the state of Falcón have reported the resultant pollution of the water and local marine ecosystem, which has affected their food security and livelihoods.[278]

[269] SOS Orinoco, *Sexto Informe del Observatorio Socioambiental Sur de Venezuela (enero-abril 2025)* [Sixth Report of the Southern Venezuela Socio-environmental Observatory], April 30, 2025.
[270] SOS Orinoco, *Sexto Informe del Observatorio Socioambiental Sur de Venezuela (enero-abril 2025)* [Sixth Report of the Southern Venezuela Socio-environmental Observatory], April 30, 2025.
[271] UNFCC, *República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Inventario Nacional de Gases de Efecto Invernadero* [Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, National Inventory of Greenhouse Gases], February 23, 2025.
[272] Efecto Cocuyo, *Venezuela presenta su primer reporte de transparencia climática ante las Naciones Unidas* [Venezuela submits its first climate transparency report to the United Nations], February 23, 2025.
[273] Estrucplan, *Marco Legal Latinoamérica: República de Venezuela* [Latin American Legal Framework: Republic of Venezuela].
[274] United Nations, OHCHR, Oral Update on the Human Rights Situation in Venezuela, March 20, 2025.
[275] United Nations, OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025.
[276] United Nations, OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025.
[277] United Nations, OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025.
[278] United Nations, OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025.

165. As a measure for the prevention, regulation, and punishment of tourism development and other territorial development projects' adverse impacts on economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights and the environment, in April 2025 the State announced the creation of the Committee for the Oversight and Control of Environmental Impacts, an initiative to address the country's ecological challenges, with a view to optimize institutional operations to limit environmental crime in the country and mitigate environmental changes in critical areas like mining, tourism, and agriculture.[279]

166. The research group SOS Orinoco affirms that agricultural and mining activities are the two chief causes of forest loss in the Amazon, and emphasizes that the rapid growth of mining is especially alarming.[280] Likewise, the group indicates that the illegal mining of minerals to the south of the Orinoco River is carried out through an unlawful and therefore opaque partnership of the Venezuelan armed forces with local armed groups, the ELN, and FARC dissidents; and that in the Yapacana National Park, this criminal mix has run operations that have devastated the environment and intensified local conflicts.[281]

167. Referencing the effects on health, the environment, and the rights of rural communities of the agroindustrial expansion and the intensive use of agrochemicals, the Ministry of the People's Power for Ecosocialism, together with the authorities of the Superior Prosecutor's Office; Environmental Guard; Socialist Fishing Institute; Scientific, Criminal, and Criminalistic Investigations Corps; Bolivarian National Police; Office of the Ombudsman; and Supreme Court of Justice, recently spearheaded the creation of the Committee for the Oversight and Control of Environmental Impacts, to limit the commission of environmental crimes, by comprehensively addressing critical areas, including agriculture, which require multidisciplinary approaches to mitigate environmental changes.[282]

168. Pursuant to the Venezuelan Constitution and national law, the State has the formal obligation to investigate and punish human rights violations, including ones committed by companies. This work falls chiefly to the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the judicial system. However, recent reports indicate that the judiciary has lacked independence since 2004, leading to high levels of impunity and ineffective investigations, especially in cases involving business or government interests.[283] The OHCHR asserted that it had received information on threats and harassment against environmental rights defenders by both State and non-State actors, for which reason it urged the authorities to take steps to effectively protect environmental defenders, including through the ratification of the Escazú Agreement.[284]

E. Groups in situation of discrimination

1. Human rights defenders

169. In 2025, the Commission observed that the obstacles to defending human rights in Venezuela were getting higher, given the tighter restrictions on the civic space and the increase in repression, intimidation, and harassment. Along these lines, the Commission received alarming information on temporary disappearances, the unlawful use of criminal law, and the cancellation of passports, among other repressive practices designed to silence dissident voices. This is compounded by the enforcement of laws designed to disproportionately control the activities of organizations that work to defend human rights.

170. Civil society organizations condemn the policy of criminalization, repression, and social control allegedly being applied against individuals who promote, defend, and demand human rights in

[279] Venezuelan Consulate in São Paulo, *Venezuela establece comité ambiental para enfrentar desafíos ecológicos* [Venezuela establishes environmental committee to address ecological challenges], April 8, 2025.
[280] SOS Orinoco, *Sexto Informe del Observatorio Socioambiental Sur de Venezuela (enero-abril 2025)* [Sixth Report of the Southern Venezuela Socio-environmental Observatory], April 30, 2025.
[281] SOS Orinoco, *Sexto Informe del Observatorio Socioambiental Sur de Venezuela (enero-abril 2025)* [Sixth Report of the Southern Venezuela Socio-environmental Observatory], cited above.
[282] La Radio del Sur, *Impulsan creación del Comité de Fiscalización y Control de Impactos Ambientales en Venezuela* [Push to create the Committee for the Oversight and Control of Environmental Impacts in Venezuela], April 9, 2025.
[283] Human Rights Watch, World Report 2025, December 1, 2024.
[284] United Nations, OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025.

Venezuela.[285] According to the Center for Defenders and Justice (CDJ), in the first half of 2025, 321 attacks and security incidents against defenders were documented; they included 190 stigmatizing messages, 95 acts of intimidation and harassment, 27 threats, 6 arbitrary detentions, and a prosecution.[286] In turn, figures from the OHCHR indicate that from July 29, 2024, to April 30, 2025, eight human rights defenders and six humanitarian workers were arbitrarily detained in Venezuela.[287]

171. The Commission observes with alarm that the State has resorted to arbitrarily detaining defenders, as well making use of short- and long-term disappearances, as a method of intimidation. This practice reportedly consists of not disclosing the detained individual's whereabouts and denying their detention for several hours or days, before bringing them before the courts.[288] On August 8, 2025, the human rights defender Martha Lía Grajales was detained at a Bolivarian National Police Division of Criminal Investigations checkpoint in Caracas after participating in a peaceful protest. According to the information available, while she was detained, other vehicles driven by alleged police officers came to the place she was being held and took her to an unknown location.[289] It was not until August 11 that the Office of the Attorney General of Venezuela, on its social media, confirmed her arrest and announced that she was being accused of the crimes of "incitement to hatred," "conspiracy with a foreign government," and "association."[290] It was subsequently disclosed that she had been granted alternative measures to continue with the criminal proceedings in freedom.[291]

172. Similarly, Eduardo Torres, human rights defender, attorney for the organization PROVEA, and beneficiary of IACHR precautionary measures since April 2024,[292] was last seen on May 9, 2025, in Caracas's Central Park.[293] Not until May 13, 96 hours after his disappearance, did the Attorney General of the Republic report on social media that the defender was being held in State custody. He also indicated that Mr. Torres was being charged with the crimes of conspiracy, terrorism, treason, and criminal association.[294] According to

[285] Center for Defenders and Justice (CDJ), *Situación de las personas defensoras de derechos humanos en Venezuela*, *Primer Semestre 2025*, [Situation of human rights defenders in Venezuela, First Half of 2025], July 18, 2025.

[286] CDJ, *Situación de las personas defensoras de derechos humanos en Venezuela*, *Primer Semestre 2025*, [Situation of human rights defenders in Venezuela, First Half of 2025], July 18, 2025.

[287] United Nations, OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025, par. 33.

[288] Amnesty International, Detentions without a trace: The crime of enforced disappearance in Venezuela, July 15, 2025, p. 14.

[289] X [@UNHumanrights]#Venezuela: @volker_turk calls for immediate release of human rights defender Martha Lía Grajales. She was detained after a demonstration in Caracas on 8 August. Her family and lawyer must be informed about her fate and whereabouts. Her human rights must be respected, published August 11, 2025; PROVEA, *Defender los derechos humanos de las personas humildes no es un delito: Libertad inmediata para Martha Lía Grajales* [Defending the poor's human rights is not a crime: Freedom for Martha Lía Grajales now], August 11, 2025.

[290] Infobae, *Persecución en Venezuela: la Fiscalía de la dictadura confirmó la detención de la activista Martha Grajales* [Persecution in Venezuela: Dictatorship's Office of the Attorney General confirmed the arrest of activist Martha Grajales], August 11, 2025; Telesur, *Ministerio Público de Venezuela informa detención de Martha Grajales por incitación al odio y conspiración* [Venezuela's Office of the Public Prosecutor reports arrest of Martha Grajales for incitement to hatred and conspiracy], August 11, 2025.

[291] El Tiempo, *Liberaron a la activista colombo-venezolana Martha Grajales, quien fue capturada cuando participaba en una manifestación en Caracas* [Colombian-Venezuelan activist Martha Grajales, who was arrested while participating in a demonstration in Caracas, released], August 12, 2025; El Nacional, *Excarcelada Martha Grajales bajo medidas cautelares* [Martha Grajales released with alternative measures], August 13, 2025; Infobae, *El régimen de Maduro excarceló a la activista venezolana Martha Lía Grajales bajo medidas cautelares* [Maduro regime released Venezuelan activist Martha Lía Grajales with alternative measures], August 13, 2025.

[292] IACHR, Resolution 26/2024, Precautionary Measure No. 438-15 Members of the Venezuelan Program of Education-Action on Human Rights (PROVEA) regarding Venezuela, Follow-up and Extension, April 29, 2024.

[293] X, [@CIDH]. *#Venezuela: #CIDH expresa preocupación por las denuncias de desaparición forzada de Eduardo Torres, defensor de #DerechosHumanos y beneficiario de medidas cautelares, quien habría sido visto por última vez el 9 de mayo en Parque Central, Caracas. Organizaciones de la sociedad civil y familiares temen que haya sido detenido y desaparecido. En el contexto de detenciones arbitrarias y desapariciones forzadas de corta duración, la CIDH llama a las autoridades a que garanticen la vida e integridad personal, el derecho a la tutela judicial efectiva y a brindar información a la familia sobre el paradero de Eduardo Torres.* [#Venezuela: IACHR (*#CIDH*) expresses concern about reports of the enforced disappearance of Eduardo Torres, human rights *(#DerechosHumanos*) defender and beneficiary of precautionary measures, who was last seen on May 9 in Parque Central, Caracas. Civil society organizations and family members fear that he has been detained and disappeared. In the context of arbitrary detentions and short-term enforced disappearances, the IACHR calls on the authorities to guarantee his life and personal integrity and his right to effective judicial protection, and to provide information to the family about his whereabouts.] Published May 13, 2025.

[294] Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Venezuela: Authorities Must Immediately Release Eduardo Torres, End Persecution of Human Rights Defenders, and Cease All Forms of Politically Motivated Repression, May 30, 2025; Freedom House, *Venezuela: Las autoridades deben liberar de inmediato a Eduardo Torres, cesar la persecución contra defensores de derechos humanos y toda*

public information, the defender was being held in the cells located at SEBIN headquarters, specifically at El Helicoide, without the right to receive visitors or to contact his family members or the legal counsel of his choice.[295]

173. On January 7, 2025, the Commission learned of the detention of Carlos Correa (mentioned above in the section on the situation of freedom of expression), human rights defender and beneficiary of IACHR precautionary measures since January 2025, whose whereabouts were unknown for eight days. According to information available later, the authorities brought Mr. Correa before a court with jurisdiction over terrorism on January 9, and he was released on January 16, 2025.[296]

174. The human rights defender Jesús Alexander Armas was detained by six hooded, uniformed men with firearms on December 10, 2024, and remained in custody at El Helicoide until July 2025, completely isolated and incommunicado, without access to his family or legal counsel.[297] He was granted IACHR precautionary measures on December 31, due to the refusal of various government authorities to provide information on where and how he was being held, as well as to the lack of information on the detention conditions, including his state of health, and whether he had been subjected to inhumane treatment.[298] In addition, the IACHR previously documented other cases, including those of Javier Tarazona, deprived of liberty since 2021;[299] Rocío San Miguel, detained since February 9, 2024; Carlos Julio Rojas, detained since April 15, 2024; and Kennedy Tejeda,[300] all of whom are still being held. Notably, all of these individuals have precautionary measures in force with the IACHR.[301]

175. These detentions are accompanied by stigmatizing speech against organizations that defend human rights, associating them with alleged terrorist actions. The Center for Defenders and Justice documented stigmatizing speeches and campaigns in the first quarter of 2025 that systematically point to nongovernmental organizations as destabilizing agents. The objective is to associate these organizations' activities with stakeholders outside the law and acts involving corruption, as a way to intimate and harass.[302]

176. In this context, the Commission is concerned about the particular risk to the people who play an active role in seeking justice for individuals known as "political prisoners" in Venezuela. On June 12, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Andreina Baduel, director and coordinator of the Committee for

forma de represión por motivos políticos [Venezuela: the authorities must immediately release Eduardo Torres, stop persecuting human rights defenders, and end all forms of political repression], May 30, 2025.

[295] Acceso a la Justicia, *Cronología del caso de Eduardo Torres* [Timeline of Eduardo Torres case], July 1, 2025; X [@PROVEA], *Hoy #9Jun Eduardo Torres, defensor laboral, cumple 1 mes detenido injustamente desde que fue víctima de una desaparición el viernes 9 de mayo. Permanece aislado en el Sebin El Helicoide, incomunicado, sin visitas de su familia o abogados* [Today, #9Jun, Eduardo Torres, labor defender, has been unfairly held for 1 month since he was disappeared on Friday, May 9. He remains isolated and incommunicado at the SEBIN El Helicoide, without visits from his family or attorneys.], published June 9, 2025.

[296] IACHR, Resolution 3/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 16-25, Carlos José Correa Barros regarding Venezuela, January 10, 2025; Amnesty International, Urgent Action: one defender free, four remain in prison, January 16, 2025; El Mundo, *Liberan a Carlos Correa, el gallego detenido en Venezuela, tras ser presentado ante un tribunal de terrorismo* [Carlos Correo, Galician detained in Venezuela, released after being brought before a terrorism court], January 16, 2025.

[297] Caracas Chronicles, Jesús Armas and the Heavy Price of Defying Maduro, July 24, 2025; Stanford University, Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, Statement Demanding the Immediate Release of Jesús Armas (FFSF 2022, Venezuela), July 10, 2025.

[298] IACHR, Resolution 105/2024, Precautionary Measure No. 1426-24, Jesús Alexander Armas Monasterios regarding Venezuela, December 31, 2024.

[299] IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter IVB, Venezuela, par. 195; IACHR, Resolution 258/2020, Precautionary Measure No. 258-20, José Javier Tarazona Sánches regarding Venezuela, June 18, 2020.

[300] IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter IVB, Venezuela, pars. 193 and 195; Amnesty International, Venezuela: enforced disappearances amount to crimes against humanity, July 15, 2025.

[301] IACHR, Resolution 258/2020, Precautionary Measure No. 258-20, José Javier Tarazona Sanches regarding Venezuela, June 18, 2020; defender Rocío San Miguel has precautionary measures since January 2012; Resolution 7/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 205-24, Carlos Julio Rojas regarding Venezuela, January 20, 2025; Resolution 92/2024, Precautionary Measures No. 143-13 and 181-19, Identified members of the organization Foro Penal regarding Venezuela, November 28, 2024 (Follow-up, Modification, Extension, and Lift).

[302] Center for Defenders and Justice (CDJ), *Situación de las personas defensoras de derechos humanos en Venezuela – Primer Trimestre 2025* [Situation of human rights defenders in Venezuela – First Quarter 2025], April 25, 2025; Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Cease Detentions and Attacks on Defenders, May 21, 2025.

the Freedom of Political Prisoners, who has allegedly been subjected to threats, harassment, and intimidation in continuous and intense surveillance by State agents, including being followed by armed men and drones, being photographed by police officers, and having State officers be continuously present near her residence.[303]

177. On May 4, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Aurora Carolina Silva Uzcátegui and her two daughters, who, due to her participation in the Committee for the Freedom of Political Prisoners and her complaints regarding her husband Freddy Francisco Superlano Salinas's detention and deprivation of liberty, are allegedly being subjected to harassment and surveillance by State agents.[304] Similarly, on April 24, 2025, the IACHR granted precautionary measures to Sairam Gabriela Rivas Moreno, who after making public statements calling for the release of her partner Jesús Alexander Armas Monasterio, was reportedly subjected to threats and harassment by State agents.[305]

178. The intimidating effect of this *modus operandi* on civil society organizations and the general population, members of which have resorted to self-exile to protect themselves, is concerning. According to the OHCHR, between July 29, 2024, and April 30, 2025, at least 75 men and 41 women, including human rights defenders, journalists, unionists, and union leaders, as well as poll watchers and members of opposition parties, felt compelled to leave the country, or go into hiding, out of fear of persecution. These individuals reported intimidation of their family members in Venezuela by various authorities.[306]

179. In 2025, the Commission reiterated its condemnation of the arbitrary and illegal cancellation of passports belonging to opposition figures, defenders, and journalists.[307] According to information submitted by civil society organizations, records show that 40 individuals have had their passports canceled; of those, 35 were journalists or human rights defenders.[308] The Commission was informed that this strategy is allegedly being used as a punishment and control measure to prevent these people from leaving the country and from participating in international human rights forums. In some cases, this has served as a preparatory step towards depriving human rights defenders of their liberty.[309]

180. In addition to these practices, the civil space is continually deteriorating due to the implementation of laws that could lead to the administrative or financial strangulation of nonprofit organizations. After the Law on the Oversight, Regularization, Operations, and Financing of Nongovernmental Organizations and Nonprofit Social Organizations went into effect in August 2024, the Commission received information on various irregularities in its enforcement. Civil society organizations informed the Commission that the civil registrars in Venezuela were allegedly imposing arbitrary requirements not provided for in the law, such as demanding financial statements from up to 10 years back. A survey of 101 organizations taken by local organizations in June 2025 showed that of 43 organizations that tried to register, only 7 made it through the first stage, and none working on defending human rights were able to complete the process. All told, 63.4% of the surveyed organizations had to reduce or suspend their activities after the law went into effect.[310] This situation was also documented by the OHCHR, which indicated that some Venezuelan nongovernmental

[303] IACHR, Resolution 44/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 440-25, Andreina Baduel regarding Venezuela, June 12, 2025, par. 20.

[304] IACHR, Resolution 38/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 320-25, Aurora Carolina Silva Uzcátegui and her two daughters regarding Venezuela, May 4, 2025, pars. 24 and 25.

[305] IACHR, Resolution 35/2025, Precautionary Measure No. 1426-24, Sairam Gabriela Rivas Moreno regarding Venezuela, April 24, 2025 (Extension), par. 21.

[306] United Nations, OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025, par. 35.

[307] IACHR, Press release 106/25, Venezuela must restore the unlawfully and arbitrarily revoked passports of opposition activists, rights defenders, and journalists, IACHR says, May 20, 2025.

[308] CEJIL, *Anulación de pasaportes en Venezuela: una estrategia de silenciamiento y represión contra personas defensoras de derechos humanos, periodistas y activistas* [Passport cancellations in Venezuela: a strategy to silence and repress human rights defenders, journalists, and activists], April 2025, p. 7.

[309] IACHR, Public hearing "Venezuela: Attacks against human rights defenders", held during the 193rd Period of Sessions, July 24, 2025.

[310] IACHR, Public hearing "Venezuela: Attacks against human rights defenders," held during the 193rd Period of Sessions, July 24, 2025.

organizations had ceased their activities amid allegations of surveillance, prosecution, and acts of retaliation, including selective detentions.[311]

181. In addition, on March 30, 2025, the Official Gazette published the measures adopted by the Office of the Examiner of Venezuelan Banking Institutions with regard to the supervision of nongovernmental organizations and the addition of burdensome administrative requirements for civil society, as well as the authorization for banks to request sensitive information, such as a list of donors and staff, donation reports, detailed description of projects, or annual plans.[312] The IACHR has emphasized that, in principle, financial resources received by organizations are not public unless the organizations provide public services or act on behalf of the State.[313] Along these lines, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has expressed that the exercise of freedom of association entails the right for organizations to set up their own internal structures, activities, and plans of action without the intervention of the authorities that would restrict or hamper the exercise of the respective right.[314]

182. The Commission is concerned to have learned that, as a consequence of the adverse climate for the defense of human rights in Venezuela, civil society organizations have had to minimize their public visibility through dynamics that include self-censorship, minimizing the use of their official headquarters or closing them, organizational anonymity, limited use of spokespeople, limitations on collaborative work, and an emphasis on silent documentation.[315]

2. Women

183. In connection with the situation of the rights of women, the following courts with jurisdiction over crimes of violence against women were opened: the Court of Appeals and Trial Court in Zulia and two courts in Monagas.[316] Although this measure is meant to improve the judicial response in these cases, it is concerning that the country has not adopted sufficient preventive measures. For example, there is no comprehensive national policy to prevent and address all forms of gender violence against women, girls, and adolescents. Neither is there an official system or registry of up-to-date disaggregated data that would make it possible to adopt appropriate prevention strategies. [317]

184. Given the lack of official data, the IACHR takes notes of the records and reports prepared by civil society organizations and the public information in the media on this issue. Notably, one study highlighted the prevalence of psychological, physical, and sexual violence, with a greater incidence within the family or couple.[318] In the first half of the year, 76 femicides were reported, most committed by the victims' partners or ex-partners.[319]

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[311] United Nations, OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025, par. 46.

[312] IACHR, Public hearing "Venezuela: Attacks against human rights defenders," held during the 193rd Period of Sessions, July 24, 2025; OHCHR, Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, A/HRC/59/58, June 18, 2025, par. 45.

[313] IACHR, Second Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas, OEA/Ser. L./V/II. Doc. 66, December 31, 2011, par. 182.

[314] Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Case of Baena-Ricardo et al. v. Panama, Merits, Reparations and Costs, Judgment of February 2, 2001, Series C No. 72, par. 156.

[315] Human Rights of Venezuela in Movement, *Venezuela: el inicio de la emergencia democrática compleja. Violaciones dd.hh. durante los seis primeros meses del gobierno de facto. (el libro gris de Nicolás Maduro)* [Venezuela: the start of the complex democratic emergency. Human rights violations during the first six months of the de facto government (Nicolás Maduro's grey book)], July 21, 2024, p. 44.

[316] Supreme Court of Justice, *Inauguran Corte de Apelaciones y Tribunal de Juicio con Competencia en Delitos de Violencia contra la Mujer en Zulia* [Court of Appeals and Trial Court with Jurisdiction over Crimes of Violence against Women Opened in Zulia], March 20, 2025; Supreme Court of Justice, *SJ fortalece protección a mujeres con nuevos tribunales en Monagas* [Supreme Court strengthens protection of women with new courts in Monagas], June 13, 2025.

[317] IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter IVB, Venezuela, par. 183; IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter IVB, Venezuela, par. 114.

[318] UNFPA, *Necesidades y riesgos de violencia basada en género en el marco de la crisis multifactorial que atraviesa Venezuela* [Needs and risks of gender-based violence in connection with Venezuela's current multifactorial crisis], August 7, 2025, p. 31.

[319] Utopix, *Junio de 2025: Son 15 casos para un total de 76 femicidios en Venezuela el primer semestre* [June 2025: 15 cases for a total of 76 femicides in Venezuela in the first half of the year], September 5, 2025.

185. Furthermore, reports continue to be made of human trafficking and modern forms of slavery in connection with migration, tourism, and mining.[320] Cases of sexual violence against girls have been documented in mining and border areas; these girls are reportedly being sexually exploited in exchange for basic goods and foods.[321] In rural areas, there are reports of adolescents being forced to marry older men in exchange for economic security.[322] Accordingly, various social sectors have requested that specialized laws be developed to comprehensively address this issue.[323]

186. In addition, violence against women politicians, leaders, activists, and human rights defenders continues. After the elections, reports were made of acts of violence allegedly committed by State agents, including arbitrary detentions; deprivation of liberty; threats; harassment; and psychological, physical, and sexual violence.[324] According to information from civil society, in the month of September, 101 women were deprived of liberty due to political reasons and faced irregularities during their detentions, like prolonged isolation and solitary confinement, denial of medical care, threats, and even sexual violence.[325] Also reported were physical attacks against women who participated in a vigil in front of the Supreme Court of Justice to demand the review of the cases of their family members being held.[326]

187. Along these lines, the Commission reiterates its call for the State to adopt sufficient, appropriate measures to prevent violence against women, girls, and adolescents. These measures must be based on data and up-to-date statistics on the causes, consequences, and frequency of violence against women, with a comprehensive approach that address the various ways and contexts in which it occurs. The Commission also urges the State to abstain from any act of violence that limits women's participation in social and political life, and to respect and guarantee the rights of persons under State custody.

188. On the issue of sexual and reproductive health, the national comprehensive health day that was held provided medical care, medication, and social support.[327] Furthermore, a course on promoting maternal and childhood health was held for community advocates under the Humane Childbirth and Breastfeeding Plan.[328] However, it is still difficult to access sexual and reproductive healthcare services,[329] such as pap smears, antiretroviral treatments, mammograms, and prenatal care, especially in rural and difficult-to-access areas.[330]

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[320] IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter IVB, Venezuela, March 26, 2025, par. 185; Transparency Venezuela, *Trata de personas en Venezuela. Entre la miseria y la corrupción* [Human trafficking in Venezuela. Between misery and corruption], September 5, 2025.

[321] ECPAT, *Panorama de país. Un informe sobre la escala, el alcance y el contexto de la explotación sexual de niñas, niños y adolescentes* [Country outlook: A report on the scale, scope, and context of the sexual exploitation of girls, boys, and adolescents], January 2025; UNFPA, *Necesidades y riesgos de violencia basada en género en el marco de la crisis multifactorial que atraviesa Venezuela* [Needs and risks of gender-based violence in connection with Venezuela's current multifactorial crisis], August 7, 2025, p. 43.

[322] Amnesty International, *Trata de personas: crisis silenciosa que victimiza especialmente a mujeres y niñas en Venezuela* [Human trafficking: a silent crisis that especially victimizes women and girls in Venezuela], July 31, 2025.

[323] El Ucabista, *Piden desarrollar ley específica contra la trata de personas en Venezuela* [Request to develop specific law against human trafficking in Venezuela], July 28, 2025.

[324] OAS-MESECVI, Committee of Experts urges Venezuela to fully respect the human rights of women in accordance with its obligations as a State Party to the Belém do Pará Convention, January 31, 2025.

[325] Civil Association "Coalition for Human Rights and Democracy, et al., Request for thematic hearing, 194th Period of Sessions, 'Situation of women political prisoners in Venezuela,'" in the IACHR archive, August 19, 2025, p. 2; Foro Penal, *Presos políticos en Venezuela* [Political prisoners in Venezuela], September 22, 2025.

[326] Efecto Cocuyo, *ONG condenan violencia contra madres que pedían libertad de sus hijos frente al TSJ* [NGO condemn violence against mothers who were calling for their sons' freedom in front of the Supreme Court of Justice], August 6, 2025.

[327] Ministry of the People's Power for Women, *Gran Misión Venezuela Mujer despliega atención simultánea en los 24 estados del país* [Venezuela Women Great Mission deploys simultaneous care in all 24 states of the country], September 4, 2025.

[328] Ministry of the People's Power for Women, *MinMujer y UCS inician curso de formación para fortalecer el Plan Parto Humanizado y Lactancia Materna* [Ministry for Women and University of Health Sciences kick off training course to strengthen the Humane Childbirth and Breastfeeding Plan], September 16, 2025.

[329] IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter IVB, Venezuela, March 26, 2025, pars. 187-188; IACHR, Annual Report 2023, Chapter IVB, Venezuela, December 31, 2023, paras. 117-118.

[330] UNFPA, *Necesidades y riesgos de violencia basada en género en el marco de la crisis multifactorial que atraviesa Venezuela* [[Needs and risks of gender-based violence in connection with Venezuela's current multifactorial crisis], August 7, 2025, p. 20; Runrun, *Salud sexual en Venezuela cada vez más en riesgo por desinformación y tabúes* [Sexual health increasingly at risk in Venezuela due to disinformation and taboos], September 4, 2025.

189. Furthermore, the country faces a persistent lack of medical supplies and skilled labor to provide healthcare services, which are factors that allegedly contribute to obstetrical violence.[331] Likewise, access to safe abortion, including therapeutic abortion, which is the only kind allowed under the law, remains limited.[332] Furthermore, a study revealed that the percentage of teaching staff who receive training to cover comprehensive sexual education content is insufficient to guarantee that right to all children and adolescents.[333]

190. In connection with the foregoing, the Commission urges the State to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services, including the voluntary interruption of pregnancy. It also calls for the creation of a state policy on comprehensive sexual education that includes the mandatory, continuous education of teachers. Lastly, it recommends establishing gender-sensitive healthcare protocols that prevent the occurrence of obstetrical violence, in conjunction with reporting and follow-up mechanisms.

3. Persons in mobility

191. The grave human rights crisis in Venezuela has led to an unprecedented, forced displacement of persons. According to Sustainable Development Goal indicator 10.7.4, which identifies the percentage of a country's population who are refugees or need international protection, with 18,000 out of 100,000 persons in this condition, Venezuela has the second highest percentage in the world.[334] The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated a 2% increase in the number of forcibly displaced Venezuelans compared to the year before.[335] Likewise, in May 2025, the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V Platform) registered a total of 6,874,261 Venezuelan refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers in Latin America and the Caribbean.[336]

192. In the period under examination, the Ministry of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs upheld the decision to withdraw the diplomatic staff from the missions in Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Peru, and Dominican Republic, adopted in July 2024. According to the information available, the previously suspended consular services had been re-established in Panama and Uruguay.[337] The measure led to restrictions on obtaining and renewing personal documentation and difficulties in accessing authorized routes for entering and exiting other territories. It also reportedly made it difficult for Venezuelans whose passports had expired to return to their country; these individuals were required to mandatorily present a safe-conduct pass.[338]

193. The Commission also observed with concern the continuing cancellation of the passports of opposition figures, journalists, and human rights defenders. According to the information available, this measure was reportedly used as a systematic strategy of the regime to intimidate and silence critical voices, especially ones denouncing the abuses and lack of transparency surrounding the July 28, 2024, presidential elections.[339] The affected individuals have not received any official notification of the cancellation of their

[331] UNFPA, *Necesidades y riesgos de violencia basada en género en el marco de la crisis multifactorial que atraviesa Venezuela* [Needs and risks of gender-based violence in connection with Venezuela's current multifactorial crisis], August 7, 2025, p. 51; NTN24, *Murió adolescente obligada a parir en hospital de La Guaira: Otro caso pone en evidencia el estado de la salud pública en Venezuela* [Adolescent forced to give birth in La Guaira hospital dies: Another case demonstrates the state of public health in Venezuela], June 6, 2025.

[332] IACHR, Annual Report 2021, Chapter IVB, Venezuela, May 26, 2022, par. 185; IACHR, Annual Report 2024, Chapter IVB, Venezuela, March 26, 2025, par. 188.

[333] REDDHNNA, *Solo 2 % de los maestros cuenta con preparación para abordar la sexualidad en las aulas* [Only 2% of teachers are trained to cover sexuality in the classroom], May 22, 2025.

[334] UNHCR, Global Trends report 2024, Forced Displacement in 2024, p. 37.

[335] Ibid., p. 38.

[336] Inter-agency Coordination Platform R4V, Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, June 27, 2025.

[337] *El Nacional*, Panamá says it restored consular relations with Venezuela to facilitate the return of migrants, September 18, 2025; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Press Release No. 41/25. Reactivation of consular services between Uruguay and Venezuela, June 12, 2025.

[338] Law and Justice Observatory, Safe passage for Venezuela: the controversial decision that leaves thousands stranded, October 10, 2024.

[339] Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Passport cancellation in Venezuela: a strategy of silencing and repression against human rights defenders, journalists and activists, July 18, 2025, p. 10.

passports, nor about the reason or legal basis for it. The IACHR published a press release warning about this situation.[340]

194. On another note, there are reports of groups of Venezuelans abroad being directly or indirectly deported back to Venezuela. According to the information available, the United States reportedly deported up to 10,000 Venezuelans in the first half of 2025.[341] Of this total, some 2,900 persons were removed to third countries of which they were not nationals, with the objective of them later being transferred to Venezuela.[342] Along these lines, the Government of Honduras reported a transfer at the Soto Cano, Comayugua, military base, of 199 Venezuelan nationals coming from the United States.[343] Similarly, the Government of El Salvador announced the transfer of over 250 Venezuelans being held at the Terrorism Confinement Center (CECOT); these individuals were allegedly members of the Tren de Aragua organization and were transferred from the United States.[344]

195. In turn, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, allegedly publicly expressed her intention to expel 200 Venezuelans from the territory as part of the government migration policy to address illegal immigration and trafficking.[345] Likewise, the Guyana police reportedly deported over 175 Venezuelan nationals in just over a month.[346]

196. The Commission does not have information on the individual identifications of the Venezuelan nationals in the removal proceedings, or on compliance with the due process guarantees applicable to such proceedings, regardless of whether the deportation to Venezuela is direct or indirect. Specifically, the IACHR observes with concern the potential lack of rick assessment for the returns, making it impossible to know whether the returnee could face persecution or threats to their life, liberty, or physical integrity upon returning to Venezuela.

4. Persons deprived of liberty

197. The IACHR has continued to monitor the special situation of risk faced by persons deprived of liberty in Venezuela, as a result of multiple factors like the two-tiered prison system, overpopulation, excessive use of pretrial detention, deplorable detention conditions, self-governance system, and mistreatment. The IACHR also remains concerned about the lack of up-to-date official statistics on this population, including the lack of public information on the scope and beneficiaries of the National Redemption Plan 2024-2025 adopted in 2024.[347]

198. The IACHR is alarmed at the existence of the two-tiered prison system in Venezuela: one official system under the Ministry of the People's Power for Prison Service that, according to the most recent data from civil society, in 2024 housed an estimated 22,019 people in the detention centers; and another parallel one made up of approximately 500 preventive detention centers, also known as "police cells." However, the actual number of people housed in these spaces is unknown, as while in 2024 the Ministry of the People's

[340] IACHR, Press release 106/25– Venezuela must restore the unlawfully and arbitrarily revoked passports of opposition activists, rights defenders, and journalists, IACHR says, May 20,2025.

[341] Swissinfo, A group of 183 Venezuelan migrants return to their country from the United States, August 14, 2025; DW, Another 319 Venezuelans deported from the U.S. arrive in Caracas, August 30, 2025.

[342] Miami Herald, Venezuelans make up largest share of migrants deported to third countries under Trump, August 7, 2025.

[343] The Guardian, Venezuelan immigrants deported from US to Venezuela via Honduras, March 24, 2025.

[344] BBC News, Bukele returns migrants deported by the US to El Salvador to Caracas in exchange for the release of 10 Americans and dozens of Venezuelan prisoners , July 18, 2025.

[345] Trinidad and Tobago Newsdays, PM: 200 jailed Venezuelans to be deported, September 10, 2025.

[346] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, 8.532 8,532 victims in 14 years: the death toll of the Ministry of Penitentiary Services, July 26, 2025.

[347] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, *8.532 víctimas en 14 años: el saldo mortal del Ministerio Penitenciario* [8,532 victims in 14 years: the Ministry of Prisons' death toll], July 26, 2025.

Power for Interior Relations, Justice, and Peace published the release of 20,000 people from these sites, civil society does not have information on the matter.[348]

199. Moreover, the Commission observes that although the prison population has decreased, the country's prisons are still overcrowded. According to the available data, in July of 2025, 22,019 persons were in custody, despite the real prison capacity of only 15,096 spots, meaning there was overcrowding of 45.85%.[349] In contrast, in September 2024, there were 30,000 persons in custody, and an overcrowding rate of 85%[350]. Furthermore, it is concerning that seven of the operational facilities[351] have overcrowding rates of 110% to 255%.[352] In this respect, the Commission recalls that when the collapse of the prison system or of a prison makes it materially impossible to offer decent conditions, it is not feasible for the State to continue admitting people into those spaces.[353]

200. In addition, despite the 10-point decrease in the rate of pretrial detention, the excessive use of this measure remains one of the chief causes of overcrowding. According to civil society data published in July 2025, there were 12,110 individuals awaiting trial and 9,909 who had been sentenced, meaning pretrial detention is used at a rate of 55%;[354] in December 2023, the rate was 65%.[355] The IACHR reiterates that the use of pretrial detention must respect the presumption of innocence and the principles of exceptionality, legality, necessity, and proportionality.[356]

201. The Commission also reiterates its concern over the deplorable detention conditions, which, among other consequences, from July 26, 2011, to July 26, 2025, caused 3,538 deaths and 5,094 injuries due to a lack of medical care and acts of violence.[357] Of these, at least 149 deaths occurred in 2024, most due to health problems resulting from the lack of medical care and the unsanitary conditions.[358]

202. According to the available data, beyond the overpopulation of the facilities, individuals in custody at Venezuelan prisons continue to suffer deplorable infrastructure; unsanitary conditions; cells without adequate ventilation or constant access to natural light; insufficient, poor quality food; limited access to water; and a lack of basic supplies, meaning they depend on their families for mattresses, hygiene products, and clothing. In addition, due to prison staff complicity or negligence, weapons, drugs, and other prohibited

[348] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, *Informe Anual 2024: Sin separación ni autonomía de poderes: cárceles y calabozos como herramientas de tortura* [Annual Report 2024: Without separation or independence of powers: prisons and cells as instruments of torture], July 21, 2025, pp. 9 and 63.

[349] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, Presentation of Annual Report 2024, July 2025, IACHR archive, p. 7; see also: Venezuelan Prison Observatory, *Informe Anual 2024: Sin separación ni autonomía de poderes: cárceles y calabozos como herramientas de tortura* [Annual Report 2024: Without separation or independence of powers: prisons and cells as instruments of torture], July 21, 2025.

[350] IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV. B "Venezuela", 2024, par. 213; see also: Venezuelan Prison Observatory, *"Presos venezolanos viven en menos espacio del que ocupan sus propios pies"* [Venezuelan prisoners live in less space than is taken up by their own feet], September 25, 2024.

[351] Namely, the following prison compounds: Dr. Francisco Delgado Detention Center, with overcrowding of 255%; 26 de Marzo Agro-productive Prison Center, with 200%; Winnie Mandela New Man Training Center, with 232%; Rodeo III Judicial Internment Facility, with 170%; Rodeo II Judicial Internment Facility, with 162.2%; Barcelona Agro-productive Prison Center, with 112.7%; and the Barinas Judicial Internment Facility, with 110.4%.

[352] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, Presentation of Annual Report 2024, July 2025, IACHR archive, p. 7; see also: Venezuelan Prison Observatory, *Informe Anual 2024: Sin separación ni autonomía de poderes: cárceles y calabozos como herramientas de tortura* [Annual Report 2024: Without separation or independence of powers: prisons and cells as instruments of torture], July 21, 2025.

[353] IACHR, Report on the use of pretrial detention in the Americas, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 46/13, December 30, 2013, par. 290.

[354] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, Presentation of Annual Report 2024, July 2025, IACHR archive, p. 8; see also: Venezuelan Prison Observatory, *Informe Anual 2024: Sin separación ni autonomía de poderes: cárceles y calabozos como herramientas de tortura* [Annual Report 2024: Without separation or independence of powers: prisons and cells as instruments of torture], July 21, 2025.

[355] IACHR, Annual Report, Chapter IV. B "Venezuela," 2024, par. 213; see also: Venezuelan Prison Observatory, *Informe Anual 2023: Degradación, desprecio y abandono: características del sistema penitenciario venezolano* [Annual Report 2023: Degradation, disdain, and neglect: characteristics of the Venezuelan prison system] July 26, 2024, p. 46.

[356] IACHR, Report on Measures Aimed at Reducing the Use of Pretrial Detention in the Americas, OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 46/13, December 30, 2013, par. 231. Recommendation A "General recommendations pertaining to State policy," par. 1.

[357] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, *8.532 víctimas en 14 años: el saldo mortal del Ministerio Penitenciario* [8,532 victims in 14 years: the Ministry of Prisons' death toll], July 26, 2025.

[358] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, *149 muertos bajo custodia del Estado en 2024: el sistema penitenciario se consolida como herramienta de represión, tortura y muerte* [149 deaths in State custody in 2024: the prison system is consolidated as an instrument of repression, torture, and death], July 21, 2025.

objects are frequently allowed to enter the facilities.[359] This puts the prison population's lives and physical integrity at risk, especially considering that a system of self-governance is still in place in the country's detention facilities, which are under the domain of the criminal structures known as "*pranes*."[360]

203. These deplorable conditions are even worse in the police holding cells, in which 40 persons have reportedly died, chiefly due to health-related reasons and a lack of timely care.[361] Furthermore, although these cells were designed to hold detainees for a maximum of 48 hours, this deadline is not adhered to in practice, and they are even used to hold convicted individuals. Specifically, these facilities do not meet minimum living standards due to overcrowding and lack of drinking water, food, and adequate medical care.[362] In some of them, the number of detainees is nearly four times the installed capacity, meaning people have to take turns to sleep standing up or in sheets hung as hammocks, and they do not have kitchens or bathrooms, meaning the detainees have to cook and take care of their physiological needs right in the cells.[363]

204. The IACHR also expresses its concern over the persistence of acts of torture and mistreatment. Specifically, information gathered by civil society has noted beatings, prolonged sun exposure, severe restrictions on water and food, forced nudity, and prolonged isolation, as well as confinement in punishment cells called "*tigritos,*" in inhumane conditions; these cells lack ventilation and illumination, some are kept at low temperatures, and the detainees are forced to strip, deprived of blankets, and isolated for periods of up to 15 days.[364]

205. In view of the foregoing, the Commission reiterates that the States, as guarantors of the individuals in their custody, have the obligation to ensure that detention conditions for incarcerated individuals are compatible with human dignity. These conditions include adequate infrastructure, access to safe drinking water, and enough quality food, etc.[365] Timely, adequate, and specialized healthcare services should also be provided.[366] The Commission also recalls absolute prohibition on all forms of torture and mistreatment, and urges the State to adopt urgent measures to combat these acts.[367]

[359] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, Presentation of Annual Report 2024, July 2025, IACHR archive, p. 9; see also: Venezuelan Prison Observatory, *Familiares de presos en Yare III denuncian aislamiento y falta de información sobre su salud* [Relatives of prisoners in Yare III denounce isolation and lack of information about their health], January 30, 2025; and *Informe Anual 2024: Sin separación ni autonomía de poderes: cárceles y calabozos como herramientas de tortura* [Annual Report 2024: Without separation or independence of powers: prisons and cells as instruments of torture], July 21, 2025. Regarding the unsanitary conditions, see: *#ATENCIÓN Nuestra organización ha recibido denuncias por parte de familiares de personas privadas de libertad en los Centros Penitenciarios Rodeo I y Rodeo II* [ATTENTION *(#ATENCIÓN)* Our organization has received complaints from relatives of individuals in custody at the Rodeo I and Rodeo II Prison Centers], X account of Justicia, Encuentro y Perdón, posted July 8, 2025.

[360] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, *Informe Anual 2024: Sin separación ni autonomía de poderes: cárceles y calabozos como herramientas de tortura* [Annual Report 2024: Without separation or independence of powers: prisons and cells as instruments of torture], July 21, 2025, pp. 18 and 56-57.

[361] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, Presentation of Annual Report 2024, July 2025, IACHR archive, p. 18; and *Informe Anual 2024: Sin separación ni autonomía de poderes: cárceles y calabozos como herramientas de tortura* [Annual Report 2024: Without separation or independence of powers: prisons and cells as instruments of torture], July 21, 2025, p. 55.

[362] IACHR, Public hearing "*Venezuela: Situation of adolescents and adults deprived of liberty in the post-electoral context*," 192nd Period of Sessions, March 5, 2025.

[363] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, Presentation of Annual Report 2024, July 2025, IACHR archive, p. 17; see also: Venezuelan Prison Observatory, *Informe Anual 2024: Sin separación ni autonomía de poderes: cárceles y calabozos como herramientas de tortura* [Annual Report 2024: Without separation or independence of powers: prisons and cells as instruments of torture], July 21, 2025.

[364] Venezuelan Prison Observatory, Presentation of Annual Report 2024, July 2025, IACHR archive, p. 9; see also: Venezuelan Prison Observatory, *Informe Anual 2024: Sin separación ni autonomía de poderes: cárceles y calabozos como herramientas de tortura* [Annual Report 2024: Without separation or independence of powers: prisons and cells as instruments of torture], July 21, 2025.

[365] IACHR. Report on the human rights of persons deprived of liberty in the Americas, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, adopted December 31, 2011, par. 432.

[366] See: Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Case of Chinchilla Sandoval et al. Guatemala. Preliminary Objection, Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of February 29, 2016. Series C No. 312, pars. 171-172.

[367] IACHR. Report on the human rights of persons deprived of liberty in the Americas, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, adopted December 31, 2011, par. 343.

5. Persons with disabilities

206. The IACHR recalls that persons with disabilities are more likely to experience adverse socioeconomic situations, and that these situations are exacerbated by other factors of discrimination like gender.[368] Specifically, this year media outlets raised concerns about the difficulties faced by people with psychosocial disabilities in trying to obtain appropriate care, due to the closure of hospitals and decreased response capacity resulting from the deterioration of infrastructure and lack of supplies. For example, patients with schizophrenia are reportedly unable to access psychiatric services in a timely fashion, which exposes them to heightened social vulnerability.[369]

6. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and intersex (LGBTI) persons

207. In Venezuela in 2025, the situation of the LGBTIQ+ community is characterized by ongoing violations of their rights as well as the fight to have those rights recognized. The State has still not produced or published official data on prejudice-based violence and discrimination, and the scant information available comes from the work of civil society. Furthermore, there is no legal framework in place to guarantee their fundamental rights.

208. In January, the civil society organization Venezuelan Observatory of LGBTIQ+ Violence (OVV LGBTIQ+) published the statistic that in 2024 there were at least 40 documented cases of discrimination against LGBTI persons in public spaces, with shopping centers being the most unsafe places.[370] In June 2025, hundreds of people marched to celebrate LGBTI pride, taking the opportunity to denounce the violations of their human rights, like abuses by the authorities, deficiencies in access to healthcare, and the lack of recognition of equal marriage, while demanding recognition of their rights.[371]

7. Indigenous peoples

209. The Inter-American Commission remains deeply concerned about the structural situation of vulnerability faced by Indigenous peoples in Venezuela. In 2025, no significant progress has been identified in the material recognition of the right to land, territory, and natural resources, nor in the implementation of effective boundary demarcation mechanisms. The IACHR observes that the processes started under the Organic Law on Indigenous Peoples and Communities are at a standstill, which exacerbates the conflicts over illegal invasions and the tapping of resources in their traditional territories. The severe effects of illegal mining in the Orinoco Mining Arc and the state of Amazonas likewise persist, without the State having adopted structural protection measures.[372]

210. The Commission has received updated information on the grave humanitarian situation of the Yanomami people, who mostly live in the state of Amazonas, in areas along the border with Brazil. According to the information received, this population's existence is gravely threatened by the expansion of illegal mining and the presence of irregular armed groups. These activities have led to the pollution of the rivers, deforestation, and the spread of endemic diseases like HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, and hepatitis.[373] The IACHR

[368] IACHR, Poverty and human rights, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.164.Doc.147, September 7, 2017, par. 427.

[369] Crónica Uno, *La saturación en hospitales psiquiátricos deja sin atención a pacientes vulnerables en Caracas* [The saturation of psychiatric hospitals leaves vulnerable patients untreated in Caracas], February 4 2025.

[370] El Aragueño, *Durante el 2024 documentaron 40 casos de discriminación a personas LGBTIQ+ en espacios públicos de Venezuela* [In 2024, 40 cases of discrimination against LGBTIQ+ persons were documented in Venezuela], January 23, 2025, OVV LGBTIQ+, *Espacios públicos inseguros: 65 personas LGBTIQ+ fueron discriminadas en 2024 en lugares de entretenimiento* [Unsafe public spaces: 65 LGBTIQ+ persons faced discrimination at entertainment venues in 2024], January 22, 2025.

[371] Yahoo Noticias, *Venezolanos marchan para exigir avances en derechos para la comunidad LGTBI* [Venezuelans march to demand progress on LGTBI rights], June 28, 2025.

[372] OHCHR, Oral Update on the Human Rights Situation in Venezuela, https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2025/03/oral-update-human-rights-situation-venezuela, March 20, 2025; PROVEA, WAYAMOU THERI, and ODEVIDA, *Informe Especial. Venezuela. Pueblos y liderazgos indígenas en grave riesgo* [Special Report. Venezuela. Indigenous peoples and leaders at grave risk], undated, report that provides a systematic overview of the situation from September 2024 to March 2025.

[373] OHCHR, Oral Update on the Human Rights Situation in Venezuela, March 20, 2025. https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2025/03/oral-update-human-rights-situation-venezuela.

takes note, with special alarm, of the reports of the high mortality rate in the Sierra Parima region and of the total lack of an effective State response to guarantee timely and culturally appropriate medical care.[374]

211. The information received gives an account of the ineffectiveness of the healthcare system in Alto Orinoco, where most clinics remain closed and the medical staff is insufficient. Since 2019, the healthcare services have been almost totally neglected; the malaria control centers are out of supplies, and medical transportation is unavailable. Emergency cases need to be transferred by air to Puerto Ayacucho, and many communities are forced to cross the border to Brazil in search of medical care. Episodes of violence and sexual assault have also been reported, and are associated with the presence of *garimpeiros* (illegal miners) in the area; furthermore, data on the Indigenous birth rate, morbidity, and mortality is systematically underreported, which makes it difficult to know the true scale of the health crisis.[375]

212. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner monitored the situation of Indigenous women with regard to maternal morbidity and mortality in the Ye'Kwana and Sanemá Indigenous territories. Access to healthcare there was observed to be critically limited, with reportedly only 3 medical doctors serving a population of 7,448 women.[376]

213. The territory of the Yanomami people has not been effectively demarcated, despite their repeated requests since 2016. The lack of legal certainty facilitates the incursion of illegal miners and armed groups from Brazil and Colombia, exacerbating the environmental and social harm. The IACHR reiterates that the Venezuelan State is obligated to guarantee the territorial integrity of the Indigenous peoples and to prevent all forms of unconsented occupation and tapping of their lands. It also underscores that the persistence of illegal mining, militarization, and lack of prior consultation reflect a structural pattern of violation of the Indigenous peoples' rights to life, health, self-determination, and territory, in contravention of the standards of the Inter-American and universal systems of human rights.[377]

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

214. The swearing-in of Nicolás Maduro on January 10, 2025, marked a tipping point in Venezuela's political history. The systematic and widespread violations of human rights recorded before, during, and after his election, along with the arbitrary restrictions on political participation, exposed the regime's calculated strategy to manipulate the electoral process, by deliberately ignoring democratic principles and the fundamental rights of the electorate.

215. The absence of the rule of law and lack of an institutional framework guided by the separation and independence of the branches of government remain the biggest challenges to respect for and the guarantee of human rights in Venezuela. The country's public institutions primarily operate as tools to maintain the dictatorial regime and engage in corrupt practices. Consequently, this year saw continued political persecution of opposition figures, journalists, and human rights defenders who spoke out regarding the grave situation in the country.

216. Venezuela must urgently adopt institutional measures to return to democracy and the rule of law, guaranteeing a legitimate and peaceful constitutional succession that transparently reflects the people's will as expressed in the 2024 vote. Likewise, it is imperative for the country to rebuild judicial independence to ensure laws prevail over the will of the governing authorities and the judiciary effectively controls the constitutionality and legality of government actions.

[374] Information given to the IACHR by civil society organizations during the meeting on Indigenous peoples, May 13, 2025.
[375] Information given to the IACHR by civil society organizations during the meeting on Indigenous peoples, May 13, 2025.
[376] United Nations Human Rights Council, Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/60/41, August 12, 2025, par. 46.
[377] Information given to the IACHR by civil society organizations during the meeting on Indigenous peoples, May 13, 2025.

217. The IACHR calls on the international community to recognize the grave human rights crisis in Venezuela, to remain vigilant in the face of new escalations of repression, and to activate all diplomatic, peaceful, and institutional channels for a democratic transition in the country.

218. In view of the foregoing, and in fulfillment of its mandate, the Commission urges the State of Venezuela to:

State position vis-a-vis the Inter-American system

1. Fulfill, in good faith, the international obligations derived from the American Convention on Human Rights, paying special attention to the judgment in the case of Chirinos Salamanca et al. v. Venezuela.

2. Authorize the Inter-American Commission to make an on-site visit to the country, in compliance with the applicable regulatory provisions.

3. Fully comply with the decisions and recommendations of the inter-American human rights system, including those set out in the annual reports for the years of: 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. Furthermore, comply with the recommendations made in reports like "Democratic Institutions, Rule of Law, and Human Rights in Venezuela" (2017), "Democracy and Human Rights in Venezuela" (2009), and the "Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Venezuela" (2003).

Democratic institutions and rule of law

4. Re-establish the constitutional order, guaranteeing:

    i. the independence and balance of powers, especially of the judicial and electoral branches;
    ii. political participation with no repression or discrimination whatsoever; and
    iii. effective citizen control over the action of the various branches of government.

5. Publish all voting tally sheets from 2024 and allow an independent audit, with international observers.

6. Guarantee a legitimate and peaceful constitutional succession.

7. Adopt suitable, effective measures to rebuild the independence of the Venezuelan Office of the Public Prosecutor and the judicial branch.

The fight against impunity and the administration of justice

8. Immediately release the individuals who have been arbitrarily deprived of liberty.

9. Ensure the guarantees of due process are fulfilled at all procedural stages associated with arrests in connection with the elections.

10. Investigate, with due diligence, all complaints of human rights violations in connection with the elections and prosecute and punish the perpetrator and masterminds.

Political rights and participation in public life

11. Adapt the internal regulatory framework to ensure that any disqualification of an individual aspiring to hold popularly elected office is carried out in line with inter-American standards.

12. Refrain from carrying out illegal or arbitrary detentions, especially of children and adolescents; and if a person is deprived of liberty, ensure that all due process guarantees are fulfilled, including prompt appearance before a competent, independent and impartial judicial authority.

13. Guarantee the right to vote abroad to Venezuelan nationals who are over 18 years of age and have not been convicted of a criminal offense.

Freedom of expression

14. Grant journalists the maximum degree of guarantees to ensure they are not detained, threatened, or assaulted, and do not have their work materials or tools confiscated due to exercising their profession.

15. Amend ambiguous or vague criminal laws that limit freedom of expression—such as laws designed to protect the honor of ideas or institutions or to protect national security or public peace—so as to avoid the use of criminal law to inhibit free democratic debate on matters of interest.

16. Refrain from applying restrictions on the operation of websites, blogs, applications, or other internet-based, electronic, or similar information dissemination systems, including support systems, such as ISPs, and search engines.

Poverty and economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights

17. Implement economic and fiscal policies that are sensitive to human rights in order to combat poverty and extreme poverty, as well as to guarantee the population's economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights, without discrimination and with special attention placed on the most vulnerable populations.

18. Adopt the necessary measures to ensure that children and adolescents have access to quality health services, including the provision of medications, with special consideration for the situation of those with chronic illnesses.

19. Refrain from any action or conduct that may limit the autonomy of universities, by investigating, reviewing, and modifying any legislation or practice that undermines it.

Human rights defenders

20. Refrain from filing unjustified criminal lawsuits based on anti-terrorism legislation to hamper the work of human rights defenders.

21. Refrain from using administrative measures, such as holding and canceling identity and travel documents, with the purpose of curbing the work of human rights defenders

22. Abolish the Law on the Oversight, Regularization, Operations, and Financing of Nongovernmental and Related Organizations; and ensure human rights defenders can perform their activities free from any type of intimidation.

Women

23. Adopt the measures necessary for compliance with the State's obligation of enhanced due diligence in the prevention, protection, investigation, punishment and reparation of all forms of violence against women.

24. Urgently adopt all necessary measures to make available a varied, accessible, and acceptable supply of female and male contraceptive and family planning methods, as well as reproductive and maternal health services throughout the country.

25. Review domestic legislation on the voluntary interruption of pregnancy in order to guarantee the effective exercise of the sexual and reproductive rights of girls, women and pregnant women of all ages.

Persons in situations of mobility

26. Ensure consular services for the processing of essential identification and travel documents.

27. Implement all efforts to inform Venezuelans in situations of mobility about the potential risks on irregular migration routes, including human trafficking, gender-based violence, abuse, and exploitation.

28. Ensure alternative ways to guarantee the reunification of family groups that have been separated by the suspension of direct flights, to prevent recourse to irregular means of migration.

Persons deprived of liberty

29. Adopt the judicial, legislative, and administrative measures needed to reduce the prison population, and in particular, to put an end to the detention of persons in pretrial detention facilities.

30. Ensure detention conditions are compatible with human dignity and respect for fundamental rights, and that they guarantee the dignified treatment of persons in custody and meet the needs of this population with respect for the gender perspective and intersectional approaches.

Persons with disabilities

31. Ensure that people with psychosocial disabilities have access to healthcare services that appropriately respond to their specific needs.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex (LGBTI) persons

32. Take immediate action towards effectively collecting and analyzing data on the violence and discrimination affecting LGBTI persons.

33. Adopt the measures necessary to guarantee access to justice without discrimination for LGBTI persons, and to conduct impartial and due diligence investigations into deaths or violent crimes against them.

34. Adopt a comprehensive legal framework that explicitly protects against discrimination based on prejudices against sexual orientation, gender identity, non-normative gender expression or diverse sexual characteristics.

Indigenous peoples

35. Guarantee Indigenous peoples' self-determination and right to territory, especially in view of the impacts of illegal mining and other illegal economies in the Orinoco Mining Arc.

36. Guarantee equitable and culturally appropriate access to quality health and education services through policies and programs with an intercultural and intersectional approach.

PARTIALLY DISSENTING VOTE OF COMMISSIONER CARLOS BERNAL PULIDO REGARDING CHAPTER IV-B OF THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT ON VENEZUELA

With all due respect to my colleagues, and in accordance with Article 19.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ("the Commission" or "the IACHR") and in exercise of the right to freedom of expression, I submit this vote in relation to Chapter IV-B of the 2025 Annual Report on Venezuela, hereinafter "the Report".

I fully recognize and agree with the relevance and value of the report for strengthening democracy, insofar as it rigorously and thoroughly documents serious institutional shortcomings in the country in this area. I also agree with the analysis of the current economic and social situation, since bringing these realities to light is an indispensable tool for effectively guaranteeing and protecting the human rights of the people of Venezuela.

Notwithstanding the foregoing and reiterating my agreement with the general content of the Report, this vote is limited exclusively to making observations on **some specific aspects that I consider relevant**. **These considerations do not affect or question the general diagnosis or the main conclusions of the report** but rather seek to focus the debate on these concrete points.

In that sense, in this vote I will refer to: (i) how the report contains considerations that disregard the Inter-American legal framework and pose a risk to pregnant women; (ii) observations on contraceptive methods and the need to inform women; (iii) considerations related to the sexual and reproductive education of children and adolescents; and (iii) observations regarding considerations on same-sex marriage.

1. The report contains considerations that disregard the Inter-American legal framework and pose a risk to pregnant women

Paragraphs 187 and 188 of the report state:

> "187. (...). Likewise, access to safe abortion remains limited, even to therapeutic abortion, which is the only type permitted by law.
>
> 188. In light of the above, the Commission urges the State to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services, including voluntary termination of pregnancy".

Similarly, recommendation 27 mentioned:

> "27. Review domestic legislation on voluntary termination of pregnancy to ensure the effective exercise of sexual and reproductive rights for girls, women, and pregnant persons of all ages".

On this point, I'll cover the following issues: (i) the misuse of the term "voluntary interruption of pregnancy"; (ii) the non-existence of the right to abortion and the scope for state regulation; and (iii) the lack of protection for the unborn.

1.1 Misuse of the term "voluntary interruption of pregnancy"

I highlight the importance of the IACHR using precise and appropriate language in its reports. This emphasizes the imperative of using accurate and rigorous language to ensure that decisions are based on clear understandings. In fact, on several occasions, the Commission itself has recognized the need for conceptual

precision in the documents it issues[378] and has repeatedly emphasized the importance of correct language use.[379]

Language is, in fact, a fundamental element of human communication and the expression of thought, functioning as a dialectical unit in which both mutually condition each other.[380] It plays an essential role in decision-making, especially through its representative or referential function, which is aimed at conveying information, describing facts, and expressing ideas in a clear, accurate, and objective manner, so that they serve as a solid basis for the decisions that are made.[381]

Therefore, the appropriate and rigorous use of language in IACHR reports ensures that the message is clear and understandable to all recipients. Beyond the simple transmission of data, this linguistic rigor legitimizes the technical-legal analysis and conclusions raised by the IACHR.

In light of the above, it is particularly problematic that the report uses the term "voluntary interruption of pregnancy" when these issues revolve around "abortion." However, it is essential to draw a clear conceptual distinction between the two terms.

I reiterate that abortion is a form of pregnancy termination performed **with the direct intention of causing the death of the fetus**, or in other words, of ending prenatal life.[382] Thus, it may involve termination before the fetus is viable or even the destruction of a viable fetus.[383] To that extent, an abortion will only be successful when it causes the death of the human being in gestation.[384]

On the contrary, the expression "*interruption of pregnancy*" may suggest that the gestational process is likely to resume at a later date. However, as indicated, abortion necessarily involves the termination of pregnancy through the death of the human being in gestation.

I therefore consider it essential to use the appropriate terminology in order to avoid misunderstandings regarding the interpretation and the decision adopted by the Commission. Consequently, in my vote I will refer specifically to the conduct of **abortion**.

1.2 Absence of a right to abortion in the Inter-American Human Rights System

Regarding the recommendation to review domestic legislation on abortion, I would like to emphasize, as I have done in multiple votes,[385] that there are no binding sources in international law—and especially in

[378] IACHR. Indirect violations of freedom of expression: The impact of concentration in media ownership; IACHR. Chapter IV. Report on access to information in the hemisphere: Access to information and economic development; IACHR. Guidelines for the development of indicators of progress in economic, social, and cultural rights. 2008.

[379] IACHR. The right of children to a family. Alternative care. Ending institutionalization in the Americas. 2013.

[380] Juan Alberto Mena Lorenzo, Noemí Sarracino Alum. Professional technical language in the training of future workers. Mendive, ISSN-e 1815-7696, Vol. 6, No. 4, 2008 (Issue dedicated to: October-December), pages 234-241.

[381] Ibidem.

[382] Seeds JW. Direct Abortion or Legitimate Medical Procedure Double Effect? Linacre Q. 2012 Feb;79(1):81-87. doi: 10.1179/002436312803571546. Epub 2012 Feb 1. PMID: 30082962; PMCID: PMC6027086.

[383] Seeds JW. Direct Abortion or Legitimate Medical Procedure Double Effect? Linacre Q. 2012 Feb;79(1):81-87. doi: 10.1179/002436312803571546. Epub 2012 Feb 1. PMID: 30082962; PMCID: PMC6027086.

[384] Seeds JW. Direct Abortion or Legitimate Medical Procedure Double Effect? Linacre Q. 2012 Feb;79(1):81-87. doi: 10.1179/002436312803571546. Epub 2012 Feb 1. PMID: 30082962; PMCID: PMC6027086.

[385] Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4A_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_5_ElSalvador_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Report on the situation of Honduras – 2023. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter IV.A. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4B_VEN_ES.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter vs. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_5_SLV_ES.PDF; Partially dissenting vote. Annual Report 2024- Chapter IV.A development of human rights in the region - overview of the human rights situation by country. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4A_ES.PDF#page201.

the American Convention or other treaties that make up the Inter-American System—that contemplate (i) the so-called right to abortion or (ii) a corresponding obligation for States to provide abortion services. Within this context, States have broad discretion—by virtue of the principles of subsidiarity or complementarity and representative democracy—to take measures to protect prenatal life[386] which include, although not exclusively, the use of criminal law.

In light of the lack of abortion rights, former IHR Court judge Eduardo Vio Grossi made it clear in his partially dissenting opinion on the ruling in the case of Manuela and others vs. El Salvador:

> "And in this regard, it is indisputable that (...) there is no Inter-American or international legal norm, whether conventional, international custom, or general principle of law, that recognizes abortion as a right. There are only resolutions from international bodies, most of which are made up of international officials and not representatives of States, decisions that, in addition to not being binding, do not interpret current international law but rather reflect aspirations for it to change in the direction they suggest".[387]

In fact, it should be noted that the Inter-American Court recently heard the case of Beatriz vs. El Salvador, in which the IACHR and the victims' representatives alleged the existence of a "right to abortion." However, in its judgment, the Court did not establish the existence of such a right.[388] This is yet another example of the lack of a binding legal source from which a supposed right to abortion can be derived.

However, I would like to emphasize that this margin of configuration, derived from the absence of a right to abortion and the convergence of conflicting rights, is broadened by the competence of States to define punishable conduct and its consequences, and by the automatic referral that, according to the IHR Court, Article 7.2 of the American Convention makes to domestic law for matters related to deprivation of liberty—the principle of legal reservation—.[389]

This is relevant when considering that, based on a systematic reading of Articles 31, 76, and 77 of the American Convention, only through consensus—expressed by the States through the signing and ratification of amendments or treaties—can international obligations arise that are additional to those already contemplated in the ACHR.

In conclusion, international human rights law—and in particular the Inter-American System—does not recognize abortion as a right, nor does it impose an obligation on States to guarantee, promote, protect, or provide it as a service. On the contrary, the American Convention expressly protects life as of conception and grants States a margin of discretion to adopt the measures, they deem appropriate for its protection, within the framework of their democratic principles and legislative sovereignty.

1.3 Lack of protection for the unborn in the report

I notice that, in this report, as in others on which I have cast my vote,[390] references to abortion ignore the other person whose right to life is also protected by convention: the unborn child. Thus, the necessary balance that

[386] ACHR. Article 4.

[387] Partially Dissenting Vote of Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Case of Manuela and Others vs. El Salvador, Judgment of November 2, 2021, (Preliminary Exceptions, Merits, Reparations, and Costs). Paragraph 13.

[388] I/A Court H.R., Case of Beatriz and others Vs. El Salvador. Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of November 22, 2024. Series C No. 549.

[389] I/A Court H.R., Case of Romero Feris Vs. Argentina. Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of October 15, 2019. Series C No. 391. Para. 77.

[390] Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4A_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_5_ElSalvador_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Report on the situation of Honduras – 2023. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter IV.A. Venezuela.

must exist between the conflicting rights of all internationally protected persons is ignored. In this regard, it should be noted that pregnant persons are also subjects of law and holders of the right to life. A ruling on abortion always implies a position on a practice that necessarily involves the termination of the life of a human being worthy of dignity and protected by Article 4 of the ACHR. It is therefore necessary to expressly recognize the rights of the pregnant person as part of the balancing required in every case of abortion.

On this point, Article 1.2 of the ACHR clearly establishes that, for the purposes of the Convention, a "person" is any human being.[391] Thus, in light of the Convention, human rights are not only recognized for persons who have already been born, but protection must be afforded to all individuals from the moment of conception, understanding them as human beings. Furthermore, the IHR Court itself, in its Advisory Opinion 22, held that, without being a matter open to interpretation, the term "person" is equivalent to the term "human being" for the purposes of the ACHR.[392]

It is biologically and materially indisputable that the developing fetus is a human being.[393] Furthermore, the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights states that "the human genome is the basis of the fundamental unity of all members of the human family and of the recognition of their inherent dignity and diversity. In a symbolic sense, the human genome is the patrimony of humanity".[394]

The consequence of recognizing the unborn as a person insofar as a human being is that it becomes the holder of rights. Thus, the ACHR establishes in the Articles that develop rights the formula "Every person (...)".[395] Likewise, in general, protection instruments of Human rights recognize the entitlement of members of the human species to rights, in particular the right to life.[396]

In fact, in its ruling on the Artavia Murillo case, the IHR Court determined that "the protection of the right to life is not absolute, but rather gradual and incremental as the fetus develops." This implies that, without prejudice to the concepts of graduality and incrementality (from which I completely disagree), the Court has already established that pregnant persons must be protected by the State in their "right to life." Similarly, in the ruling on the Cuscul Pivaral case,[397] the IHR Court applied the ACHR to a pregnant person and also applied Article 19 of the ACHR, thereby recognizing the legal status of a child to the yet unborn person.

Along the same lines, I would like to highlight that the preamble to the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children need protection and care both before and after birth.[398] This implies that, in light of the

https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4B_VEN_ES.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter vs. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_5_SLV_ES.PDF; Partially dissenting vote. Annual Report 2024- Chapter IV.A development of human rights in the region - overview of the human rights situation by country. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4A_ES.PDF#page201.

[391] ACHR. Art. 1.2 "For the purposes of this Convention, a person is every human being".

[392] IHR Court. OC-22/16. Ownership of rights by legal persons in the Inter-American Human Rights System. Advisory Opinion of February 26, 2016. Series A. No. 22. Para. 48.

[393] Kaluger, G., and Kaluger, M., Human Development: The Span of Life, The C.V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1974, page 28-29.

[394] Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights. Article 1.

[395] American Convention on Human Rights. Articles 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24 and 25.

[396] International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Preamble, para. 3; American Convention on Human Rights, para. 3. Preamble; African Charter on Human Rights. Preamble, para. 6; Geneva Declaration on the Rights of Children. Preamble, para. 1; American Declaration of the International Rights and Duties of Man. Art. 1; Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Preamble, para. 1; Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Preamble, para. 2; European Convention on Human Rights. Preamble, para. 2.

[397] IHR Court. Case of Cuscul Pivaral vs. Guatemala. Judgment of August 23, 2018. "On the other hand, the Court has held that extreme poverty and the lack of adequate medical care for pregnant women or women who have recently given birth are causes of high maternal mortality and morbidity, and therefore States must provide adequate health policies that allow for assistance with personnel adequately trained in childbirth care, policies for the prevention of maternal mortality through adequate prenatal and postpartum checkups, and legal and administrative instruments in health policies that allow for the adequate documentation of cases of maternal mortality. Likewise, the Court has recognized that, under Article 19 of the Convention, the State must assume a special position of guarantor with greater care and responsibility and must take special measures guided by the principle of the best interests of the child."

[398] Convention on the Rights of the Child. Preamble.

CRC, the unborn child is a child who requires special care. This was reiterated in the preparatory work for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[399]

In short, a comprehensive interpretation of the Inter-American System and international human rights law leads to the recognition of the unborn child as a subject of rights, particularly the right to life, protected from conception by Article 4 of the American Convention. Disregarding this protection implies arbitrarily excluding a human being from the moral and legal community of persons, contrary to the principle of human dignity that constitutes the foundation of the international human rights order.

Therefore, any decision or ruling on abortion requires a genuine balancing of the conflicting rights—not the suppression of one of them—ensuring that the protection of prenatal life is coordinated with comprehensive care and the guarantee of rights of pregnant women. Only a balanced and respectful approach to all conventionally recognized rights can be considered consistent with the American Convention.

2. On contraceptive methods and the need to inform women

It was mentioned on recommendation 26:

> "26. Urgently adopt all necessary measures to make available a varied, accessible, and acceptable range of contraceptive and family planning methods for both women and men, as well as reproductive and maternal health services throughout the country".

On such matter, I insist[400] that it is not enough to approve the use of contraceptive methods to guarantee women's sexual and reproductive rights, but that these measures must be accompanied by others related to education and awareness about the use of contraceptive methods in general, information about their specific physical effects, and their impact on the right to health. I emphasize that freedom in decision-making is not limited to the availability of options. True freedom comes when sufficient information is provided to make those decisions.

In these matters, it is essential to take into account women's right to comprehensive, accurate, and pluralistic information about their sexual and reproductive health, which is an essential dimension of freedom of expression and the right to health recognized in international human rights law.[401] As noted by the IACHR in its reports—including Merits Report No. 72/14[402] and in the Beatriz case[403] (reports with which I do not fully agree), access to information is an essential requirement for guaranteeing autonomy, personal integrity, and the possibility of making free and informed decisions regarding health.

On this matter, the World Health Organization has held that the adoption of contraceptive methods will depend on "**the general state of health of the person**," among other criteria.[404] This is highly relevant, as it shows that **not every method is suitable for every person** and that, in this context, the provision of such methods may pose a health risk in specific cases. It is therefore essential that people receive adequate guidance on the

[399] "The main reason for providing in paragraph 4 [now Article 6(5)] of the original text that the death penalty should not be applied to pregnant women was to save the innocent life of the unborn child." United Nations. General Assembly. Report of the Third Committee on the Draft International Covenants on Human Rights. A/3764. Page 40.

[400] Reasoned Vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4A_SPA.PDF; Report on the situation of Honduras – 2023. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_SPA.PDF.

[401] Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Access to reproductive health information from a human rights perspective, OAS/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 61, November 22, 2022. Report 332/20.

[402] IACHR. Report No. 72/14.

[403] IACHR. Access to reproductive health information from a human rights perspective.

[404] Family planning. Contraceptive methods. https://www.who.int/es/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/family-planning-contraception.

contraceptive methods available so that they can make an informed choice about the option that is most suitable for them.

Only with proper guidance can it be ensured that people who use contraceptive methods give their informed consent, an essential guarantee that derives from the text of the convention.[405] With regard to informed consent, the IHR Court has established that:

> "The concept of informed consent consists of a prior decision to accept or undergo a medical procedure in the broad sense, obtained freely, that is, without threats or coercion, inducement, or improper incentives, expressed after **obtaining adequate, complete, reliable, understandable, and accessible information, provided that this information has been truly understood, which will enable the individual's full consent**. Informed consent is the positive decision to undergo a medical procedure, derived from a prior, free, and **informed** decision-making or choice process, which constitutes a two-way mechanism of interaction in the doctor-patient relationship.[406]

In this regard, in the case of I.V. vs. Bolivia, the Court criticized the fact that the victim never had the opportunity to learn about and weigh different contraceptive methods.[407] In this case, the IHR Court stressed the importance of individuals having the necessary information to make an informed decision. In this context, the Court underscored the importance of addressing the effects or impacts of the method on free choice.[408]

Thus, individuals' autonomy in choosing contraceptive methods can only be guaranteed when they have the ability to consent to the use or non-use of these methods with the necessary information.

3. Regarding sexual and reproductive education for children and adolescents

Paragraphs 187 and 188 of the report provide:

> "187. (:...) "On the other hand, a study revealed that the proportion of teaching staff receiving training to address comprehensive sexuality education content is insufficient to guarantee this right to all children and adolescents.
>
> Likewise, it urges the creation of a state policy on comprehensive sexuality education that includes mandatory and ongoing training for teaching staff".

In this regard, I will refer to: (i) the need to serve the best interests of children and adolescents and avoid their hypersexualization, and (ii) the exercise of parents' right to choose their children's education in these matters.

3.1 The need to serve the best interests of children and adolescents and prevent their hypersexualization

In light of the restrictions imposed on sexual and reproductive education, as well as education on sexual and gender diversity aimed at children and adolescents, I reiterate[409] that it is essential to also recognize that it is vital to take into account the role of the family, society, and the State in protecting the rights of children, and therefore a broad dialogue must be opened that recognizes the needs of children according to their stage of

[405] IHR Court. Case of I.V. vs. Bolivia. Preliminary Exceptions, Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of November 30, 2016. Series C No. 329.
[406] IHR Court. Case of I.V. vs. Bolivia. Preliminary Exceptions, Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of November 30, 2016. Series C No. 329.
[407] Ibidem.
[408] IHR Court. Case of I.V. vs. Bolivia. Preliminary Exceptions, Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of November 30, 2016. Series C No. 329.
[409] Reasoned vote. Annual report 2024. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_5_SLV_ES.PDF.

development. Sex education without the recognition and mitigation of these risks can cause serious violations of the rights of girls and boys.

I emphasize that the best interests of children and adolescents are a guiding principle that should inform all government actions. Indeed, this principle is enshrined in binding instruments of the Universal Human Rights System (UHRS),[410] the Inter-American Human Rights System (IAHRS)[411] and the European System of Human Rights (ESHR).[412]

In the UHRS, the best interests of the child are enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Indeed, Article 3.1 of the CRC provides that "In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration." And the CADAW, in Article 5.b, enshrines the obligation of States Parties to "To ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children, it being understood that the interest of the children is the primordial consideration in all cases".

In the Inter-American System, the ACHR recognizes this principle in Article 19, providing that "every child has the right to the measures of protection required by his or her status as a minor from his or her family, society, and the State".

This principle has been extensively developed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in General Comment 14. In this Comment, the Committee held that the best interest of the child is an umbrella term which encompasses three dimensions, namely: (i) a fundamental right of the child, (ii) a basic and interpretative principle, and (iii) a procedural rule.[413]

With regard to the content of this principle, the Committee held that it implies that any action involving a child must consider the child's best interest as a primary consideration.[414] Hence, according to the Committee, the application of this principle means that not only must the interests of the child be considered, but their interests must always take precedence when they clash with other principles or interests.

In accordance with the above, all public policies implemented by States within the framework of their functions must take into account the interests of children and adolescents as an essential consideration. As a public policy, Comprehensive Sexual Education must also be governed by the best interests of children and adolescents.

I would like to raise a growing concern in this regard regarding sex education policies, namely the hypersexualization of children and adolescents. Hypersexualization represents a risk that disproportionately affects children. This has been recognized by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in General Comment 20, which states that "the digital environment can also expose adolescents to risks, including, among others, (...) **hypersexualization**".[415] The Committee has reiterated this in several reports, arguing that hypersexualization is a problem that must be addressed by States, as it jeopardizes the rights of children and adolescents.[416]

[410] Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 3.1; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Article 5.b).

[411] American Convention on Human Rights. Article 19.

[412] ECHR. R.L and others vs Denmark.

[413] Committee on the Rights of the Child. General Observation Nº 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (art. 3, Para. 1). CRC/C/GC/14.

[414] Committee on the Rights of the Child. General Observation Nº 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (art. 3, Para. 1). CRC/C/GC/14.

[415] General Observation number. 20 (2016) on the effectiveness of children's rights during adolescence

[416] 39 Consideration of the reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention. Fifth periodic reports of States parties due in 2012; Committee on the Rights of the Child. Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2015.

Sex education, therefore, should be a means of preventing the hypersexualization of children and adolescents[417] and not a mechanism to promote it. Consistent with this, the ECHR has established that for sex education to be in line with the Convention, it must aim to provide children with **correct, precise, objective and scientific knowledge on the matter, presented in a manner appropriate to their age.**[418]

In light of the above, the ECHR has held that a sex education policy aimed at children and adolescents should: (i) be based on the principle of objectivity;[419] (ii) approach the issues in a neutral manner;[420] (iii) offer a precise and scientific approach to the subject[421] and (iv) make sure topics are presented in a way that is appropriate for the age and cognitive development of the child or teen.[422] In this context, the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights has held that sex education "entails a right to comprehensive, non-discriminatory education on sexuality and reproduction, **based on evidence, scientifically rigorous, and age-appropriate**"[423] (Bold type not in original text).

In this sense, the IHR Court has defined a goal that must be pursued and cannot be overlooked. In particular, it has stated that: "Such education must be capable of enabling girls and boys to adequately understand the implications of sexual and emotional relationships, particularly in relation to consent to such relationships and the exercise of freedoms with respect to their sexual and reproductive rights".[424]

However, the report completely omitted any analysis or consideration of the relationship and impact that this type of education may have on the best interests of children and adolescents, and the need for safeguards to prevent the hypersexualization of children and adolescents.

In short, sexual and reproductive education must be implemented with strict respect for the best interests of the child, ensuring an objective, scientific approach that is appropriate to their age and level of development. This means that States, in exercising their margin of discretion, must adopt measures aimed at protecting children and adolescents from hypersexualization and any practice that disregards their developmental maturity or their right to a comprehensive education. Likewise, educational policies must recognize the fundamental role of the family and foster values such as responsibility, self-control, and the protection of human life since conception.

3.2 The application of parents' right to choose their children's education in these matters

I reiterate[425] that in all discussions concerning the sexual and reproductive education of children, the right of parents to choose their children's education, as recognized in Article 12.4 of the ACHR, must be safeguarded. The aforementioned article provides that "**Parents or guardians, as the case may be, have the right to provide for** the religious and **moral education** of their children or wards that is in accord with their own convictions" (Bold type not in the original text).

[417] La Sabana University. The hypersexualization of childhood. https://www.unisabana.edu.co/portaldenoticias/al-dia/la-hipersexualizacion-de-la-infancia/.

[418] ECHR. Case of Macatė vs. Lithuania.

[419] ECHR. Bayev and Others vs. Russia. 2018. Para. 72; Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen and Pedersen vs Denmark. 1976. Paragraph 53.

[420] ECHR. Macatė vs. Lithuania. 2023. Para. 68.

[421] ECHR. Macatė vs. Lithuania. 2023. Para. 207; Bayev and Others vs. Russia. 2018. Para. 72.

[422] ECHR. Macatė vs. Lithuania. 2023. Para. 68.

[423] CESCR, General Observation No. 22 on the right to sexual and reproductive health (Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), paras. 9 and 49.

[424] IHR Court. Case of Guzmán Albarracín and others Vs. Ecuador. Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of June 24, 2020. Series C No. 405, Paragraph 139.

[425] Reasoned vote on the report on "Social cohesion: the challenge for the consolidation of democracy in Bolivia". https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/CohesionSocial_Bolivia_SPA.pdf; Reasoned vote. Report on the situation of Honduras – 2023. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Reasoned vote. Annual report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Informe annual 2023. Chapter IV.A. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4A_SPA.PDF.

This same guarantee has been provided for in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[426] the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights,[427] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[428] and the Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights.[429] According to the ECHR, the Parents' right to choose their children's education, including sex education, is an aspect of the right to respect for private and family life protected by the ECHR.[430]

Thus, there is consensus in international human rights law concerning the existence and recognition of this right of parents. The Inter-American Commission has understood that the right of parents to choose their children's education (i) must be interpreted in conjunction with the rights of children and adolescents, especially the right to education[431] and (ii) it must comply with the provisions of Inter-American instruments that establish that education should be oriented toward teaching children to respect human rights, civil liberties, and tolerance.[432]

Of course, I agree with these criteria; however, it cannot be overlooked that: (i) all types of education must respect the best interests of children as a guiding principle, and (ii) the right of parents to choose their children's education is derived from the right itself to education for children; for which reason, there is a false dilemma in considering that both rights are incompatible.

Thus, the ECHR, within the framework of its interpretation of Article 2 of Protocol No. 1, has held that,[433] it is the fundamental right to education on which the right of parents to respect for their philosophical and religious convictions is based. According to the European Court of Human Rights, although this right rests with parents, it also rests with children, who have the right to education and teaching.[434]

This right undoubtedly has an impact on sexual and reproductive education, since, like any other type of education, it must come within the scope of protection of the conventional right, recognized by international human rights law, which grants parents the right to choose their children's education, pursuant to Article 12.4 of the convention.

Issues related to sexuality, reproduction, sexual diversity, and gender are closely intertwined and have a significant impact on people's value systems. Therefore, sex education is an integral part of the moral education of children and adolescents. The broad social discussions on the subject and the diverse views that may arise from different value systems in a region as pluralistic as ours cannot be ignored. Therefore, it cannot be interpreted that it is the State or the bodies of the Inter-American System who are called upon to choose the moral education of children, forgetting that it is the parents who are the holders of that right.

4. Same-sex couples: the vision incorporated by the ACHR on marriage

Paragraph 208 of the report holds:

> "In June 2025, hundreds of people marched in celebration of LGBTI pride, denouncing violations of their human rights, such as abuse by the authorities, poor access to healthcare, and lack of recognition of equal marriage rights, while demanding recognition of their rights".

[426] Article 18.4.
[427] Article 13.3.
[428] Article 14.2.
[429] Article 2.
[430] TEDH, Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen y Pedersen, Para. 53; Dojan and others, cited above, Para. 78-83.
[431] IACHR. Study on Freedom of Religion and Belief | Inter-American Standards.
[432] IACHR. Study on Freedom of Religion and Belief | Inter-American Standards.
[433] The general principles set out by the ECHR are derived primarily from the judgments in Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen, and Pedersen vs. Denmark (ECHR 1976/5); Campbell and Cosans vs. the United Kingdom (ECHR 1982/1); Valsamis vs. Greece (ECHR 1996, 70) and Folgero and others vs. Norway (ECHR 2007/53).
[434] Case of Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen, and Pedersen vs. Denmark (SECHR 1976/5, of December 7, para. 52).

On this point, without prejudice to States adopting legal measures to protect same-sex relationships, I reiterate[435] that there is no conventional provision obliging States to recognize same-sex marriages. As I have mentioned on several occasions, the treaties that form part of the Inter-American Human Rights System and grant jurisdiction to the Inter-American Commission to address contentious cases do not include any obligation with respect to the recognition of same-sex marriage. This absence of obligation stems from the literal wording of the American Convention, which clearly establishes that marriage is a right reserved for "a man and a woman":

> "**The right of men and women** to marry and found a family shall be recognized if they are of legal age and meet the conditions required by domestic law, provided that such conditions do not affect the principle of non-discrimination established in this Convention"[436] (Bold type not in the original text).

Therefore, in accordance with the hermeneutic principle that calls for a literal interpretation in good faith[437], the State is only compelled to recognize the right to marriage for couples specifically mentioned in Article 17.2 of the American Convention.

It is essential to stress that, according to the jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice, the interpretation of a treaty in good faith should not result in changes to the literal wording of treaties or in inferring what is not expressly contained in the text. This approach implies that the interpreter must assume that the parties had the intention that is apparent from the ordinary meaning of the terms used in the international agreement.[438] The text-centered approach to treaty interpretation is not only accepted in international law, but also highly recommended, as it is based on the only empirically verifiable evidence of the intentions of States: the text of the treaty itself.[439]

Following these rules of interpretation, the European Court of Human Rights has considered marriage to be between a man and a woman— as established in the European Convention on Human Rights, in a provision similar to that of the ACHR—.[440] In that sense, the European Court supports the idea that there is no binding obligation for states to recognize same-sex marriage, which leaves ample room for states to regulate this matter.[441] Likewise, in terms of the European Court of Human Rights:

> "The Court reiterates that, in accordance with Article 14 in conjunction with Article 8, States are free to restrict marriage to opposite-sex couples only and have a certain margin of appreciation in deciding the exact nature of the legal status granted by other means of legal recognition".[442]

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[435] Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4A_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_5_ElSalvador_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Report on the situation of Honduras – 2023. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter IV.A. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4B_VEN_ES.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter vs. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_5_SLV_ES.PDF; Partially dissenting vote. Annual Report 2024- Chapter IV.A development of human rights in the region - overview of the human rights situation by country. https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4A_ES.PDF#page201.

[436] American Convention on Human Rights. Article 17.1

[437] Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Article 31

[438] International Court of Justice. Case concerning rights of nationals of the United States of America in Morocco. France v. United States of America. ICJ Reports 1952, pp. 196-199. International Court of Justice. Interpretation of peace treaties with Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania (Second Phase). ICJ Reports 1950, pp.229-230.

[439] International Court of Justice. Question of the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf between Nicaragua and Colombia beyond 200 Nautical Miles from the Nicaraguan Coast (Nicaragua vs. Colombia), Preliminary Objections, Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 2016, p. 116-123, paras. 34-38, 46. Although the International Court of Justice did not rely exclusively on the literal criterion of interpretation, this was one of the first criteria taken into account by the Court in rejecting the interpretation of the Colombian party.

[440] European Convention on Human Rights. Article 12: "Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry and to found a family, according to the national laws governing the exercise of this right".

[441] ECHR. Oliari and others vs Italy. July 21, 2015. Para. 193.

[442] ECHR. Chapin and Charpentier vs France. September 9, 2016. Para. 48.

On this point, it is worth noting that this same approach is upheld by the European Court in the cases of Orlandi vs. Italy[443] and Fedotova and others vs. Russia.[444] In fact, in both cases, the European Court held that, although states must provide mechanisms to protect same-sex unions, this protection does not necessarily derive from the recognition of same-sex marriage.

Under this context, I fully agree that the margin of discretion available to States in this regard relates both to the form of recognition and to the content of the protection to be granted to same-sex couples, which, of course, cannot translate into a complete absence of protection for same-sex couples.

[443] ECHR. Orlandi vs Italy. "The Court reiterates that States are still free, under Article 12 of the Convention as well as under Article 14 taken in conjunction with Article 8, to restrict access to marriage to different sex. The same holds for Article 14 taken in conjunction with Article 12 (see Oliari and Others, cited above, § 193)." Para. 192.

[444] In this case, the Court analyzed only the possible violation of Article 8 of the ECHR, which refers to the right of individuals not to be subjected to arbitrary interference by the State in their private lives. In the case of same-sex couples, the Court established that the lack of a legal framework allowing same-sex couples to have their relationship recognized and protected under national law can create significant obstacles in the daily lives of these couples. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it established that the State may enjoy a margin of appreciation in determining the form of registration of same-sex unions, which implies that such registration does not necessarily have to be through the institution of marriage.

V.

Follow-Up of Recommendations in Country or Thematic Reports

Bolivia

CHAPTER V FOLLOW-UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE IACHR IN THE SOCIETAL COHESION REPORT: THE CHALLENGE FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY

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FOLLOW-UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE IACHR IN THE SOCIETAL COHESION REPORT: THE CHALLENGE FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY[1]

1. This report presents the first follow-up assessment of the recommendations issued in the report "Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia."[2] (hereinafter "Country Report"), approved on January 20, 2024, by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (hereinafter "Commission," "Inter-American Commission," or "IACHR"). The report is prepared pursuant to Article 59, paragraph 9, of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, according to which, through Chapter V of its Annual Report, the Commission shall follow up on the measures taken by the member states of the Organization of American States (hereinafter "OAS") to comply with the recommendations made in its country or thematic reports.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. On January 20, 2024, the IACHR approved the Country Report, in which it analyzed the human rights situation in Bolivia, based on observations made during the *in loco* visit conducted from March 27 to 31, 2023; the structural challenges, as well as the main advances and challenges remaining since the previous visit, conducted in 2006.

3. Among the pending challenges identified by the Commission are effective measures to guarantee the right to self-determination of indigenous peoples, including indigenous peasant jurisdiction, as well as the rights of the Afro-Bolivian people. It also noted the challenges in guaranteeing women's right to a life free of violence, as well as the full exercise of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, gender-diverse, and intersex (LGBTI) persons. On the other hand, it highlighted the need for state attention to the environmental impacts of extractive activities; guarantees for access to water, health, work, and education, among others.

4. The report also acknowledged the continued historical institutional weakness, affected by deepening political polarization, and analyzed how this social phenomenon fuels conflict, enables the escalation of violence, and creates conditions for human rights violations in the country, in addition to affecting democratic institutions, the rule of law, and freedom of expression.

5. The document also analyzed the historical challenges of the justice system, which have resulted in the Bolivian population, in all its diversity, distrusting the judiciary, especially the criminal justice system. The IACHR observed that the consolidation of progress in human rights is at risk if the justice system continues to face the serious challenges it currently faces.

6. Based on its findings, in the Country Report, the Commission issued 32 recommendations and requested the State to adopt measures for compliance with said recommendations, considering the challenges identified.

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[1] Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido approved the report and issued a partial reasoned vote, joined by Commissioner Gloria Monique de Mees. Most considerations were developed in the reasoned vote corresponding to the report "Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia." The partial reasoned vote appears at the end of this chapter.

[2] IACHR, Report "Social cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia", OAS/Ser.L/V/II, Doc.1/2024, January 20, 2024.

7. In order to prepare this follow-up document, information provided by the State on December 12, 2024, through the SIMORE[3] platform was used. Subsequently, on July 21, 2025, the IACHR requested that the Plurinational State of Bolivia respond within 30 days regarding its compliance with the recommendations contained in the Country Report. The State provided the requested information on August 20, 2025. The Commission appreciates and welcomes the information received which has been included in this document to the extent that it is relevant.

8. For its part, the IACHR issued a questionnaire to civil society organizations so that they could provide their response on the follow-up to the recommendations. The IACHR appreciates the information provided by some organizations, which was taken into account for the follow-up to the recommendations in the Country Report, and values their involvement in the processes for following up on the IACHR's recommendations.

9. On October 28, 2025, the Commission transmitted to the State a copy of the preliminary draft of this Report, in accordance with Article 59, paragraph 10, of its Rules of Procedure, and requested that it submit its observations. On November 11, 2025, the Commission received the State's observations and comments[4], which were incorporated, as appropriate, into this version. The final version of this report was approved by the Commission on December 15, 2025.

10. This follow-up report assesses compliance with the recommendations, in accordance with the General Guidelines for Follow-up on Recommendations and Decisions of the IACHR[5], in accordance with the thematic structure incorporated into the Country Report. Furthermore, the preparation of this document is consistent with the practice of the IACHR in the area of follow-up.

11. With regard to each recommendation, the report: (i) summarizes the reasons that led the IACHR to formulate it; (ii) summarizes the information that has become known since the publication of the Country Report, including that reported by the State and civil society organizations, as well as that gathered in monitoring the general human rights situation in the country[6]; (iii) presents an analysis and the level of compliance with each recommendation, noting the main advances and challenges in implementation; and (iv) provides an assessment of the information that the State has not yet submitted or the measures that remain to be adopted in order to determine progress in the level of compliance. After presenting its analysis of compliance with all the recommendations, the IACHR issues its conclusions regarding progress and challenges in compliance.

12. Full compliance with the recommendations of the IACHR is essential to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights in OAS member states and to strengthen the Inter-American Human Rights System (hereinafter "IAHRS"). The current international scenario requires that the actors involved not only participate actively, reporting information on the measures taken to comply with the decisions adopted by international organizations, including the IACHR, but also that these efforts translate into appropriate, timely, and effective state measures that achieve the aims of each decision.

13. The IACHR reiterates the importance of the Plurinational State of Bolivia fully complying with the recommendations made in the report under review. It also hopes that this tool will enable the establishment of a dialogue process aimed at ensuring compliance with the recommendations addressed to the Plurinational State of Bolivia in the area of human rights.

[3] Plurinational State of Bolivia, Note 296/2025, November 4, 2025.
[4] Plurinational State of Bolivia, Note 298/2025, Observations to the project of the report, November 11, 2025.
[5] IACHR, General Guidelines for Follow-up on Recommendations and Decisions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, OAS/Ser.L/V/II. Doc.385/23 (second edition), November 20, 2023.
[6] To this end, the IACHR has resorted to information gathered during public hearings, *ex officio* investigations, inputs from petition and case mechanisms and precautionary measures, and responses to requests for information submitted under the authority established in Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights, as well as information received from other public sources and the decisions and recommendations of specialized international organizations, among others.

II. FOLLOW-UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Social cohesion

Recommendation No. 1. Design and implement a nationwide, regularly functioning roundtable that provides spaces for democratic dialogue between different sectors of society to promote shared visions; prevent further polarization; prevent violence and ethnic-racial discrimination; and contribute to democratic governance.

14. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR warned that social relations in Bolivia are affected by polarization, hostility, and hatred among groups opposed for political reasons. While political differences are part of a healthy democratic society, the IACHR noted that such polarization has led to mistrust of democratic institutions and a lack of consensus on historical events that continue to affect the social fabric. This phenomenon is worsened by discrimination based on ethnic and racial origin and the lack of effective channels for dialogue. For this reason, the IACHR urged the State to create spaces for consensus and genuine dialogue among the different sectors of Bolivian society, in all its diversity, in order to prevent polarization from deepening[7].

Information on compliance

15. According to information reported by the State, the Social Cabinet of the Cultural and Political Revolution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia was established as a platform for dialogue, consultation, and debate on political, economic, and social issues between different sectors of society and the Executive Branch[8]. This group is comprised of national social organizations, the Pact for Unity[9] and 17 government ministries. According to information provided by the State, five meetings of the Group were held between January and October 2024[10]. Likewise, the State noted that permanent dialogue tables have been held in territories affected by social tensions, which have allowed for the involvement of national and regional actors, as well as indigenous and local authorities. Along these lines, the State reported that the necessary inter-institutional channels have been activated to ensure that the results of the dialogue translate into efficient actions[11].

16. For its part, civil society commented that the project "Dialogue to support and build human rights for peace in Bolivia" was implemented between 2019 and 2022[12]; which organized public consultations with young people, activists, and representatives of organizations working for human rights and gender equality, aimed at preventing violence, mitigating the polarization generated by the electoral context, promoting respect for human rights as a priority for a successful political transition, fostering trust and cooperation between opposing sectors of society, and generating a long-term agenda for the consolidation of

[7] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 78, 89 and 99.

[8] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.

[9] The State reported that it is made up of the Single Trade Union Confederation of Rural Workers of Bolivia (CSUTCB), the National Confederation of Indigenous Rural Women "Bartolina Sisa" (CNMCIOB-BS), the Trade Union Confederation of Indigenous Intercultural Communities of Bolivia (CSCIOB), the National Council of Ayllus and Markas of Qullasuyu (CONAMAQ), and the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Eastern Bolivia (CIDOB), and the Bolivian Workers' Union (COB).

[10] First session: January 23, 2024; second session: April 2, 2024; third session: May 28, 2024; fourth session: August 13, 2024; fifth session: October 8, 2024. For further reference, visit: https://www.facebook.com/vicemssc/videos/1181228876417886/ or https://www.facebook.com/vicemssc/posts/pfbid01LMCcEu8QLrz6PM1GgZ78pGfZ9wXbDg3g5e365uVfZi5cNH7DYthggTYe9moCWhal?rdid=qU3dSMwa0Kj3mFr2#.

[11] Inter-American SIMORE, , Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, September 2025.

[12] Signed by the State and the United Nations between 2019 and 2022: https://mptf.undp.org/sites/default/files/documents/2023-11/00122936_bolivia_final_evaluation.pdf.

peace. Its participants also stressed that they are not aware of the existence of a permanent national roundtable, despite the worsening polarization in recent years[13].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

17. The IACHR acknowledges the measures taken by the State following the adoption of the Social Cohesion Report, in particular the organization of the Social Cabinet of the Cultural and Political Revolution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the convening of meetings that include social and trade union organizations. However, it takes note of the lack of information on its implementation and results in 2025.

18. It should be noted that the Social Cohesion Report highlighted the need to create spaces for dialogue that cover the plurality of actors in Bolivian society and that prevent the polarization that affects even within organizations. In this regard, in order to comply with this recommendation, it is essential that the spaces for dialogue have as their goal and methodology the participation of actors from different areas of the political and social spectrum. This can be guaranteed by means of a call for participation that is representative of geographical distribution, in order to ensure broad political representation of the groups that are part of the dialogue, or by incorporating groups with diverse themes, including those who may be critical of the policies being implemented.

19. Likewise, spaces for dialogue must have mechanisms in place that promote timely and informed dialogue and aim to influence the decision-making process. In this regard, since the IACHR requires more information to verify the scope of the dialogue and its impact on public debate, it is concluded that this recommendation has been **partially fulfilled**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

20. In order to move forward with this recommendation, the Commission believes it is necessary to understand the scope of the Social Cabinet's call for participation, considering the different types of social actors (social organizations, human rights organizations, journalists' associations, trade unions, organizations representing indigenous and peasant peoples, among others) and its geographical scope (including organizations from different departments of Bolivia). Likewise, efforts should be made to convene and ensure the voluntary participation of social or political organizations with diverse ideological positions, even those contrary to those of the government itself. In addition, the Commission deems it essential to know the topics addressed and the results of this dialogue. Finally, it is crucial for the IACHR to have updated information during 2025.

Recommendation No. 2. Implement a national strategy for institutional capacity strengthening focused on dialogue, negotiation, and peaceful conflict resolution techniques, with an intercultural approach which takes into account the forms of organization specific to each community.

21. In the Social Cohesion Report, the IACHR identified the presence of “shock groups” in the various situations of social conflict highlighted in the Report and therefore urged the State to institutionally strengthen the public bodies responsible for preventing and addressing social conflict. In addition, the IACHR called on the State to establish policies, strategies, and special training activities focused on negotiation techniques and peaceful conflict resolution at all levels, prioritizing the community level and respecting each community's own forms of organization and conflict management[14].

[13] Human Rights Community, Response to the questionnaire on the recommendations of the “Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia,” August 25, 2025, p. 1.

[14] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 99 and 100.

Information on compliance

22. The State reported that the Vice Ministry for Coordination with Social Movements and civil society is responsible for addressing social demands, channeling requests to the appropriate authorities, and monitoring the activities of social organizations[15]. Likewise, it is responsible for the follow-up on agreements between the institutions of the Executive Branch and social and civil organizations, through regular meetings with the coordinators of social organizations from the 17 ministries[16]. The State also noted that during 2024 and 2025, workshops and training sessions were held for municipal and regional authorities, as well as community leaders, incorporating techniques of mediation, participatory dialogue, and intercultural management. In addition, support and technical assistance protocols were implemented for subnational governments, with the aim of strengthening their response capacity and their dignified and respectful interaction with indigenous communities[17].

23. For its part, civil society stressed that it is unaware of any initiatives of this kind[18].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

24. The IACHR thanks the State and civil society for the information provided and welcomes the existence of an entity within the executive branch with the authority to address social demands and follow up on the results of dialogues with the authorities. However, it is important to note that the powers of this entity were approved prior to the country visit and the issuance of the Report on Social Cohesion. On the other hand, it commends the creation of training opportunities for municipal and regional authorities.

25. Likewise, it should be noted that the recommendation is aimed at designing and implementing actions intended to strengthen capabilities for dialogue and peaceful dispute resolution, with a community-based and intercultural approach. In this regard, in order to comply with this recommendation, the State must formulate a capability-building strategy that includes, at least, courses, management tools, or working methodologies aimed at the National Police, relevant entities of the executive branch, and social leaders for the preventive approach to social conflicts, taking into account the specific needs and cultural characteristics of each community. With regard to the activities reported, the State is requested to report on how these fit into a national strategy and to detail their impact. Therefore, the Commission considers that this recommendation remains **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

26. In order to advance in compliance with this recommendation, the Commission requests information on the measures the State has adopted to strengthen its capabilities for dialogue and peaceful dispute resolution. These measures, intended for authorities or other social groups, may include, *inter alia*, capability-building workshops, mechanisms for monitoring the issues and agreements addressed. Likewise, in monitoring the agreements, the Commission requests information on how they are implemented and the results observed.

[15] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024. For further information on the meetings held by the Executive Branch, please visit the following links: https://www.facebook.com/vicemssc/posts/pfbid0hyDGv1qMYdmgSQKH9d9yWAmPj3pXYHwdpvKY9W9uaskZtHxsqAruVm5kxmLK69Lkl?rdid=tbgQhV50oRnevMfJ#, https://www.facebook.com/vicemssc/posts/pfbid0qtYtRftY7Fr1xgVr6e14MsraGZsp7tCpmkmNqdf6USN3GTDW6RvGJYANNeWPPvNsl?rdid=2nUB39Ann4iFeEON#, https://www.facebook.com/vicemssc/posts/761367112682962?rdid=7nWD0S14A3yYAoGQ#.

[16] Supreme Decree No. 4857, passed on January 6, 2023.

[17] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, September, 2025.

[18] Human Rights Community, ibid., p. 2.

B. Pending challenges in human rights

Recommendation No. 3 Promote, in the immediate term, a comprehensive review of the procedures for recognizing indigenous autonomies, in order to develop an assessment which identifies the obstacles keeping these procedures from being agile, simple, and effective.

27. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR mentioned that the indigenous autonomy regime allowed the representative authorities of the indigenous peasant peoples to exercise governance powers and strengthen their own legal systems, norms, and mechanisms for democratic participation. However, the IACHR also held that there were frequent complaints about the existence of highly bureaucratic processes for establishing autonomy and approving statutes and autonomy designs. It therefore recommended that the State, in consultation with the peoples, evaluate the changes or adaptations necessary in the legal and administrative framework to ensure that the establishment of indigenous autonomy is not hindered by bureaucratic deficiencies[19].

Information on compliance

28. The State reported that the legal exercise of self-determination by indigenous and aboriginal peasant peoples and nations is conducted through procedures established by several central government bodies, which guarantees their full participation and the exercise of their collective rights within the framework of current legislation[20]. With regard to the management role of the autonomous regions, the executive body is responsible for issuing Certificates of Ancestral Territory and Governance Viability and Population Base[21]. The executive body also held that some obstacles have been identified that prevent these procedures from being agile, simple, and effective, due to the slowness of the procedures before different State bodies and their lack of adaptation to the characteristics and barriers of the population[22].

29. The State also explained that the Electoral Body is responsible for supervising and monitoring compliance with the rules and procedures for the election of the authorities of indigenous and aboriginal peasant nations and peoples. For its part, the Plurinational Legislative Body has the power to approve the law creating the corresponding territorial units. In addition, the Plurinational Constitutional Court issues judgments on the constitutional compatibility of the autonomy statutes.

30. The State cited the "Multiethnic Indigenous Territory" as a recent example of recognition of indigenous autonomy, with the plural identity of the Mojeño Trinitario, Mojeño Ignaciano, Tsimane, Movima, and Yuracaré peoples[23], whose process had already been highlighted in the Country Report[24].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

31. The Commission takes note that the rules and powers reported were approved prior to the country visit and the issuance of the Report on Social Cohesion. However, it appreciates the information on the obstacles observed, so that the system of indigenous autonomies effectively guarantees the rights of indigenous peasant peoples. In this regard, the IACHR highlights the need to conduct a participatory assessment that allows

[19] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 42 and 44.
[20] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[21] These competencies are regulated in Ministerial Resolutions 309/17 and 310/17 both passed in 2017.
[22] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August, 2025.
[23] Law No. 1497, passed on March 1, 2023.
[24] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 42.

all entities involved in the procedure to streamline and facilitate their bureaucratic processes. Therefore, it is considered that this recommendation remains **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

32. With the aim of advancing in the compliance with this recommendation, the IACHR requests information on the development of a participatory assessment with indigenous and peasant organizations that, from an intercultural perspective, will identify measures that can be adapted to facilitate the bureaucratic processes for establishing indigenous autonomy. This assessment should help to understand the diversity of entities involved in the process, the procedures for each one, their deadlines, and to consider the linguistic, social, political, economic, and cultural barriers that may be hindering access for the peoples. Upon the State's recognition that its own institutions are unaware of some procedures, this recommendation acquires particular relevance. Therefore, in order to assess compliance, the State must consider whether this lack of knowledge is part of the administrative obstacles reported by indigenous organizations.

Recommendation No. 4 Design and implement a comprehensive public policy, in the short term, that completes the process of land reform and land deeds for indigenous peoples, peasants, and Afro-Bolivians, and provides protection against third-party actions.

33. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR indicated that constitutional reforms addressed structural problems related to access to and recognition of the territorial rights of indigenous and Afro-Bolivian peoples. However, it collected reports on challenges in the process of land regularization and titling, as well as on illegal occupations that threaten territorial integrity. Likewise, it stressed that legal uncertainty has contributed to the phenomenon of dispossession, encroachment, and land trafficking. Therefore, the IACHR urged the State to complete the process of land and territory regularization and titling, address persistent historical challenges, and generate measures to protect against third-party actions, such as land encroachment. This includes collecting data to facilitate coordinated action both within the State and among indigenous peoples[25].

Information on compliance

34. The State reported that the Rural Land Titling and Regularization Program (BO-L 1113) had been implemented until 2024[26], reaching a total of 95.8 million hectares nationwide, an area corresponding to 93% of all rural land. Of the total amount of rural land titled, 27% corresponds to indigenous communities, 18% to communal property, 10% to small properties, 16% to medium-sized and corporate properties, and 29% to public lands. Thus, at the national level, 25.8 million hectares have been registered as lands belonging to indigenous peasent communities. Of these, 11.5 million hectares are located in the highlands and 14.2 million in the lowlands. In addition, it was emphasized to the IACHR that only 6% of the national territory remains for the completion of land regularization and titling, an area that is being claimed by different agrarian actors (small property owners, community members, indigenous peoples, medium-sized businesses)[27].

35. Likewise, approval was reported for the financing of two projects aimed at consolidating legal security and the development of rural lands, the Bolivian Land Administration Program for Sustainable Rural

[25] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras 126, 132, and 133.
[26] For further information, visit: https://www.inra.gob.bo/programa-de-saneamiento-y-titulacion-de-tierras-rurales/.
[27] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.

Development BO-L1234[28] and the Fund for the Consolidation of Indigenous Peasant Territories in the Lowlands[29], which are awaiting approval and enactment into law[30].

36. For its part, civil society confirmed that the information provided by the State is publicly available and broken down according to progress, type of property, and distribution across departments. In this regard, they hold that between 2023 and 2024, only 1% of the total has been completed, leaving 6% of the territory pending[31].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

37. The Commission thanks the State and civil society for the information provided. It also takes note of the progress made in the titling and land regularization process, which has advanced significantly since 2006, as well as the projects that are being approved in those areas where it is still pending.

38. The IACHR has repeatedly insisted on the importance of protecting the territory of indigenous peoples and the relationship between said protection and the exercise of the collective rights of these peoples, as well as the protection of their development priorities free from violence by third parties[32]. Therefore, it is fundamental that States not only recognize the rights of indigenous peoples, native peasants, and Afro-Bolivian communities in their regulatory frameworks, but also effectively implement the demarcation and titling of their territories.

39. For this reason, the IACHR deems as positive the fact that the funding necessary to advance in the fulfillment of this recommendation has been secured. In this regard, it remains attentive to its effective implementation, so that progress can be made on the remaining percentage and therefore concludes that this recommendation is in **partial compliance**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

40. In order to advance in the compliance with this recommendation, the IACHR requires information on the initiation and implementation of the Bolivian Program for Land Administration for Sustainable Rural Development BO-L1234 and the Fund for the Consolidation of Indigenous and Native Peasant Territories in the Lowlands, as well as information that allows it to assess how progress has been made with the remaining 6% gap, and in other actions aimed at protecting the territories of indigenous and aboriginal peasant peoples from harm caused by third parties.

Recommendation No. 5. Design and implement a public policy which, in order to guarantee consultation from a perspective of the right to self-determination, contemplates prior, free, and informed consent with regard to any legislative, administrative, or other measure that may affect the rights of indigenous peoples, peasants, and Afro-Bolivians.

41. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR mentioned that indigenous, peasant, and Afro-Bolivian peoples have the right to be consulted through appropriate procedures whenever legislative or administrative measures that may affect them are planned, in order to implement their right to self-

[28] For further information, visit: https://www.iadb.org/es/proyecto/BO-L1234.
[29] For further information, visit: https://www.iadb.org/es/proyecto/BO-T1429.
[30] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August, 2025.
[31] Construir Foundation, Response to the questionnaire of recommendations of the "Report on Social cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia", September 12, 2025, p. 2.
[32] Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Right to self-determination of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, Approved by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on December 28, 2021, OAS/Ser.L/V/II, para. 125.

determination. However, there are reports of failure to apply this constitutional provision in extractive or construction projects already in operation. In view of this, the IACHR expressed its concern about the repeated reports of lack of practical and effective implementation in projects with the potential to affect the rights of indigenous peoples[33]. Therefore, the IACHR urged the State to guarantee prior consultation, free and informed consent in all cases of possible impacts on the rights of indigenous, native, peasant, and Afro-Bolivian peoples in order to give effect to their right to self-determination, in accordance with inter-American standards.

Information on compliance

42. The IACHR received information from the Plurinational State of Bolivia indicating that, in accordance with the current regulatory framework, prior consultation applies at all levels of government in any situation that may affect the collective rights of indigenous and aboriginal peasant peoples. The implementation of this right is the responsibility of the executive branch and is supervised by the Supreme Electoral Court[34]. Likewise, technical assistance, support, and guidance are provided to guarantee the full exercise of the rights of indigenous and aboriginal peasant nations and peoples[35].

43. In the area of hydrocarbons and energy, it was reported that the Ministry of Hydrocarbons and Energy has an internal organizational structure for the fulfillment of the right to consultation. It was also noted that in 2024 and 2025, eight[36] consultation processes have been held; and that the last two were on the projects "Seismic exploration in Tatarenda, Department of Santa Cruz" and "Development of the Huayco field, Department of Tarija," where the indigenous territories of Iupaguasu, Takovo Mora, Kaaguasu, Charagua Norte, and Itika Guasu were consulted, respectively. This information would reflect a decrease in the number of prior consultations implemented, from an average of nine per year between 2013 and 2019 to two per year between 2020 and 2023.

44. As for mining activities, the Mining Administrative Jurisdictional Authority (AJAM) held workshops, seminars, and training sessions, and issued guidelines and procedures to create mechanisms for the uniform implementation of the consultation process for the granting of mining rights, with the aim of improving the prior consultation processes conducted with indigenous peoples, intercultural communities, and Afro-Bolivian peoples[37]. Said procedure, which is unique compared to other consultation processes, consists of four phases: the first two, preparatory and deliberative, are mandatory; while the mediation and final decision phases are only implemented if no agreement is reached in the deliberative phase.

45. For its part, civil society emphasized that problems still exist in the overlap of hydrocarbon and mining activities in operation with indigenous lands where prior consultation has not been performed. Thus, they hold that at least 27 indigenous territories allegedly have hydrocarbon areas with deficient or absent consultation processes[38].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

46. The Commission thanks the State and civil society for the information provided, particularly regarding the implementation of prior consultation mechanisms in the hydrocarbons and energy sector, as well

[33] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 134, 138, 141 and 142.

[34] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August, 2025.

[35] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.

[36] The projects reported in 2024 are the following: i) Exploratory Drilling of INGRE X-3D Well, ii) Drilling of Tomachi - X1 Stratigraphic Research Well (TMC-X1 IE), iii) Tomachi - X2 Stratigraphic Research Well (TMC-X2 I.E.), iv) Construction of Production Facilities, Gathering Pipeline, and Start-up of Yope-X1 Well (YOP-X1) in the Yope Field, v) Installation of Production Lines and Facilities for Wells AST-X1 and CHU-X2 Section II, vi) Drilling of Well SNQ-X1001 and Installation of Production Lines and Facilities SNQ-X1000, SNQ-X1001, and SNQ-X1002.

[37] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.

[38] Human Rights Community, ibid., p. 2. In the northern Amazon region: 13 out of 15 territories; Chapare-Moxos: 5 out of 6 territories; Chaco region: all indigenous territories.

as information on the regulatory framework and existing powers in Bolivia. It should be noted that all the regulations mentioned predate the visit to the country and the Social Cohesion Report. With regard to the information on the consultation processes carried out and the information provided by civil society, as contained in the Report on Social Cohesion, on strengthening consultation mechanisms, the IACHR considers it essential that participatory mechanisms and coordinated action with indigenous peoples be used, in order to assess and adapt State mechanisms to incorporate and guarantee the free, prior, and informed consent of communities in such processes.

47. The IACHR notes that, the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review identified the importance of improving consultation and decision-making mechanisms to ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples in matters relating to their ancestral lands in Bolivia. In this regard, emphasis was also placed on strengthening the participation of indigenous communities in decision-making processes that may affect their lands, resources, and rights, in accordance with the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[39].

48. The IACHR has stressed that the use of an intercultural approach includes at least two dimensions: (i) distribution of power in decision-making regarding their own development priorities and control over their lives; and (ii) the level of recognition of their cultural differences, without this being a cause for exclusion or discrimination[40]. In this sense, States must adapt their policies, plans, and even mechanisms for dialogue to the characteristics of each community they seek to influence, in order to guarantee their self-determination and respect for their collective rights.

49. Therefore, taking into account that consultation processes are being implemented on issues related to extractive projects that have an impact on the territories and peoples where they are carried out, but that these processes must respond more adequately to the particular characteristics and collective needs of these peoples, the IACHR concludes that this recommendation has been **partially fulfilled**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

50. In order to advance in compliance with the recommendation, the IACHR requires information on the steps taken by the State to design and implement a public policy that addresses the historical demands for consultation. This may include spaces for dialogue to design such measures, the preparation of assessments that include the demands for consultation presented by the organizations, as well as the measures that would have been taken to strengthen intercultural dialogue in those cases.

Recommendation No. 6. Design and implement a national public policy that guarantees institutional functioning to prevent, protect, investigate, punish, and redress gender-based violence against women and LGBTI persons, with a gender, intersectional, and intercultural perspective, with adequate resources.

51. In its Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR noted that, despite the measures adopted to address gender-based violence and access to justice, a culture of discrimination against women persists in the country, affecting indigenous and rural women in particular. Added to this is a high level of impunity in the investigation, punishment, and redress of violence, due to budgetary and regulatory deficiencies and misconduct by judicial authorities. In view of this situation, the IACHR has established that the State must incorporate a gender and intercultural approach, as well as an intersectional perspective, into investigations and judicial proceedings to ensure respect for the cultural and ethnic identity, language, and particular

[39] United Nations Organization (UN), Human Rights Council, Report of the Work Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, A/HRC/59/7, March 19, 2025, paras. 122.260 - 122.265.

[40] Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Right to self-determination of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, ibid., para. 211.

characteristics of indigenous women victims of violence. It also urged the State to strengthen its regulatory framework to guarantee the exercise of rights for all transgender, non-binary, or gender-diverse persons, and to implement public policies to advance sociocultural changes that will eradicate discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sexual characteristics[41].

Information on compliance

52. The State reported on the third Multisectoral Plan for Comprehensive Development for Living Well - against Racism and all Forms of Discrimination (2021-2025)[42], whose aim is to carry out, in a coordinated and joint manner, tasks to prevent and combat racism and discrimination. In addition, information was provided on the development of a network management model to enhance coordination and cooperation among all levels of government, civil society, and with women's social organizations. This plan includes the following prevention components: care, protection, investigation, and punishment[43].

53. The State reported on the Complaint Registration and Monitoring System (SIRESEPRAJ) of the National Committee against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination, whose purpose is to collect and record information, monitor cases, and enable the generation of reports and statistics. Said registry collects cases initiated for crimes of racism and all forms of discrimination in administrative, judicial, and constitutional proceedings, and they are sent to the National Committee to Combat Racism and All Forms of Discrimination for registration, systematization, and monitoring in the event of possible irregularities, errors, or delays in the process for society in general and the LGBTI population[44].

54. Information was also provided on the Advocacy Plan to Combat Racism, Discrimination, and Hate Speech in Electoral Processes 2025. Among the goals of this plan are to advocate for the incorporation of political parties' proposals and electoral regulations, as well as to address the demands of vulnerable populations regarding parity and alternation, access to political proposals, assisted voting, and the political agenda. Thus, the Regulations on Election Campaigning and Propaganda for the 2025 General Elections were approved[45], which contains the principles set forth in Law No. 045 against racism and all forms of discrimination [46]. In this sense, actions have been taken to prevent racism and discrimination; 21 training events were held until July 2025, reaching 2,295 students and public servants[47].

55. The State reported on the drafting of the document "Women advancing with proposals for decolonization and depatriarchalization," with 190 proposals for actions and recommendations to promote the fulfillment of women's rights (indigenous, mestizo, Afro-Bolivian, rural, urban, LGBTI) in the areas of health, education, and political participation. Likewise, with the aim of promoting the application of the collective and individual rights of Afro-Bolivian women, the Plurinational Public Policy Proposal for the Afro-Bolivian People was drafted but has not yet been approved. Finally, in April 2025, in coordination with the National Confederation of Indigenous Peasant Women of Bolivia "Bartolina Sisa," a meeting was held that resulted in the articulation of the agenda for the Inter-American Decade for the Rights of All Women, Adolescents, and Girls in Rural Environments in the Americas 2024-2034.

[41] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 167, 180, 182, 203 and 205.
[42] Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency, Ministerial Resolution No. 31/2023, approved on February 17, 2023.
[43] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[44] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August, 2025.
[45] Judgment TSE-RSP-ADM No. 231, approved on April 16, 2025.
[46] Law No. 045, passed on October 8, 2010.
[47] These events included students from technical institutes, the ESFEM Teacher Training College "Mcal. Andrés de Santa Cruz and Calahumana"; public servants from the Tax Appeals Authority, the Integrated Police Station - Max Paredes Munaypata, Bolivian Human Rights Police, Chamber of Deputies, Ministry of Development Planning, Comptroller General of the State, Food Production Support Company (EMAPA), Financial System Supervisory Authority (ASFI), and the Autonomous Departmental Government of Potosí; and social organizations.

56. For its part, the Executive drafted a preliminary bill on the exercise of the rights of the population, with the active participation of organizations representing said population. In this regard, the State has outlined the different stages for the formulation of this draft bill: a first stage of information gathering and formulation of the regulatory proposal, which began in 2024, and a second stage of validation and consultation with the LGBTIQ+ community, which began in the first quarter of 2025.

57. In this regard, civil society highlighted that the Ombudsman's Office approved the Ombudsman's Action Plan for Vulnerable Populations 2024-2028, which aims to address urgent issues and respond comprehensively to different types of violence and discrimination suffered by priority populations (including women and LGBTI people); offering prevention and response mechanisms that will be implemented through the entity's departmental offices, in coordination with the populations and state entities at different levels of government[48].

58. In addition, civil society reported that, according to data from the Public Ministry[49], as of 2017, reports of various forms of violence against women have exceeded 40,000, and since 2022, there have been more than 51,000 cases per year, representing 32.90% of the total number of cases filed with the Public Ministry. However, the vast majority of reports (95%) did not result in a conviction. Only in the case of femicides is there a significant resolution rate (32.27%), which can be explained by the prompt identification of the perpetrators, their apprehension, and the prioritization of these cases by the Public Ministry in application of the 72-hour Protocol[50].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

59. The Commission takes note of the measures reported by the State since the issuance of the Report, such as the Action Plan to Combat Racism, Discrimination, and Hate Speech in Electoral Processes 2025 and the Regulations on Propaganda and Electoral Campaigning for the 2025 General Elections, which address the fight against discrimination. It also recognizes the regulatory framework and implementation measures that have been adopted, as well as the preliminary drafts and policy proposals currently being developed. The IACHR will monitor progress in this area. It should be noted that the information provided by civil society on the problems with progress in prosecuting complaints of various forms of violence is consistent with the information gathered during the visit, and as such, concern is expressed about this trend.

60. Gender-based violence is a complex phenomenon that, for its prevention, protection, investigation, punishment, and redress, requires measures aimed at strengthening the institutions responsible for these areas, as well as eradicating the social and structural discrimination that exists in society. Therefore, mechanisms designed in a participatory manner and the implementation of actions aimed at public and private actors are required. It should be noted that detailed information on violence is essential, and in this regard, the System for the Registration and Follow-up of Complaints (SIRESEPRAJ) is welcomed. However, it is necessary to design actions aimed at promoting the protection of those who report violence from the negative consequences they may suffer.

61. For all these reasons, although there is a regulatory framework in place prior to the visit, as well as significant institutional advances since then that address gender-based violence, and despite the incorporation of a gender perspective into other instruments, a national public policy has not yet been designed to guarantee institutional functioning to prevent, protect, investigate, punish, and redress gender-based violence against women and LGBTI persons, with a gender, intersectional, and intercultural perspective, and with adequate resources. Therefore, it is concluded that this recommendation remains **pending**.

[48] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 4.
[49] Public Ministry. Public Accountability Report - Final 2023.
[50] Human Rights Community, ibid., p. 3.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

62. In order to advance on the compliance with this recommendation, the Commission requests that the State report on the initiation of a dialogue process for the design of a national public policy on gender violence. It also requests that the State report on the approval of the draft bill for the exercise of rights of the LGBTI population and the Proposal for a Plurinational Public Policy for the Afro-Bolivian People.

Recommendation No. 7 Design and implement an ongoing training program for health personnel on legal termination of pregnancy.

63. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR took note of the training provided by the State to public health personnel on women's right to access legal termination of pregnancy, as recognized by Bolivian law. However, despite these advances, multiple complaints about obstacles to accessing health services, particularly regarding ignorance on the part of health personnel, indicate that the judgment of the Plurinational Constitutional Court is not being fully enforced[51] which eliminated the requirement for judicial authorization to access legal termination of pregnancy in cases allowed by law[52]. Consequently, it recommended that the State establish an ongoing training program for health personnel to ensure the proper implementation of legal termination of pregnancy.

Information on compliance

64. The State indicated that it routinely conducts training inspections in primary, secondary, and tertiary health centers in the public subsector of the National Health System, with the aim of verifying and assessing compliance with regulations on care for victims of violence. Between 2023 and 2024, educational inspections were conducted in 150 health facilities[53].

65. With regard to training processes for health personnel, the State reported on the content taught, which was the following: "Comprehensive care model for victims of sexual violence"[54]; Technical procedure for the provision of health services within the framework of Plurinational Constitutional Ruling 206/2024[55]; and "Clinical protocols on the use of misoprostol in gynecology and obstetrics"[56]. In this regard, information was provided on the provision of face-to-face and virtual training in 2023 and 2024, with a total of 967 people trained, including nursing graduates, nursing assistants, general practitioners, and specialists.

66. For its part, civil society held that according to the report by the Coalition of Civil society organizations on Women's Rights for the Universal Periodic Review[57], the Ombudsman's report on "The situation of legal termination of pregnancy as a human right of women"[58], there are still obstacles and impediments to accessing the service, since users who go to a health facility, even minors, are repeatedly questioned by medical staff, whether due to prejudice, ignorance of the rules, or arbitrary decisions, even when they have been victims of sexual violence. Thus, civil society held that, although training is provided, there is no permanent national policy aimed at health services in a decentralized manner.

[51] Plurinational Constitutional Court, Plurinational Constitutional Judgment 0206/2014, February 5 and 6.
[52] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 186 and 187.
[53] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[54] Ministry of Health, Ministerial Resolution No. 1508, approved on November 24, 2015.
[55] Ministry of Health, Ministerial Resolution No. 0027, approved on January 29, 2015.
[56] Ministry of Health, Ministerial Resolution No. 0568, approved on September 10, 2018.
[57] Coalition of Civil society organizations on Women's Rights for the Universal Periodic Review, July, 2024.
[58] Ombudsman's Office of Bolivia, On compliance with Plurinational Constitutional Judgment 206/2014 and the application of the technical procedure for the legal termination of pregnancy in health services nationwide, July 2, 2020.

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

67. The Commission appreciates the information provided by the State and civil society. It thus welcomes the continued efforts to strengthen oversight and training mechanisms for health personnel on the legal termination of pregnancy. However, it is concerned about gaps in access and the consequences that failure to implement these measures may have for women, particularly minors and victims of sexual violence.

68. In order to guarantee the protection of these women's rights, the State must implement a permanent training mechanism, which can reach different health facilities nationwide and prevent barriers to access or possible stigmatization or revictimization that its lack of implementation may generate. In this regard, the Commission considers that this recommendation has been **partially fulfilled**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

69. To make progress in implementing this recommendation, the Commission requests that the State provide detailed information on the training courses that have been implemented, including their geographical distribution, content, and methodology. It also requests that it be possible to verify whether curricula are being designed for health personnel that incorporate this topic. Finally, it requests information on how these training supervisions are conducted and what their results are.

Recommendation No. 8 Regulate the use of objection of conscience in healthcare facilities.

70. In its Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR has noted that women, girls, and adolescents, as well as their families, face stigmatization, harassment, and abuse by healthcare personnel and third parties when they attend health centers to undergo a legal termination of pregnancy. In many cases, their privacy and confidentiality as users of a health service is also violated, as their data is leaked to the press or to religious groups and organizations that oppose legal termination of pregnancy. In this regard, the IACHR has held that States must guarantee that women, girls, adolescents, and all pregnant persons have access to reproductive health services, even in situations of conscientious objection in the health field, since conscientious objection is an individual decision and not an institutional or collective one[59]. Therefore, the IACHR recommended that clear regulations be established governing the exercise of objection of conscience, ensuring that it does not constitute a barrier to accessing reproductive health services, through measures to refer such situations to another medical professional.

Information on compliance

71. With regard to this recommendation, the State expressed the need to regulate the use of conscientious objection in health centers. Specifically, it held that the national regulatory framework is currently being analyzed as a basis for the development of a document on conscientious objection.

72. For its part, civil society referred to the Ombudsman's Office report "Beatriz"[60], which points out that in the Short-Term Social Security Management Entities there are no regulatory instruments or knowledge among health personnel regarding conscientious objection. Said report shows that, of the 13 agencies that were supervised, only three had a regulatory instrument governing it; furthermore, of the 22 interviews conducted with health personnel, only 10 stated that they were aware of conscientious objection and its implications for the provision of health services.

[59] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 190 and 194.
[60] Ombudsman's Office, Beatriz Ombudsman Report, March 18, 2025.

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

73. The Commission appreciates the information provided by the State and civil society. It also notes that there is still no bill or other measure aimed at regulating conscientious objection within the regulatory framework. The IACHR thus expresses its concern regarding the negative impact that this may be having on the exercise of individuals' rights to access legal termination of pregnancy. It therefore considers that this recommendation is still **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

74. In order to move forward in complying with the recommendation, the Commission requests that the State report on the steps taken to adopt a regulatory framework governing objection of conscience.

Recommendation No. 9. Adopt a law to guarantee human rights, including DESCA rights, political rights, the right to family and filiation, for transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse persons.

75. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR held that challenges remain in guaranteeing the rights of LGBTI persons, especially with regard to cultural change in society, recognition of diverse families, and the exercise of all rights by transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse persons. The IACHR also expressed concern about the lack of legal certainty resulting from the partial unconstitutionality of the Gender Identity Law, which has led to a legal limitation on the exercise of all the rights of transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse persons. In this regard, the IACHR urged the State to adopt legislative measures to guarantee the exercise of all human rights of transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse persons, as well as to make legal changes to protect against discrimination and violence based on diversity of sexual characteristics[61].

Information on compliance

76. The State reported that it had developed a comprehensive human rights policy proposal which addresses the needs of people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. This proposal was developed collectively, with the participation of LGBTI people in Bolivia, in three stages. The first stage consisted of compiling the needs of the LGBTI population in the cities of Santa Cruz, La Paz, and Cochabamba. The second stage consisted of technical roundtables with various State entities, and the third stage consisted of disseminating the principles and guidelines of the regulatory proposal. The proposed legislation has 28 articles, divided into three sections, which contain: general provisions; express recognition of the rights of LGBTI people; civil rights; economic and social rights of the LGBTIQ+ population; as well as amendments and additions to the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and Law No. 807 on gender identity[62].

77. For its part, the Plurinational Electoral Body (OEP) referred to current regulations that promote and protect all Bolivian citizens, without discrimination. It also reported on the powers of the Civil Registry Service (SERECI), a registration body under the Supreme Electoral Court. Within the framework of these powers, the service is responsible for organizing and administering the registration of individuals, their marital status, parentage, and vital events, among other things, for the exercise of civil and political rights. It also referred to the procedure for registering same-sex and opposite-sex domestic partnerships, which is regulated by current national legislation.

[61] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 197, 204 and 205.
[62] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August, 2025.

78. On the other hand, the State held that, with regard to the political rights of LGBTI persons, young people are involved, deliberated, and represented, since they have a substitute delegate and a full delegate with national coverage in the Plurinational Youth Council.

79. Likewise, the State reported that Bill No. 042/2024-2025, "Law on Compliance with International Human Rights Commitments," is currently being considered by the Human Rights Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Plurinational Legislative Assembly. This proposed legislation seeks to amend certain provisions of criminal law, specifically those concerning criminal offenses of discrimination, hate crimes, and crimes against humanity, so as to include sexual orientation and gender identity, among other factors, as motives for these crimes[63].

80. Civil society reported on several regulatory instruments[64], or local norms[65] which have been approved in recent years in favor of LGBTI people, seeking to guarantee the health rights of spouses, the electoral rights of transgender people, or ensuring the participation of LGBTI representatives in local discussion forums. Civil society also highlighted the creation of the National Mechanism for LGBTI Leaders, which promotes concrete actions to guarantee fundamental rights and has the support of entities such as the Ombudsman's Office.

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

81. The IACHR appreciates the information provided and welcomes the participatory design process involving civil society and other public entities. It also commends the adoption of other regulatory, jurisprudential, and local measures that have been adopted during this time. However, the Commission takes note that, in its report, the State failed to mention gender identity and expression in the registration process. Furthermore, it remains attentive to the progress of the legislative projects reported.

82. This recommendation aims to establish a clear regulatory framework that recognizes and develops the legal rights of LGBTI individuals, guarantees their exercise, and clarifies the obligations of the various public entities that affect those rights. Therefore, considering that the proposed legislation has been developed through a participatory process, although it has not yet been approved and there is no information on progress as to its approval, the Commission concludes that the recommendation has been **partially fulfilled**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

83. In order to advance on the compliance of this recommendation, the Commission requests that the State report on the process of approving the law to guarantee human rights, including DESCA, political rights, family rights, and the rights of transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse persons to establish parentage. It also requests information on whether this law has been presented to the legislative body and whether any steps have been taken to move it forward. Likewise, whether there are other legislative proposals that have been promoted or approved in this regard.

Recommendation No. 10 Design and implement a national public policy, with an intercultural and educational perspective, for the management of toxic substances, prevention, and remediation of environmental and human pollution.

[63] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, September, 2025.

[64] Among them: Short-Term Social Security Supervisory Authority – ASUSS, Instruction INS/ASUSS/DGE/UADR No. 0002/2023 – E-ASUSS/2023-04907 of 2023; Civic Registry Service – SERECI, Instruction TSE-SERECI-DN No. 037/2024 of 2024.

[65] Municipality of Tarija-Cercado, Municipal Law No. 401/2024 of 2024.

84. On the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR expressed concern about studies confirming the presence of mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining activities in indigenous communities, as well as in other communities that have no connection to gold mining, as a result of dietary exposure through the consumption of contaminated fish. Likewise, it held that the effects of environmental damage have had a particular impact on the rights of indigenous peasant and Afro-Bolivian peoples. Furthermore, illegal activities such as deforestation, fires, land encroachment, and the use of agrochemicals have threatened the environment and led to the displacement of indigenous and peasant communities[66]. The IACHR therefore urged the State to adopt measures to guarantee the rights of these communities through mechanisms for the prevention and remediation of pollution and the management of toxic substances.

Information on compliance

85. According to information reported by the State, the SAU-BO-L1237 Program on water security and environmental sanitation in urban areas is being implemented, and the Drinking Water, Solid Waste Sanitation, and Storm Drainage Program (PROASRED), which seeks to improve the coverage, quality, and efficiency of water and sanitation services in six departments (Potosí, Oruro, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and Pando). Both projects are expected to result in the construction of sanitary landfills and other infrastructure works to improve solid waste management[67].

86. With regard to forest fires, the *Lucho Contra los Incendios (I fight Fires)* Prevention Plan was implemented in June 2024, and Supreme Decree No. 5225 was approved in September 2024[68], which declared an ecological pause throughout the national territory, with the aim of protecting the environment, people's health, biodiversity, and the activities of the population amid the national emergency caused by forest fires. This decree was not regulated, and therefore never enforced.

87. In the area of health coverage and prevention, the State reported the existence of the Mercury and Health Plan and the "Technical Guide for the Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Surveillance of Mercury Poisoning in Bolivia"[69]. These instruments are being implemented through training and coordination workshops, in a decentralized manner, with the Departmental Health Services (SEDES).

88. In the area of education, the State mentioned that teacher training includes curriculum guidelines that address issues related to the efficient use of drinking water, climate change, deforestation, and the sustainable use of resources, among others. In this regard, the State held that the plans and programs of the regular education subsystem had been approved[70], which include early education in school-based community families, vocational community primary education, and productive community secondary education.

89. For its part, civil society agreed to highlight the approval of the "Technical Guide for the Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Surveillance of Mercury Poisoning in Bolivia" (see para. 86), which will enable the early prevention, detection, and reduction of damage suffered by people exposed to this metal[71].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

90. The IACHR recognizes the measures adopted by the State following the approval of the Report on Social Cohesion, in particular the adoption of the Technical Guide for the Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment,

[66] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 212 and 216

[67] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.

[68] Ombudsman's Office, Report on the human rights situation in Bolivia in 2024, paras. 132 and 135.

[69] Health Ministry, Ministerial Resolution 0142/2024 of April 9, 2024.

[70] Approved by Ministerial Resolution 1040/2022 of November 22, 2022.

[71] Human Rights Community, Response to the questionnaire of recommendations of the "Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia", August 25, 2025, p. 8.

and Monitoring of Mercury Poisoning in Bolivia, which constitutes an important public policy instrument for addressing the prevention of environmental and human contamination.

91. The IACHR notes that, in the fourth cycle of evaluation of the Bolivian State in the UPR, the need to adopt appropriate measures to protect the right to health and address the effects of pollution related to the exploration and exploitation of natural resources has been highlighted, and in particular, the use of mercury in illegal mining activities, through the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury or the application of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights[72].

92. In its report on the forest fires that occurred in Bolivia in 2024, REDESCA received information on the serious impacts of mining, particularly in the Bolivian Amazon, including the contamination of water bodies due to the intensive use of mercury, which confirms the relevance of the observations made in the country report. It was considered that both the fires of 2024 and the previous processes of deforestation and degradation, marked by changes in land use and the expansion of the agricultural frontier, along with mercury pollution from gold mining, are causing a loss of biodiversity, which must be addressed to guarantee the right to water, health, and a healthy environment for indigenous and rural communities, and thus ensure their cultural integrity[73].

93. With regard to having a nationwide public policy with an intercultural and educational focus, the IACHR identifies the need for policy instruments to be designed and implemented in accordance with the principles of a human rights approach, that is, in accordance with the principles of participation, equality and non-discrimination, accountability, and transparency of information, among others[74]. In this regard, the Commission needs to know whether the instruments reported have taken into account the priorities of historically discriminated against groups and whether their demands have been incorporated into the formulation of public policy.

94. Likewise, compensation for victims of environmental and human contamination requires an appropriate regulatory framework and judicial, administrative, and corporate due diligence powers to respond to the violation of their human rights. Therefore, the Commission expresses its concern about the lack of information on this component and requests that the State include it in the information to be provided.

95. Recognizing the actions undertaken by the State and taking into account that the IACHR requires additional information demonstrating the implementation of the principles of the human rights approach and adequate mechanisms for redress, the Commission finds that the recommendation has been **partially fulfilled**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

96. The Commission urges the State to report on the progress and results of the implementation of the projects reported (SAU-BO-L1237, PROASRED, Mercury and Health Plan), as well as others that may be relevant, and to include the coordination mechanisms that are being developed for their decentralized implementation. In addition, it requests that the State report on the mechanisms for participation, accountability, and transparency, with an emphasis on socially and environmentally vulnerable groups, so that the policy measures can be guaranteed to respond to their needs. Likewise, the IACHR requires the State to identify the measures adopted to guarantee access to judicial, administrative, and operational business resources, in order to facilitate timely and adequate mechanisms for redress.

[72] United Nations Organization (ONU), Human Rights Council, Report of the Work Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, A/HRC/59/7, March 19, 2025, paras. 122.153, 122.188, 122.264

[73] IACHR-REDESCA, Report on REDESCA's Working Visit to Bolivia, Impacts of Forest Fires on DESCA and Biodiversity, OAS/Ser.L/V/II.Doc.91/25, May 30, 2025.

[74] IACHR, Report on Public Policies with a Human Rights Approach: approved by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, OAS/Ser.L/V/II. Doc.191/18, September 15, 2018, para. 61.

Recommendation No. 11 Design and implement a plan for access to drinking water without discrimination, in the medium term.

97. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR noted that access to water remains a matter of extreme concern and held that, in a context of climate emergency and prolonged droughts, water scarcity also affects rural plantations and livestock amidst increased agricultural demand. In this regard, the IACHR expressed concern about environmental challenges and access to water[75], and urged the State to take measures to address barriers and inequalities in access to safe water.

Information on compliance

98. The State reported that it has a "National Water and Sanitation Strategy for Rural Areas and Small Villages (ENRAS)"[76]. It added that project management for the provision of drinking water and basic sanitation at the national level is being done without any discrimination. The State also held that progress has been made in universalizing basic services through the Economic and Social Development Plan. As a result, the State noted that 95.5% of the population in urban areas and 57.7% in rural areas have access to safe water, representing an increase of 8.7 percentage points since 2020. Likewise, sanitation coverage in 2025 is 89.4% in urban areas and 52.2% in rural areas, representing an increase of six percentage points in the last five years. In this regard, the State stressed that the main challenges lie within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are to be achieved by 2030[77].

99. Civil society reported on other government actions being conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Water. This ministry is promoting projects aimed at directly benefiting rural families in the municipalities of Coroico, La Asunta, Uyuni, and Cuevo. Progress was also mentioned in the construction of irrigation systems, dams, and other water projects in the municipalities of La Paz[78].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

100. The IACHR appreciates the data that allows for identifying the scope of water access coverage in society. It also recognizes the existence of the ENRAS aimed at rural areas, although it holds that this has been implemented since 2018, prior to the issuance of the Report on Social Cohesion.

101. During its recent visit following the fires, REDESCA identified programs intended to achieve universal access to drinking water and basic sanitation services in urban and rural areas, as well as the protection of water resources[79]. In turn, it received information showing that forest fires critically aggravated water shortages, affecting both access to water for human consumption and its availability for agricultural and livestock activities. It was highlighted that the massive loss of forest cover also caused interference in essential ecological functions, such as the ability of soils to retain water. Added to this is the contamination of water resources associated with the intensive use of agrochemicals and unsustainable agricultural practices, which

[75] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 217 and 220.
[76] Approved in September 2018.
[77] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[78] Human Rights Community, Response to the questionnaire of recommendations of the "Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia", August 25, 2025, p. 9.
[79] The Sectoral Program for Drinking Water for Small Communities, the Sanitation Program in Rural Areas and Small Communities, and Integrated Water Management in Urban Areas, Cities Program – Expansion and Improvement for Sustainable and Resilient Water Supply in Cities, Comprehensive Water Management in Urban Areas Program, MI AGUA Phase IV (Phase 1) Program, MI AGUA Phase IV (Phase 2) Program, "MI AGUA Phase V" Program, "MI AGUA Phase V BEI" Program, "Water and Sanitation Program for Intermediate and Small Cities," "Water and Irrigation Program for Bolivia," "Water, Sanitation, Solid Waste, and Storm Drainage Program," and "Lake Titicaca Sanitation Program".

has deteriorated water and soil quality and affected vulnerable aquatic ecosystems. This situation has had a direct impact on the health of communities, worsening the effects of the environmental crisis[80].

102. The Commission highlights the need to reduce gaps in access to water in rural areas, as well as in some cities with longstanding water access issues, such as Cochabamba[81]. These gaps have a particular impact on socially vulnerable groups, especially people living in poverty.

103. Recognizing the state actions that are being implemented and considering the need to approve a plan to address the gaps that still exist in access to water on equal terms, the Commission identifies that the recommendation is **partially fulfilled**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

104. The Commission urges the State to strengthen and expand measures to approve a comprehensive and universal drinking water access plan, as well as to continue reporting on progress in drinking water coverage, taking into account existing social gaps, the differentiated impact on populations living in poverty, and the essential elements of public services: their availability, accessibility, adaptability, and quality.

Recommendation No. 12 Provide adequate funding to establishments that guarantee public health services, with a focus on interculturality, gender, and intergenerational solidarity, taking into account traditional healing practices and medicines.

105. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR held that, although Bolivia has taken important steps to improve health and adopt a comprehensive approach, there are challenges in terms of infrastructure, the provision of medicines, specialized personnel, health technologies, and ambulances, as well as the absence of a national law and specific public policies on mental health. In this regard, the IACHR recommended that the State strengthen public health policy from an intercultural and gender perspective in order to guarantee universal access to health care for the population. It also urged Bolivia to adopt a perspective that guarantees the inclusion of persons with disabilities and eliminates barriers that prevent or hinder access to health services, information, and goods[82].

Information on compliance

106. The State reported on the validity of Law No. 1152 of February 20, 2019, which expands the beneficiary population that is not covered by Short-Term Social Security and is entitled to free health care, with the aim of moving towards a Single, Universal, and Free Health System, with sources of funding and State bodies responsible for administering the economic resources allocated to universal and free care for beneficiaries in first, second, and third-level public health facilities. In this sense, the State also mentioned that, by means of Ministerial Resolution No. 0251, dated June 30, 2021, it approved the "Regulations for the technical application and administrative and financial management of Law No. 1152, in order to apply the law at all levels of public health care and management"[83]".

107. According to information provided by civil society organizations, since the enactment of Law 1151, which establishes health as a universal and free right, Universal Health Insurance (SUS) has treated an average of 5.2 million patients with various pathologies annually. It was also mentioned that funding for care

[80] IACHR-REDESCA, Report on REDESCA's Working Visit to Bolivia, Impacts of Forest Fires on DESCA and Biodiversity, OAS/Ser.L/V/II.Doc.91/25, May 30, 2025, paras. 36-37 and 121.
[81] Report on Social Cohesion, para. 217.
[82] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 221 and 228.
[83] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, September, 2025.

in tertiary hospitals has increased progressively, starting at Bs. 209 million in 2019 and reaching more than Bs. 618 million in the years leading up to 2024[84].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

108. The IACHR takes note that the information presented by the State predates the adoption of this recommendation. It also thanks civil society for the information provided, which helps to understand the evolution of the budget for tertiary hospitals until 2024.

109. The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights expressed concern about the insufficient funding of Law No. 1152 (Unified Health System) and the worsening structural weaknesses of the system as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic[85]. It also pointed out the persistence of barriers in access to health services for persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons, as well as the lack of a sufficient number of specialists with an intercultural approach[86]. Along the same lines, the UN in Bolivia observed a significant decline in immunization coverage as of 2018.

110. In turn, REDESCA highlighted that the forest fires of 2024 exposed the limitations of public health systems in the face of large-scale environmental crises and that, despite the efforts made, significant gaps remain in the capacity to respond to health emergencies caused by air pollution[87].

111. In view of this, and considering that the Commission needs more information to identify progress in complying with the recommendation, it is concluded that this is **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

112. The Commission urges the State to provide information on the resources being allocated to health care in order to address service needs, in line with approaches based on interculturalism, gender, and intergenerational solidarity, and taking into account traditional healing practices and medicines.

Recommendation No. 13. Adopt a policy and implementation plan that ensures domestic workers' access to social security, labor protection, and decent working conditions.

113. In the Report on Social Cohesion, REDESCA stressed the need to guarantee and respect the labor and union rights of workers in Bolivia, particularly those of different social groups in situations of greater vulnerability or historical structural discrimination. In this regard, the IACHR noted that, in general, female domestic workers receive wages below the national minimum wage, which prevents them from accessing their labor benefits[88]. Therefore, it was recommended that the State adopt measures to guarantee access to social security, labor protection, and decent working conditions for domestic workers.

[84] Human Rights Community, Response to the questionnaire of recommendations of the "Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia", August 25, 2025, p. 9.

[85] A/HRC/WG.6/48/BOL/2, of November 18, 2024, with reference to the Presentation of the United Nations team in the country, para. 38.

[86] United Nations, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Concluding observations on the third periodic report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, E/C.12/BOL/CO/3, para. 50.

[87] IACHR-REDESCA, Report on REDESCA's Working Visit to Bolivia, Impacts of Forest Fires on DESCA and Biodiversity, OAS/Ser.L/V/II.Doc.91/25, May 30, 2025, paras. 37-38.

[88] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 232 and 239.

Information on compliance

114. In its SIMORE report, the State held that current regulations governing domestic workers and employers recognize labor rights such as wages, severance pay, vacation time, annual bonuses, and social security, and establish limits on working hours[89]. It also reported on the approval of Supreme Decree No. 5266[90], which allows domestic workers to set up their own employment agencies. Likewise, it underscored the development of a policy input document on the right to care, which considers the formation of care cooperatives for domestic workers as a strategy and even raises the possibility of changing their denomination to care specialists[91].

115. In turn, the State explained that since 2021, meetings have been held with relevant entities such as the Short-Term Social Security Supervisory Authority (ASUS), the National Health Fund (CNS), and the National Federation of Domestic Workers of Bolivia (FENATRAHOB), in order to comply with the regulation that establishes that salaried domestic workers must have short-term insurance.

116. Regarding training and certification, the State reported that in 2022, workshops have been held in the nine departments for salaried domestic workers, with a total of 572 participants[92]. It also highlighted the implementation of the skills certification project for female domestic and catering workers, which has been running as of 2013 in coordination with the Plurinational Skills Certification Service of the Ministry of Education, whose aim is to certify the skills of domestic workers in the workplace[93].

117. On the other hand, according to information provided by civil society organizations, neither the current regulatory framework nor the implementation mechanisms developed by the State would be sufficient to comply with the contents of ILO Convention No. 189, since there would be no State monitoring and control mechanism. Thus, for example, not all salaried domestic workers would have insurance from the National Health Fund (CNS)[94].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

118. The IACHR appreciates the information provided and takes note of the adoption of Supreme Decree No. 5266, which allows for the establishment of private employment agencies in general, which may apply to domestic workers. It also takes note of the activities reported by the State, although it holds that many of them took place before the visit and the issuance of the report.

119. As previously discussed, the Social Cohesion Report highlights the need to address the situation of domestic workers, as they earn less than the minimum wage, which hinders their access to social services such as social security, labor protection, and decent labor conditions. This is a consequence of the low wages paid in this sector and the high level of job precariousness. This may also contribute to the employment and underemployment gaps between men and women in Bolivia[95].

120. The State reported no measures taken after the visit or the issuance of the Report on Social Cohesion aimed at strengthening social security, guaranteeing labor protection, and creating mechanisms to achieve decent working conditions. In this sense, aware of the approval of Supreme Decree No. 4589 in 2021, which regulated the affiliation of domestic workers to the National Health Fund, the Commission would like to

[89] Law No. 2450, of April 9, 2003, and its regulations, Supreme Decree No. 4589, of September 28, 2021.
[90] Approved on November 6, 2024 which amends Supreme Decree.º 1386, of February 6, 2013.
[91] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August, 2025.
[92] Participants were reported with the following distribution: La Paz (57), Oruro (60), Cochabamba (60), Santa Cruz (48), Beni (159), Pando (69), Chuquisaca (39), Potosí (62), Tarija (48).
[93] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[94] Human Rights Community, Response to the questionnaire of recommendations of the "Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia", August 25, 2025, p. 10.
[95] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 232.

have more information that would allow it to identify progress in the implementation of this measure. Therefore, this recommendation is considered **pending compliance.**

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

121. The Commission requests that the State provide information on the scope of implementation of the current regulatory framework and on domestic workers' access to social security, labor protection, and dignified labor conditions. To this end, the State is requested to report on the updated coverage that the CNS has in the domestic workers sector since 2021, when its regulations were approved.

Recommendation No. 14 Adopt a public policy to promote access to quality education with an intercultural, gender, and disability perspective, with the aim of guaranteeing educational spaces under conditions of equality for people in particularly vulnerable situations.

122. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR emphasized that the right to education is a human right and an indispensable means for the exercise of other rights. Therefore, the IACHR held that it is essential for the State to adopt all necessary measures to guarantee access to education, bearing in mind the principles of progressivity and non-regressivity in order to achieve quality education, free from stereotypes, structural prejudices, and historical discrimination. In addition, human rights education must be provided in both formal and informal educational contexts, ensuring the effective professional training of teaching staff, particularly in matters of equality and non-discrimination[96].

Information on compliance

123. The State informed the IACHR of the adoption of public policies focused on access to quality education that respects and promotes interculturalism, gender equality, and the inclusion of highly vulnerable persons in the field of alternative education. In this regard, it held that regulations governing itinerant primary education for young people and adults in Alternative Education Centers (CEA) were approved in 2024[97].

124. In addition, the State reported on the public policy for comprehensive early childhood development called "With you from the beginning," which was subsequently approved by Supreme Decree No. 4980[98], in order to establish conceptual, strategic, and institutional guidelines for the comprehensive development of early childhood in the Bolivian State[99].

125. Likewise, the State informed of the approval of the "Curricular Guidelines for Inclusive Education for the Plurinational Education System"[100] for the benefit of students with disabilities, learning difficulties, and extraordinary talent. These guidelines are based on four educational principles established in the regulatory framework[101]: equal opportunity education, education with equal conditions, timely education, and relevant education. In this regard, the State also reported on the implementation of the "Curricular and Methodological Guidelines for Inclusive Education in Special Education," the Guide for Family Support in Inclusive Educational Processes, the Educational Guide for Families and Communities of Deaf Persons, the Educational Guide for Families and Communities of Blind or Visually Impaired Students, and the Program for Socio-Community Education at Home for Persons with Disabilities.

[96] Report on Social Cohesion, paras. 236 and 238.
[97] Approved by Ministerial Resolution No. 222/2024 of April 2, 2024.
[98] Approved on July 5, 2023.
[99] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[100] Approved in 2023.
[101] Law No. 070 of Education "Avelino Siñani - Elizardo Pérez, approved on December 20, 2010.

126. On the other hand, the State reported that the Draft Bill on the Exercise of Rights of the LGBTI Population was proposed in the 2024-2025 period, with the participation of organizations representing this population, which proposes the right to education free from stigma, discrimination, and violence, and which has not yet been passed. It reported that protocols for the prevention, detection, care, and punishment of harassment, bullying, and violence in the Plurinational Education System, motivated by sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or intersexuality, will be promoted and implemented at all levels and subsystems[102].

127. Finally, the State held that the statistics on "Enrolled Students with Disabilities in Regular Education" are updated annually, with breakdowns down to the level of educational unit and exchanges, taking into account gender, geographical area, and dependency. These data are collected through the Single Student Registry (RUDE) form and allow for the monitoring of each enrolled student. In this sense, information was also provided on the publication of the System of Educational Indicators for Special Education, which has a matrix of 79 indicators. Finally, it was mentioned that projects have been coordinated so that the Autonomous Territorial Entities incorporate accessibility features that allow the movement of people with temporary or permanent limitations.

128. For its part, civil society stated that no progress had been made in terms of free, intercultural, and non-discriminatory public education, as established by Law No. 070, since the 2021-2025 Sectoral Plan for Comprehensive Education Development had not been explicitly implemented in the curricula. In addition, it was noted that there is no law on sexual and reproductive rights which establishes responsibilities, policies, programs, and actions for all state bodies at different levels, and which addresses issues such as maternal mortality, comprehensive sexuality education, access to sexual and reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), among other related topics[103].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

129. The IACHR thanks the State and civil society for the information provided and takes note of the actions reported for the implementation of existing norms, as well as other norms that are still in the process of debate and approval. In this regard, the actions aimed at generating disaggregated and updated information that allows for the targeting of inclusion strategies on the most vulnerable populations in society are worth highlighting. However, it should be noted that the standards reported predate the issuance of the Report on Social Cohesion, so it is essential to have more information on the implementation processes.

130. For its part, REDESCA pointed out that the fire emergency disrupted normal education in large areas of the country, violating the right of children and adolescents to receive a continuous, quality education. As a protective measure against air pollution, the education authorities suspended face-to-face classes in more than 1,200 schools. Although in some cases classes were taught online, this measure proved unfeasible in many rural areas due to the digital gap. In addition, some rural schools were used as temporary shelters for evacuees or as aid collection centers, which altered their educational function and prevented them from operating normally as educational centers[104].

131. It is important to remember that the Commission has stressed that education is a human right protected by Article 26 of the American Convention on Human Rights and recognized by Article 13 of the Protocol of San Salvador. It has also held that it is an indispensable means for the exercise of other rights[105]. With regard to the situation of education in Bolivia, the Report on Social Cohesion noted that there are difficulties in applying the designed curriculum when it has to be implemented in certain regional contexts, and

[102] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August, 2025.

[103] Human Rights Community, Response to the questionnaire of recommendations of the "Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia", August 25, 2025, p. 10.

[104] IACHR-REDESCA, Report on REDESCA's Working Visit to Bolivia, Impacts of Forest Fires on DESCA and Biodiversity, OAS/Ser.L/V/II.Doc.91/25, May 30, 2025, paras. 142-146 and 175.

[105] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 236.

that discriminatory treatment against the LGBTI population, Afro-Bolivians, and persons with disabilities persists, sometimes caused by a lack of training and awareness among teaching staff[106].

132. It should be noted that the information presented provides insight into some of the progress made and mechanisms related to the barriers faced by the LGBTI population and persons with disabilities. In this regard, the Commission remains attentive to learning about the mechanisms for implementing these standards, the results of ongoing regulatory debates, and the impacts they have on the populations they seek to protect. Likewise, it is important to note that there are no measures aimed at guaranteeing equal access to education for the Afro-Bolivian population.

133. For all these reasons, the Commission considers that this recommendation is in a situation of **partial compliance**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

134. The Commission considers it important to clarify that, in order to move forward with this recommendation, the State must generate more information conducive to monitoring the implementation of the actions reported. It therefore requests further information on the monitoring actions taken in the implementation of the reported Principles and Guidelines, as well as details of the projects mentioned aimed at ensuring that Autonomous Territorial Entities incorporate accessibility aspects. Furthermore, the Commission requests that the results of the regulatory debates that have been taking place be specified, in particular the Draft Bill on the Exercise of Rights of the LGBTI+ Population. Finally, the Commission requests that the public policies aimed at protecting the right to education of the Afro-Bolivian population be specified.

C. Strengthening of democratic institutions

Separation of powers

Recommendation No. 15. Create and implement a strategic plan, through an internal program within each of the State bodies, to rebuild public confidence in State institutions, taking into account the separation and balance of public bodies.

135. In its Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR noted that, despite regulatory recognition, the separation and balance among the different branches of government are in a state of institutional weakness, which particularly affects the judiciary. Allegations of interference, coupled with other institutional challenges, have led to a loss of credibility of State institutions before the public. For this reason, the IACHR urged the State to adopt effective measures to guarantee the separation of the branches of government so that they can exercise their constitutional functions, which will strengthen the population's confidence in democratic institutions[107].

Information on compliance

136. The Bolivian State sent information concerning ordinary, Agro-environmental, and constitutional jurisdiction, as well as that of the Council of the Judiciary[108]. First, the Plurinational Constitutional Court (TCP) noted that public confidence in constitutional jurisdiction depends on the proper management of the current caseload, which increased between 2018 and 2023. In this context, the

[106] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 233 and 234.
[107] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 249, 256 and 258.
[108] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.

development of the Institutional Strategic Plan (PEI) 2021-2025 was reported[109], which includes measures to optimize constitutional procedural management. Measures were also approved to implement technologies and innovations that reduce the procedural burden and guarantee access to justice within reasonable timeframes[110].

137. For its part, the Agro-Environmental Court mentioned that its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan for the Judiciary took into account the separation and balance of public bodies, as well as coordination between the bodies that comprise the judiciary.

138. In turn, the Council of Magistrates has mentioned the implementation of the "Policy for the timely provision of judicial officials to fill vacant positions in the Judiciary" ("Zero Vacancies"), which was approved by Agreement 52/2023, with the aim of reducing delays in justice caused by staff shortages and strengthening credibility in the judicial system[111].

139. The Plurinational Electoral Body (OEP) highlighted a series of actions aimed at strengthening the fulfillment of its electoral functions, in particular its powers for intercultural and gender-based democratic strengthening, which aim to develop and consolidate an intercultural democratic culture in the State and society[112]. Therefore, it reported on the PEI 2021-2025 project "Strengthening Intercultural Democracy and the Electoral Function of the Plurinational Electoral Body for Public Servants of the Plurinational State of Bolivia," which seeks to promote intercultural democracy and the electoral function of the OEP through various training processes aimed at public organizations. Reference was also made to the electoral regulations that entrust the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), through the Intercultural Service for Democratic Strengthening (SIFDE), with the preparation and dissemination of electoral statistics, as well as studies and research on intercultural democracy. The OEP also promoted awareness and reflection among citizens through various publications[113]. Likewise, emphasis was placed on the Observatories of Intercultural Democracy and Democratic Parity.

140. For its part, civil society pointed out that there was deep mistrust among citizens in the administration of justice, which showed the urgent need to implement structural reforms that would guarantee the independence, transparency, and efficiency of the Bolivian judicial system[114]. Some organizations reported that allegations of corruption involving judicial authorities had been made public[115].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

141. The IACHR welcomes the efforts of the Plurinational Constitutional Court to address the problem of procedural burden through measures that promote internal coordination and the use of technological tools. However, it is important to consider other efforts within the justice system that demonstrate the existence of true judicial independence, free from pressure and incentives of any kind. It also notes the lack of information regarding other State bodies, in particular other entities of the executive and legislative branches, which contributes to the crisis of trust by the population in its institutions.

[109] Plurinational Constitutional Court, TCP-AD-SP-027/2022, approved by Administrative Agreement of the Plenary Chamber, March 31, 2022.

[110] Plurinational Constitutional Court, TCP-AD-SP-005/2024, approved by Administrative Agreement of the Plenary Chamber, April 3, 2024.

[111] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August, 2025.

[112] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August, 2025.

[113] Publications of 12 issues of Andamios magazine and five issues of Tejedoras magazine on democracy and gender.

[114] Human Rights Community, ibid., p. 11.

[115] El Deber. Senior judge removed from office and courts ask the Constitutional Court to support judicial independence. 06/18/2025. Retrieved on 09/11/2025. Available at: https://eldeber.com.bo/pais/cae-un-alto-magistrado-y-tribunales-le-piden-al-tcp-que-apoye-independencia-judicial_519114/; Construir Foundation, ibid., p.s. 9-10.

142. With regard to judicial independence, various United Nations treaty bodies have expressed concern about this issue. On the one hand, in its fourth cycle, the Human Rights Council, in the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), noted the importance of guaranteeing judicial independence and access to justice in the Plurinational State of Bolivia[116]. The Council also identified the need to implement the recommendations of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, regarding his visit to Bolivia in 2022, with the aim of intensifying the efforts necessary to guarantee the separation and balance of the judiciary[117].

143. Likewise, it is important to consider that several factors, such as problems in implementing judicial elections within the planned timeframe and difficulties arising from the extension of judicial terms, which have even occurred after judicial elections have been held, have had a negative impact on confidence in the judicial system. The IACHR has repeatedly expressed its concern about respecting the terms of office, as they are an important factor in the preservation of democratic institutional political processes[118].

144. For all these reasons, the Commission concludes that this recommendation remains **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

145. In order to advance compliance with this recommendation, the State is requested to provide further information on the measures adopted by the various State bodies aimed at rebuilding public confidence in institutions, and, in particular, to take into account the separation and balance between them. To this end, information is requested on the measures taken by the executive, legislative, and other judicial bodies. It is important that these strategic plans take into account the specific difficulties faced by each entity in its relationship with citizens.

Recommendation No. 16 Adopt a norm which equates the procedures for the prosecution of members of the TSE with those of authorities of the Judicial and Executive branches.

146. In its Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR identified that since 2009 there has been a high degree of instability in the Supreme Electoral Court (TSE), which affects its ability to perform its functions independently. Since then, none of its members have completed their terms due to the lack of guarantees for the performance of their duties, allegations of interference attributed to the executive and legislative branches, and a series of resignations. During the political and social crisis of 2019, electoral officials at the national and departmental levels suffered human rights violations through a pattern of judicial persecution lacking objective motivation and applied without prior investigation. As a result, TSE judges were subjected to criminal proceedings for crimes committed in the exercise of their functions[119]. Unlike senior officials in the judicial and executive branches, they do not benefit from the special jurisdiction procedures for the prosecution of officials set forth in Law No. 044[120]. For this reason, the IACHR has stressed that members of electoral bodies must have guarantees for the free exercise of their functions without fear of reprisals and therefore require regulatory protection similar to that afforded to authorities in the judicial and executive branches.

[116] United Nations Organization (ONU), Human Rights Council, Report of the Work Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, A/HRC/59/7, March 19, 2025, para. 122.31.

[117] United Nations Organization (ONU), Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Diego García-Sayán, A/HCR/50/36/Add.1, May 11, 2022, para. 110.

[118] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 435.

[119] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 261 – 263.

[120] Law No. 044, Law for the Prosecution of the President and/or Vice President, High Authorities of the Supreme Court of Justice, Agro-Environmental Court, and Judicial Council, Plurinational Constitutional Court and del Public Ministry, passed on October 8, 2010.

Information on compliance

147. The State informed the IACHR that on May 14, 2024, the TSE submitted Bill No. 039/2024-2025, entitled "Law Amending Laws No. 044, Law for the Prosecution of the President and/or Vice President, High Authorities of the Supreme Court of Justice, Agro-Environmental Court, Council of the Magistrature, Plurinational Constitutional Court, and the Public Ministry, of October 8, 2010, and Law No. 018 of the Plurinational Electoral Body, of June 16, 2019," as a measure to bring the procedures for the prosecution of members of the TSE into line with those of the high authorities of the Judiciary and the Executive. However, no progress has been reported in the processing of this regulatory proposal[121].

148. For its part, civil society confirmed that only Bill No. 075/24 is available, which aims to incorporate the members of the TSE into the legal framework for their prosecution through a trial of responsibilities, provided for in Law No. 044[122]. In addition, it was noted that, despite the request to resubmit the bill for the 2025 legislative session, the Assembly dismissed it[123].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

149. The Commission notes the submission of the Bill, made after the issuance of this report. It also expresses its concern regarding the lack of progress in its consideration by the legislative branch.

150. It should be noted that the IACHR has expressed the need for an independent, transparent, and accountable electoral body as a requirement for guaranteeing free and fair elections pursuant to the rule of law[124]. In this sense, this recommendation aims to strengthen the role of the electoral body in Bolivia, in order to guarantee the independent action of its members and strengthen institutional trust. Therefore, noting that the process of approving the law has begun, but that this bill has not been processed, the Commission considers that this recommendation remains **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

151. In order to advance in compliance with this recommendation, the Commission requests that information be provided on the progress made in the processing, approval, and implementation of Bill No. 075-2024, which establishes a process for the prosecution of members of the Supreme Electoral Court, as well as other authorities of the executive and judicial branches. In this regard, it requests information on the processing of the bill before the Legislative Branch, as well as on the public debate forums used. It also requests information on whether there are other similar bills that have been introduced and are in the process of discussion, adoption, or implementation.

D. Protection of human rights defenders and other vulnerable groups

Recommendation No. 17 Design and implement a comprehensive policy to protect the life, integrity, and work of human rights defenders, including an early warning system to identify risks.

152. In its Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR recognized that the defense of human rights in Bolivia has led to a series of social and political transformations throughout its history. Nonetheless, the work

[121] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August and September, 2025.
[122] Human Rights Community, ibid., p. 11.
[123] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 10.
[124] Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Nicaragua: Concentration of power and weakening of the rule of law, Adopted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on October 25, 2021, par. 67.

of defending human rights takes place in a context of political polarization that manifests itself in all spheres of society and has given rise to attacks against human rights defenders. In response to this, Bolivia does not have a comprehensive policy for the protection of human rights defenders. For all these reasons, the IACHR has urged the State to adopt, as a matter of priority, a comprehensive policy for the protection of human rights defenders and to guarantee the independence of organizations that defend these rights[125].

Information on compliance

153. The State informed the IACHR that, in the absence of a policy or regulation protecting the work of human rights defenders, the Office of the Ombudsman had drafted a bill entitled "Law on the promotion, protection, and respect of the rights of human rights defenders," which provides for the creation of a mechanism to apply protective measures in response to threats against the rights and/or activities of human rights defenders. This draft is currently being shared with third parties and will subsequently be submitted to the Plurinational Legislative Assembly[126].

154. Civil society reported that there would be no comprehensive policy for the protection of human rights defenders or an institutionalized early warning system. In this sense, state actions would be fragmented and reactive responses to situations of risk. In addition, it was reported that a civil society human rights observatory has identified an increase in violations such as criminalization, obstruction of unionization, and censorship of the role of human rights defenders. It noted that the number of cases recorded had risen from 51 in 2023 to 93 in 2024[127].

155. Civil society also held[128] that the Ombudsman's Office presented the "Protocol for the Defense of Human Rights Defenders and Civic Space as a follow-up to the Marrakesh Declaration"[129] whose fundamental aim is to establish procedures and strengthen its scope of action in the defense of human rights defenders. This document sets out a model national report that would be applied by national human rights institutions in the region.

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

156. The Commission appreciates the information reported, in particular, on the draft bill and the Protocol prepared by the Ombudsman's Office. In this regard, the Commission has stressed that national human rights institutions must play a leading role in the creation and development of public policies for the protection of human rights[130]. Likewise, it has recognized the need for protection mechanisms to comply with various components, among which it is crucial that the regulatory framework clearly establishes the responsibilities of the different State bodies and entities in terms of protection.

157. On this point, the present recommendation aims to design and implement a comprehensive policy for the protection of the life, integrity, and work of human rights defenders, including an early warning system for identifying risks. However, the information provided does not allow for the identification of substantial progress, as the bill is in its initial stages, prior to its presentation to the legislative body. Thus, the Commission considers that the recommendation is still **pending compliance**.

[125] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 298, 301 and 306.
[126] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[127] UNITAS, Follow-up questionnaire on the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion, August 25, 2025.
[128] Construir Foundation, ibid., p.s. 10 and 11.
[129] Ombudsman's Office, Protocol for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Civic Space as a follow-up to the Marrakesh Declaration, December, 2023.
[130] Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Towards a comprehensive policy for the protection of human rights defenders, approved by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on December 30, 2017, OAS/Ser.L/V/II, para. 253.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

158. In order to advance in compliance with this recommendation, the State is requested to report on the efforts made to design and implement a comprehensive policy for the protection of life, integrity, and work of human rights defenders, including an early warning system. To this end, it is requested that information be provided on the progress of the draft bill prepared by the Office of the Ombudsman, or on the work conducted by other entities, aimed at adopting and implementing it.

Recommendation No. 18 Develop the national population and housing census in a timely manner, within the deadlines and conditions approved in the Law on the Application of the Results of the Population and Housing Census, ensuring, as far as possible, in this or future census surveys, the inclusion of categories disaggregated by ethnic-racial origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and disability.

159. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR noted the need to conduct a national population and housing census as a preliminary step to the upcoming electoral processes. In this regard, the IACHR emphasized the importance of state institutions having national resources to conduct censuses that respond to the phenomenon being measured, as well as the reason and purpose for doing so. Thus, the IACHR held that the intention of measuring a country's diversity is not only to identify the population demographically and focus on the situation faced by certain ethnic-racial groups, but also to help raise awareness and propose coordinated actions that contribute to overcoming obstacles and promoting the guarantee of their rights[131].

Information on compliance

160. In its report to the Commission, the State reported that on March 23, 2024, the population and housing census was conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (INE), and its results were published in August 2025[132]. This included questions on ethnic self-identification and a reference list of indigenous, native, and Afro-Bolivian nations and peoples, as well as questions on permanent difficulties, categorized by levels of difficulty, which allows for analysis of the prevalence of disability and differentiation of degrees of functional severity in the population. It should be noted that, for the adoption of questions on these two topics, inter-institutional technical committees were created for each one[133].

161. With regard to sexual orientation and gender identity, the State reported that these issues were not included in the census questionnaire, following consultation with LGBTI groups, due to the risk of underreporting and the need to train and raise awareness among those conducting the census interviews, all under a privacy protocol. To this end, mention was made of inter-institutional efforts and meetings with the participation of various LGBTI associations and groups, as well as the results of the "First national survey of people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression in Bolivia," reflected in the "Ombudsman's Report Unequal before the law: results and analysis of the 1st virtual survey for people with diverse sexual orientation, identity, and gender expression in Bolivia," prepared by the Ombudsman's Office.

162. For its part, civil society confirmed the completion of the 2024 Population and Housing Census and the publication of its results and highlighted that there had been open access to the data, matrixes, and variables of the results[134].

[131] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 288.
[132] National Institute of Statistics (INE), Bolivia census 2024, https://cpv2024.ine.gob.bo.
[133] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August, 2025.
[134] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 11.

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

163. The Commission thanks the State and civil society for the information provided on the conduct of the census and the inclusion of some of the variables mentioned in the recommendation. It also notes that the recommendation included the phrase "as far as possible," recognizing that some of its elements will require gradual institutional adjustments or changes. This is based on the understanding that, historically, censuses in the region have not captured population data on all factors related to the diversity of human experience, such as gender identity, sexual orientation, and gender expression. With this understanding, the IACHR recognizes the efforts made by the State to coordinate with civil society organizations working for the rights of LGBTI persons in Bolivia in the decision-making process for the formulation of the recent census not to incorporate certain variables; and that this decision was made through a participatory process with LGBTI groups themselves. In addition, the Commission notes that the State has shown its willingness to learn about the needs of different groups through surveys such as that conducted by the Office of the Ombudsman. Therefore, the IACHR considers that this recommendation has been **fulfilled**.

E. Freedom of expression and access to information

Recommendation No. 19. Design and implement a public information campaign on respecting the legitimacy and independence of journalism as a way to strengthen the rule of law and public confidence in democratic institutions.

164. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR held that press organizations, associations, unions, and media outlets have reported that violence against journalists persists. It stressed, together with the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (hereinafter "SRFOE"), that violence against journalists violates the rights to personal integrity, life, and freedom of thought and expression. Therefore, the IACHR urged the State to adopt a narrative that contributes to public deliberation and the prevention of violence against journalists. Likewise, the IACHR called for the legitimacy and value of journalism to be recognized consistently, clearly, publicly, and firmly, even when the information disseminated may be critical, inconvenient, or untimely for the interests of the government[135].

Information on compliance

165. The State informed the IACHR that it implemented strategic campaigns[136] with the aim of promoting and strengthening respect for the legitimacy and independence of journalistic work, within the framework of the provisions of Supreme Decree No. 4857[137]. It also announced the dissemination of informational material to raise awareness among society about the legitimacy and independence of journalism through several social media platforms[138]. Among the main problems and challenges in complying with this recommendation, the State identified the need to improve interaction with society in general and to consolidate a community of followers who actively participate and comment on the legitimacy and independence of journalistic work[139].

[135] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 308, 314 and 322.

[136] The State reported communications posted on Facebook aimed at greeting social groups and informing them of dialogue actions conducted between political authorities and society, https://www.facebook.com/675215007971860/posts/965433532283338, , https://www.facebook.com/675215007971860/posts/789678133192213, https://www.facebook.com/reel/540044161679138.

[137] Passed on January 6, 2023.

[138] The State reported communications posted on Facebook expressing appreciation for journalistic work https://www.facebook.com/100064501013960/posts/858533289640030/?mibextid=WC7FNe&rdid=RSbudmlNXnA0ymmo#, https://www.facebook.com/675215007971860/posts/825294986297194.

[139] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.

166. For its part, civil society reported that there is no knowledge of public campaigns designed to promote respect for the legitimacy and independence of journalism. In this regard, the UNITAS Observatory reported that there were 150 violations of press freedom in 2024, particularly in the context of social conflicts, committed by agents of the National Police and by groups of private individuals. This trend continued in 2025, with 39 cases recorded between January and April, including acts of intimidation, obstruction of access to information, criminalization, and physical assaults. In addition, the organizations pointed out that up to 11 of the 17 acts of violence recorded by the Public Ministry itself had not been investigated[140].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

167. The IACHR welcomes the implementation of strategic campaigns and the dissemination of informational material on social media with the aim of raising awareness about the legitimacy and independence of journalism. However, the IACHR considers that the State must improve its communication with civil society organizations. At the same time, the IACHR expresses concern that the campaigns are not known to the organizations with the most experience in these matters. Therefore, it stresses the need for these campaigns and communications to be shared with civil society in order to broaden their dissemination. The Commission also expresses concern about the violations of press freedom that have been reported during this period. This is consistent with the information compiled for the Report on Social Cohesion[141].

168. The high level of polarization and stigmatization faced by Bolivian society requires special efforts by the State to defend journalistic work. For this reason, the IACHR highlighted the need for the State to adopt a public stance that contributes to preventing public deliberation and violence against journalists[142]. In view of the above, the Commission considers it essential that every effort be made to disseminate the campaigns reported above. In this sense, it is concluded that this recommendation has been **partially fulfilled**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

169. The Commission requests further information from the State on the content of the communication campaigns and the strategies implemented for their dissemination. It is essential that these campaigns involve the media and journalists in order to improve their reach and adjust the messages to the diverse needs of Bolivian society.

Recommendation No. 20. Adapt domestic law so that the protection of honor and reputation does not occur through the use of criminal law, in such a way that, while guaranteeing freedom of expression and of the press, any liabilities arising from freedom of expression are addressed in a legal sphere other than the criminal sphere.

170. In its Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR held that it had received information regarding the prosecution of journalists who report on matters of public interest, including via criminal complaints. In this sense, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has already held that resorting to judicial proceedings to file complaints for crimes of libel or slander, not with the aim of obtaining a correction, but rather to silence criticism of their actions in the public sphere, constitutes an abuse of judicial mechanisms and must be regulated and controlled by States. Therefore, when it comes to matters of public interest or mere offenses and allegations of offensive acts, the punitive response of the State, through criminal law, is not conventionally appropriate to protect the honor of public officials. In this context, the IACHR also urged the protection of the confidentiality of journalistic sources[143].

[140] UNITAS, Follow-up questionnaire, ibid.
[141] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 309.
[142] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 322.
[143] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 323, 329 and 330.

Information on compliance

171. The State reported that it is in the process of drafting a proposal for legislation that would exclude the protection of honor and reputation in the criminal justice system[144].

172. For its part, civil society confirmed that no reforms had been made to criminal legislation. It thus reported that the Press Law remains in force[145], which regulates the practice of journalism and protects freedom of expression, guarantees freedom from prior censorship, and establishes penalties for crimes committed in the press, such as slander or defamation against public servants. However, according to this law, these cases must be tried by press courts in cases of alleged offenses against public officials, but these courts are not currently in operation. Likewise, civil society reported that the press workers' union has ethics courts[146].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

173. The IACHR thanks the State and civil society for the information provided and notes with concern that criminal protection of individuals' honor and reputation remains in place, which has led to the prosecution of journalists based on complaints filed by public officials with the aim of silencing criticism of their actions in the public sphere[147].

174. It should be noted that the Commission has stressed that, although it is not recognized by the Constitution or the Press Law, the protection of journalists' sources of information, notes, and personal and professional files is an essential guarantee that enables journalists to perform their role without fear of retaliation[148].

175. In view of the continuing absence of legislation to adapt the domestic criminal justice system so as to prevent the judicialization of cases related to the protection of honor and reputation, while guaranteeing freedom of expression and of the press, and ensuring that any liability arising from freedom of expression is addressed in a legal sphere other than the criminal sphere, the Commission considers that this recommendation is **pending compliance.**

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

176. The Commission requests that the State adapt its criminal framework by eliminating crimes that may be generating judicial proceedings that affect the exercise of freedom of expression by persons engaged in journalistic work. To this end, it expects the State to report on progress in the regulatory proposals being worked on by the Executive Branch, as well as on any bills that may be processed by the Legislative Branch.

Recommendation No. 21. Design and implement a stimulus plan for the media to voluntarily adopt measures aimed at self-regulation, such as codes of ethics, the formation of press councils, the adoption of principles for ethical coverage, and complaint systems, among others.

144 Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.

145 Approved on January 19, 1925.

146 Human Rights Community, Response to the questionnaire of recommendations of the "Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia", August 25, 2025, p. 12.

147 Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 329.

148 Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 328.

177. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR received information on the division among journalists, reflected in mutual accusations of bias, discrediting and stigmatization of journalistic work within the profession itself, as well as complaints about the lack of representativeness and plurality in the press, among other issues. Thus, the IACHR identified that this situation hinders dialogue on the sustainability of journalism, critical self-reflection within the profession, and the adoption of self-regulatory measures. Likewise, the IACHR stressed the importance of the media having mechanisms that can be activated to resolve controversies and respond to citizens' complaints about news information[149].

Information on compliance

178. In its SIMORE report, the State held that the "Protocol for the informational treatment of depatriarchalization" is in force[150], which sets out a series of rules for the appropriate use of language and images when creating content and reporting, with the aim of combating patriarchy and promoting gender equality[151]. In addition, the State reported on the existence of Bolivia's National Code of Journalistic Ethics, which incorporates the principles recognized in international treaties on self-regulation[152].

179. For its part, civil society stated that it is not aware of any stimulus plan to promote self-regulation of the media or policies aimed at encouraging codes of ethics[153]. In addition, civil society reported that, in coordination with the National Association of Journalists of Bolivia (ANPB), there had been progress in consolidating the Press Courts at the departmental level. It was also mentioned that, as established in the Code of Journalistic Ethics, there is a National Press Ethics Court and press courts appointed by municipal councils. In this sense, civil society reported that the courts of Sucre and Potosí were inaugurated in May 2025. In the case of the courts of the city of Cochabamba, the call for applications was launched in May and July 2025 and is awaiting consolidation[154]. According to civil society, commitments have been made by departmental press associations, press workers' federations, and municipal councils to consolidate the Press Courts; however, there is no information on progress in other municipalities.

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

180. The IACHR takes note that the regulations mentioned in both cases predate the IACHR's on-site visit and the issuance of the Report on Social Cohesion and its recommendations. Furthermore, these regulations require specific measures to meet the objectives of the recommendation.

181. On several occasions, the Commission has held that the role played by the media as privileged channels for public debate implies a series of good practices, such as investigative journalism, editorial independence, and objectivity as a self-regulatory ideal of the profession[155]. This is particularly relevant in a context where there are challenges for citizens to have access to balanced, pluralistic, and comprehensive information, especially in contexts of escalating social conflict[156].

182. Therefore, noting that no actions have been reported aimed at establishing a stimulus plan for the media to voluntarily adopt self-regulation measures, the Commission considers that this recommendation is **pending compliance.**

[149] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 333 and 336.
[150] Approved on November 28, 2022.
[151] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August, 2025.
[152] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, September, 2025.
[153] UNITAS, Follow-up questionnaire, ibid.
[154] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 13.
[155] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., par. 334.
[156] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., par. 332.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

183. The Commission urges the State to submit information that allows for verification of the development of a stimulus plan aimed at the media, considering the essential principles of the human rights approach in the design and implementation of public policies, that is, considering the principles of participation of those who perform journalistic work, transparency of information, accountability, and the principle of equality; with an emphasis on those groups that, for social, economic, or political reasons, find themselves in a situation of greater vulnerability[157]. In order to move forward with the development of this plan, the State is urged to promote opportunities for participation by potentially interested parties.

Recommendation No. 22. Adopt a law to guarantee the right of access to information, binding on all State bodies at all levels of their organization.

184. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR acknowledged that the Bolivian State had made efforts to increase transparency in public administration. However, as of the date of issuance of the report, the State did not have a regulatory framework to guarantee and regulate the right of access to information in all branches of government. Thus, for decades, civil society organizations have demanded the adoption of a law establishing procedures for exercising the human right of access to information. For its part, the SRFOE has monitored preparatory studies of bills and even legislative proposals under consideration in the legislative body. However, as no substantial progress has been observed regarding these proposals, the IACHR exhorted the State to take immediate measures to develop a regulatory framework[158].

Information on compliance

185. The State reported on the development of the Plurinational Policy to Combat Corruption, entitled "Towards digitized and transparent public management"[159]. The aim of this policy is to work on the digitization of information, interoperability, and coordination with organized civil society, as well as on training in ethical values and transparency and the promotion of integrity and ethics among public and private servants[160]. Thus, the Citizen Transparency Observatory has been implemented, which publishes parameterized and systematized statistical data from the various transparency information systems[161].

186. Furthermore, with regard to public accountability, the State noted that the "Regulations on the use and operation of the RPC module" and the amendment to the "Methodological manual for public accountability" were approved[162]. Said module is in operation since 2022 and constitutes a technological tool of the "Public Accountability System" (RPC), in which State entities publish information that is available for social control and civil society in general. These updates also allow the population to access information on foreign services (embassies and consulates).

187. Regarding information transparency, the State reported that, through the State Portal, the information published by public entities on their websites and institutionalized social networks has been standardized to facilitate the exercise of digital citizenship through mechanisms that allow access to public information and online interaction with the State and the population. Likewise, since 2023, relevant statistical data has been generated and published through the periodic publication of quarterly bulletins with content

[157] IACHR, Report on Public Policies with a Human Rights Approach: approved by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, ibid., para. 61.
[158] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 349, 351 and 354.
[159] Approved by Supreme Decree No. 4872, of February 2, 2023.
[160] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[161] Citizen Transparency Observatory.
[162] Approved by Resolution No. 090/2024 of July 8, 2024.

related to procedures, investigation mechanisms, prosecution, and punishment of possible acts of corruption, as well as the results of criminal proceedings.

188. With regard to the regulatory framework, the State reported on the suspension of the processing of the draft Transparency and Access to Public Information Act. This bill sought to guarantee timely, complete, and accessible access to public information, for which it established clear management mechanisms. The draft bill regulated the system of exceptions, the procedures for requesting information, and the administrative and judicial remedies to ensure the effective protection of this right. Bolivia also referred to Supreme Decree No. 5340[163], which aims to facilitate access to public information, procedures, and services of public entities and institutions through the gob.bo digital platform, and Ministerial Resolution No. 067/2025[164], which contains the minimum content requirements for institutional websites and/or web pages. Finally, it was reported that Bill No. 160/2023-2024 on Access to Information and Public Documentation is currently being processed, which recognizes access to information as a fundamental right and incorporates the principles of active transparency, maximum disclosure, and free access. In addition, it sets out clear obligations for public entities and creates the Commission for Access to Public Information (CAIDP) as an independent guarantor body.

189. For its part, civil society held that no progress has been made in the debate over Bill No. 160/2023-2024 in the Chamber of Deputies. It also stressed that the UNITAS Observatory recorded cases of impediments to access to information requested from public entities. In turn, other civil society organizations held that, although access to public information is constitutionally protected, there is no specific law[165].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

190. The IACHR thanks the State and civil society for the information provided and observes that the reported measures and actions seek to address the problems of transparency and access to information raised in the Report on Social Cohesion. At the same time, it expresses concern about reports from civil society that are consistent with the information contained in the Report. Although it welcomes the adoption of Supreme Decree No. 5340 and Ministerial Resolution No. 067/2025, it notes the lack of progress in legislative measures relating to the recognition of the right of access to information and the suspension of the processing of the draft Transparency and Access to Information Act.

191. It should be noted that, the importance of having an adequate regulatory framework governing the right of access to public information in accordance with international norms and standards in this area was highlighted in the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council conducted in Bolivia in 2025[166].

192. This recommendation calls for consideration of the adoption of a regulatory framework that guarantees the right of access to information, binds all State bodies and levels, and complies with international standards. It is therefore essential that this regulatory framework provide adequate protection over time and be binding on the various branches of government, which means that it must have legal standing within the regulatory system. Therefore, the Commission considers that, despite the approval of regulatory standards, it is necessary to resume discussions for the approval of a legal standard, and therefore the recommendation is **pending compliance**.

[163] Approved on February 26, 2025.
[164] Approved on May 16, 2025.
[165] Human Rights Community, Response to the questionnaire of recommendations of the "Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia", August 25, 2025, p. 13.
[166] United Nations Organization (ONU), Human Rights Council, Report of the Work Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, A/HRC/59/7, March 19, 2025, paras. 122.59, 122.60.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

193. In order to advance in the implementation of this recommendation, the Commission requests that the State adopt a legal framework that guarantees the right to access information and establish the relevant powers of the different State bodies.

Recommendation No. 23. Adopt a comprehensive regulatory framework for the distribution of state advertising, without discrimination and without interference in media editorial policies, and which encourages media outlets to be independent of state advertising policy.

194. In its Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR specified that, despite the existence of a bill to guarantee the equitable allocation of official advertising, complaints continue to be filed regarding the awarding of advertising without pre-established and objective criteria, through processes that do not guarantee openness and non-discrimination in contracting mechanisms. This situation is further aggravated by the absence of mechanisms allowing for external control of advertising allocation. Therefore, the State must establish policies and allocate resources to promote media diversity and pluralism through indirect aid mechanisms or explicit and neutral subsidies, separate from government advertising expenditures. In this regard, the IACHR also recommended that Bolivia guarantee the right of individuals to access all information on official advertising under the control of the State[167].

Information on compliance

195. The State reported that it is in the process of proposing a regulatory framework for government advertising[168]. Likewise, it reported that allocation is made within the framework of administrative provisions that regulate the actions of public servants and guarantee their democratization, without discrimination or interference in the editorial line of the media[169].

196. For its part, civil society reported that state advertising had been used to economically harm media outlets that are critical of the government, which affects the employment situation of journalists. In this regard, the report "Journalists and Job Insecurity" has been issued, prepared by CEDLA and the UNITAS network. In addition, civil society organizations pointed out that Bolivia does not have specific regulations governing the official advertising distributed by the central government and subnational governments. Furthermore, for several years, various media outlets and journalism associations have denounced the use of advertising to influence editorial lines and as a means of "punishing" media outlets that are critical of and independent from state power[170].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

197. The IACHR observes with concern that no concrete measures have been adopted to establish a regulatory framework governing the distribution of government advertising and helping to address criticism regarding the lack of clarity and objectivity in the criteria for distributing government advertising[171], as well as the impact this has on the sustainability of journalistic work.

[167] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 355, 362 and 364.
[168] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[169] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, September, 2025.
[170] Human Rights Community, Response to the questionnaire of recommendations of the "Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia", August 25, 2025, p. 13.
[171] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 357.

198. In response to this, the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR has insisted that state policy must guarantee citizens' access to information of public interest[172]. Likewise, he has highlighted his concern about the possible impact that an allocation of official advertising contrary to inter-American standards could have on the deployment and sustainability of journalistic work, as well as on access to information of public interest and on the editorial independence of the media, insofar as public money may end up rewarding silence and punishing criticism[173].

199. In the absence of a comprehensive regulatory framework for the distribution of government advertising that is non-discriminatory, does not interfere with media editorial policies, and encourages the media to be independent of government advertising policy, the Commission considers that this recommendation is **pending compliance.**

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

200. The Commission requests that the State report on progress in adopting its regulatory framework, as well as on the measures that have been taken to strengthen external control of advertising distribution. In this regard, it is important to understand the regulatory framework that establishes the objective and transparent criteria that determine how these benefits are granted and which media outlets are granted access.

Recommendation No. 24. Implement a national public policy for universal internet access; digital literacy; and training on the impact of automated messaging tools, automated publishing, bots, and advertising on social media.

201. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR identified that, although the Bolivian State has made progress in promoting information and communication technologies (ICT), the digital gap and the lack of digital literacy policies between the Internet-using and non-Internet-using populations persist, marked by socioeconomic, geographic, educational, gender, and cultural inequalities. The report also includes complaints about the use of fake accounts to influence opposition groups or government websites. In response, the IACHR stressed that states must prioritize multisectoral internet governance and ensure the active participation of the private sector, technical experts, civil society, and academia. In this regard, it urged that efforts to increase internet connectivity should be accompanied by educational measures aimed at developing civic skills with a view to democratic coexistence and a human rights approach[174].

Information on compliance

202. The State reported the approval of the 2030 Digital Agenda[175], following a systematic study of the digital transformation needs of different sectors; and which has a pillar called "Infrastructure and Connectivity," whose objective is to promote universal access to telecommunications services in rural and socially important areas through the expansion of terrestrial and satellite infrastructure[176].

203. In this regard, according to the State, this instrument incorporates actions such as the installation of 29 Training and Technological Innovation Centers (CCIT) in the nine departments, training called "RobóTICas" in the areas of electronics, programming, and robotics, which has reached a total of 4,578 beneficiaries between 2021 and 2024; the Bootcamp Chicas Appventureras program, which is based on the development of applications and programming skills and trained 2,166 girls and adolescents between 2023

[172] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 361.
[173] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid. para. 363.
[174] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 339, 345 and 348.
[175] Supreme Decree No. 5367, approved on April 2, 2025.
[176] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.

and 2024; the digital inclusion program for older adults, which seeks to develop skills in the use of digital tools for communication and to prevent isolation, and which has reached 222 older adults; the digital violence prevention workshop, which trained 751 women; and, finally, the First Global Bolivia program, which encourages Bolivian youth to develop robotics skills and in which, in 2024, a total of 3,496 students and five young people from rural and urban areas participated.

204. Similarly, the State reported on the implementation of academic and university outreach projects aimed at promoting universal access to the internet and digital literacy, especially in teacher training colleges located in rural areas. This includes training courses in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) designed to develop teachers' technological skills, covering topics such as digital literacy, digital citizenship education, programming and robotics, and innovation, among others[177].

205. In addition, the State reported that the Plurinational School of Public Management (EGPP) is evaluating the incorporation of a short course on digital literacy into its regular academic offerings. The course is aimed at public servants and the general public, with an emphasis on those who lack knowledge about the use of digital technologies.

206. For its part, civil society held that the State is implementing a digital literacy plan that seeks to train more than 1.7 million people, mainly in rural and peri-urban areas, and certify 200,000 pre-military youths as instructors. In turn, it reported[178] that, according to the National Survey Connecting Bolivia [179], 90% of people in urban areas have access to the internet and 88% in rural areas[180].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

207. The IACHR thanks the State and civil society for the information gathered and welcomes the approval of the 2030 Digital Agenda, which seeks to address the digital divide and encourage digital literacy. It also welcomes the training programs for teachers in rural schools that have been reported. Likewise, it takes note of the statistical information reported that shows the digital gap in Bolivia.

208. The aim of this recommendation is to support the implementation of a policy designed to eliminate the causes of the digital divide, especially in areas or groups that are disconnected. At the same time, actions must be implemented to strengthen the capabilities of these actors. It is therefore important to note that the Digital Agenda 2030 was approved in May of this year and is currently in the process of being implemented. Recognizing the relevance of this measure and awaiting the results that may be obtained during its implementation, as well as receiving information on the other components of the recommendation, it is considered that this recommendation is **partially fulfilled**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

209. To advance compliance with this recommendation, the Commission requests that the State report on the progress of the actions contained in the 2030 Agenda, emphasizing the impact they have on the population with the greatest barriers, both in terms of access and capacity building. Likewise, the Commission will be on the lookout to learn whether the digital literacy course aimed at public servants at the Plurinational School of Public Management was successfully implemented.

[177] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, September, 2025.
[178] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 13.
[179] UN Women, Connecting Bolivia National Survey, April 2025.
[180] Human Rights Community, ibid., p. 14.

F. Social protest and use of force

Recommendation No. 25. Investigate, prosecute, and, where applicable, punish, in an appropriate and timely manner, the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials in the context of social protests, including those responsible for the chain of command.

210. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR noted that in various situations of protest and social unrest, serious human rights violations occurred, such as excessive use of force and violation of the right to life and liberty, in a context of widespread sociopolitical violence characterized by polarization, hostility, and hatred in social relations, which were not adequately investigated or punished[181]. In this sense, the IACHR held that States must exhaust all existing measures for the peaceful resolution of conflicts, as well as dialogue and negotiation, complying with the principles of legality, legitimacy, absolute necessity, and proportionality in the use of force[182].

Information on compliance

211. The State reported that between January and September 2024, three cases were opened for non-compliance with established procedures for the use of force, considered disciplinary offenses under the Bolivian Police Disciplinary Regime[183]. It was also noted that the nine Departmental Directorates of Internal Police Investigation (DIDIPI) nationwide were instructed to take the necessary measures to comply with this recommendation[184]. These measures include regular training sessions and lectures for DIDIPI staff [185].

212. The Commission was informed of Draft Bill No. 343/2023-2024, which regulates the disciplinary regime of the Bolivian Police and is currently before the Chamber of Deputies.

213. On the other hand, civil society reported that the lack of investigation and punishment would follow a pattern of impunity in cases of police violence in contexts of social protest, especially against journalists and demonstrators, which would have been reflected in closed or ongoing judicial proceedings[186]. In addition, civil society mentioned that it would have difficulties accessing official information on adequate and timely investigations, proceedings, or sanctions related to the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials in contexts of social protest, including those responsible in the chain of command.

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

214. The Commission appreciates the information provided and takes note of the internal measures that have been adopted by the police, as well as the ongoing judicial proceedings to determine responsibility in cases of human rights violations committed through the excessive use of force during social protests. However, it is concerned about the lack of information to determine whether these proceedings have made significant progress in recent months and whether they are significant in relation to the total number of cases involving serious human rights violations.

215. It is important to remember that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has ruled in various cases on the role of state agents in the context of social protests, applying the contents of the Code of

[181] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 8, 312, 370-374.
[182] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 382.
[183] Law No. 101, Disciplinary System of the Bolivian Police, approved on April 4, 2011.
[184] Deputy Ministry of the Interior and Police, Fax Memorandum 06/2024, issued on May 2, 2024.
[185] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[186] UNITAS, ibid., p. 5.

Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (Code of Conduct).[187], and the contents of the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (Basic Principles)[188]. In addition, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights held that States have an obligation to guarantee security and maintain public order; to which end, if necessary, they may use force[189]. In this way, States must comply with: i) adequately regulating the use of force; ii) training and educating their security forces; and iii) establishing adequate mechanisms to control and verify the legitimacy of the use of force[190]. Therefore, the regulatory framework must adapt its content to generate appropriate prevention and punishment mechanisms when there is disproportionate use of force, within the framework of due process, and guarantee transparency and civilian control over these actions.

216. Considering the need for more information to understand the scope of investigative and disciplinary measures regarding the excessive use of force by law enforcement officers in the context of social protests, including those responsible for the chain of command, the Commission considers that this recommendation is **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

217. In order to move forward with this recommendation, the Commission requests further information on the initiated, ongoing, and closed proceedings in the context of law enforcement officials being prosecuted for human rights violations in the scenario of social conflicts. In this sense, it is considered relevant to have a registry that collects complaints filed with administrative or judicial entities aimed at addressing situations related to the disproportionate use of force. For the IACHR, it is essential that mechanisms for registering and monitoring the use of force and the actions of security institutions be institutionalized. In this regard, coordination mechanisms can be created between civil society actions, such as citizen observatories, and the complaint mechanisms of entities such as the Ombudsman's Office.

Recommendation No. 26. Develop and implement a national public policy on conflict management by public officials and security forces, including training in the use of force; prohibition of illegal, arbitrary, or mass detentions; dialogue, negotiation, and peaceful resolution of conflicts in demonstrations; and development of plans to respond to possible disturbances with minimal risk to the life and safety of all persons involved.

218. In its Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR noted the various structural changes that have taken place in Bolivia through mechanisms of freedom of expression and association, through which the population has organized to demand rights. However, in the context of citizen mobilizations, there have been reports of excessive use of force by state agents at different levels, arbitrary detentions, clashes between individuals and with the police, as well as attacks on the life and integrity of protesters, which affect the exercise of the right to protest. In this regard, the IACHR has reiterated to the State that it must guarantee, protect, and facilitate public demonstrations, even when they cause a certain degree of disruption to daily life, and that it must manage them from the perspective of dialogue[191].

Information on compliance

219. The State reported on the approval of the "National Retraining Plan No. 02/2024"[192], which constitutes a training and retraining tool for different General Directorates, National Directorates, and Departmental Commands. Thus, training and education have been developed in the undergraduate units of the

[187] UN General Assembly, Resolution 34/169.
[188] Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. 1990.
[189] IHR Court, Case of Women Victims of Sexual Torture in Atenco vs. Mexico, Preliminary Exception, Merits, Reparations and Costs, Judgment of November 28, 2018, Series C No. 371, para. 159.
[190] Ibid., para. 161.
[191] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 369, 370 and 381.
[192] Bolivian National Police, Circular Memorandum Fax No. 02/2024, approved on March 7, 2024.

National Police Academy (ANAPOL) and the Higher Technical Faculty of Police Sciences (FATECISPOL), as well as postgraduate training at the Higher Police School. Similarly, the "Mcal. Antonio José de Sucre" Police University offers academic programs that integrate human rights and public order management issues. Practical simulations were also mentioned, which involve exercises to prepare students for real situations without escalating conflicts[193].

220. On the other hand, it was reported that there is an agreement between the Ombudsman's Office and the Bolivian Police to provide ongoing training to police officers on the following topics: human rights as applied to police work, gender perspective in the work of the Bolivian Police, prevention of violence and torture, and racism, discrimination, and decolonization[194]. In this context, between April 25 and May 31, 2024, a series of workshops on women's human rights and police action in conflict situations was held, with the participation of 100 police officers from different police units in the department of La Paz.

221. In addition, training workshops on conflict management and mediation have been organized with the aim of strengthening public servants' capacities to analyze and address social conflicts, in order to improve and ensure timely management of conflict transformation and resolution. In this regard, a workshop was held on "Improving technical skills for monitoring, managing, analyzing, and early warning of conflicts, based on experience"[195], with the participation of officials from several entities, such as the Ombudsman's Office, the National Institute for Agrarian Reform (INRA), and the Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency.

222. Civil society reported that there is no evidence that the State has developed or implemented a national public policy on conflict management. It also reported that, although fewer social conflicts were reported in 2024 than in other years, individuals were allegedly injured in social protests provoked by members of the Bolivian Police and Armed Forces during 2024 and 2025; these events would demonstrate the persistence of repressive practices by the Police and Armed Forces[196].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

223. The Commission takes note of the training and education opportunities reported, aimed at both members of the Bolivian Police and public servants. It also welcomes the development of cooperation agreements between the Ombudsman's Office and the Bolivian Police, aimed at strengthening the role of human rights within the institution.

224. In the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Bolivian State accepted recommendations aimed at strengthening the training of law enforcement officials on the legal limits to the use of force and at guaranteeing respect for and protection of the right to peaceful assembly and demonstration.

225. The IHR Court, using the Basic Principles on the Use of Force, established that the use of force by security forces in the context of social protests must comply with the principles of legality, absolute necessity, and proportionality, which implies a differentiated and progressive use of force[197]. These principles have also been highlighted by the IACHR in its thematic report "Protest and Human Rights," which argues that the approach to protest by law enforcement agencies should be aimed at facilitation rather than containment or confrontation; therefore, dispersal is justified only to protect people and constitutes a legitimate end in itself[198].

[193] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[194] Cooperation Framework Agreement between the Ombudsman's Office and the Bolivian Police, signed on April 2, 2024.
[195] Conducted on August 9, 2024.
[196] UNITAS, Follow-up questionnaire, ibid., p. 5.
[197] IHR Court, Case of Women Victims of Sexual Torture in Atenco v. Mexico, Preliminary Exception, Merits, Reparations and Costs, Judgment of November 28, 2018, Series C No. 371, para. 162.
[198] IACHR, Protest and Human Rights. Standards regarding the rights involved in social protest and the obligations that should guide the state's response, OAS/Ser.L/V/II.IACHR?RELE/INF.22/19, September 2019, para. 112.

226. In that sense, the Commission notes that, while strengthening institutional coordination mechanisms and capacity-building mechanisms as described above responds to the needs raised by the recommendation, it is essential to be able to meet its objectives by designing plans for responding to and managing social conflicts based on the protection and operationalization of the principles of legality, absolute necessity, and proportionality. Likewise, these mechanisms for dialogue, negotiation, and peaceful dispute resolution should be designed in a participatory and transparent manner, and their implementation should be strengthened. To this end, the design, approval, and implementation of a public policy that articulates these actions remain pending. Consequently, it is considered that this recommendation is **partially fulfilled**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

227. In order to comply with this recommendation, the State is requested to report on the adoption of a nationwide public policy involving the strengthening of the capabilities of the security forces, the prohibition of illegal detentions, the peaceful resolution of disputes, and the development of plans for intervention in situations of unrest. In addition, it is requested that the State provide details on the implementation of these capacity-building mechanisms that are being developed, in particular, the scope of these mechanisms, their content, the number and profile of the people participating in these spaces, and whether there are follow-up mechanisms to verify the implementation of their content. Likewise, measures to develop response plans for situations of unrest should be detailed, as well as the design and implementation of measures for negotiation and peaceful resolution of disputes, taking into account the principles of legality, absolute necessity, and proportionality in the use of force.

Recommendation No. 27. Design and implement a protocol on the management of social protest from the perspective of dialogue, involving the highest authorities of the State, and underscoring the duty of public officials and leaders to refrain from stigmatizing protests or those who participate in them.

228. The IACHR, in its Report on Social Cohesion, identified that the narratives of social leaders, public officials, and public figures have contributed to creating a general environment that is hostile to citizen participation and dialogue. These narratives tend to be amplified, becoming instruments that contribute to a climate of polarization and incitement to violence. In this sense, the IACHR has held that public leaders must take into account a series of obligations when expressing their opinions, especially in situations of greater social conflict. This obligation is reinforced in the case of public officials, as they are in a position to guarantee rights[199]. In particular, the IACHR urged the adoption of measures to promote dialogue and prevent public leaders from stigmatizing the exercise of protest and those who participate in it.

Information on compliance

229. According to information provided by the State, the Vice Ministry for Coordination with Social Movements and civil society is responsible for addressing and monitoring social unrest. To this end, it prepares reports based on analysis of news items that reflect latent conflicts or signs of future unrest. These reports are submitted to the competent authorities for analysis and action. In addition, the Office of the Ombudsman has a "Protocol for Ombudsman Intervention in Social Conflicts"[200], focused on dialogue and negotiation to peacefully settle social protests[201].

230. Likewise, the State reported that the Bolivian Police have a "Manual for operations to maintain and restore public order"[202], and has announced the implementation of Operations Plan No. 03/2024, entitled "Maintenance and restoration of public order," with the aim of managing political and social conflicts that may

[199] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 385 and 389.
[200] Ombudsman's Office, The Art of Managing Conflicts, Approved on 2020.
[201] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[202] General Command of the Bolivian Police, Administrative Resolution of No. 0266/17, approved on September 19, 2017.

threaten democratic order and citizen security. The plan's goal is to prevent, control, and restore public order, protecting the human rights and physical integrity of all those involved, including protesters, civilians, and law enforcement forces. The plan also seeks to guarantee respect for civil rights and prevent escalations of violence in order to maintain order and democracy in Bolivia.

231. In turn, information was provided on the creation of the "National Retraining Plan No. 02/2024," focused on maintaining and restoring public order. This plan stresses the importance of preparing police personnel to handle situations of social conflict and civil unrest. Continuous training aims to optimize police operations, ensure respect for human rights, the differentiated use of force, and the management of tactical and logistical resources. In this regard, 8,793 police officers of various ranks have received training in the differentiated use of force, negotiation, and mediation. In 2024, 37 training sessions were held, and 4,368 police officers were trained on the Manual for Operations to Maintain and Restore Public Order.

232. Finally, the Ombudsman's Office reportedly participated in the implementation of four multiparty dialogues, involving 400 representatives from various social sectors, with the aim of identifying issues of national and local interest and preventing conflicts through joint management with the competent authorities.

233. For its part, civil society pointed out that it is unaware of any protocol having been designed and implemented on the management of social protest from the perspective of dialogue, although it noted that in 2024 a bill regulating social protest was presented to the Chamber of Deputies[203]. This law seeks to regulate the exercise of the right to protest, establish the duties and rights of protesters and the general public, as well as the responsibilities of the competent authorities, and impose punishments on protesters in the event of excesses during social demonstrations[204]. It should be noted that this bill has not been discussed in either chamber of the Plurinational Legislative Assembly[205].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

234. The Commission appreciates the information provided by the State and civil society organizations on both regulatory instruments and capability-building mechanisms. However, the Commission notes that these instruments were approved prior to the Commission's on-site visit and the issuance of the Report on Social Cohesion.

235. It is important to remember that the purpose of this recommendation is to ensure that public servants, including the highest authorities of the State, can support the management of protests from a perspective of dialogue, which implies avoiding the stigmatization of protesters. To this end, mechanisms must be created to raise awareness among public servants and authorities and to avoid rhetoric that stigmatizes people exercising their right to protest. In this regard, it should be noted that the bill is still in its initial stages, as it is currently under review by the legislative body. Therefore, this recommendation is considered as **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

236. In order to advance in compliance with this recommendation, it is important that the Commission be informed of the progress of the bill or other bills aimed at strengthening dialogue in addressing social conflicts, urging high-level authorities, public officials, and leaders to refrain from stigmatizing protests or those who participate in them. The regulations that are promoted must guarantee the exercise of the rights of all persons participating in demonstrations and clearly establish the responsibilities of the authorities and public servants who play a role in them. Likewise, more information is requested on the awareness-raising and

[203] Chamber of Deputies. PL-066/2024. Available at https://diputados.gob.bo/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/PL-066-2024-2025.pdf

[204] UNITAS, ibid., p. 6.

[205] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 16.

capacity-building mechanisms that are implemented, aimed at strengthening the dialogue skills of the authorities.

G. Administration of justice

Recommendation No. 28. Strengthen the legal framework to ensure the inclusion of objective criteria for the pre-selection, election, and appointment of judicial authorities in the courts and the Judicial Council, taking into account citizen participation and transparency, as well as independent external audits. The State must guarantee that selection processes are conducted within the timeframes and in the manner provided for in the Constitution, so as to avoid extensions of mandates. This is essential for building public confidence in the justice system and democratic institutions, as well as for safeguarding democratic institutional political processes.

237. In its Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR noted that the selection process for senior judicial officials has faced a series of challenges due to political fragmentation, which has prevented the formation of consensus in the legislative body. Since the first electoral process, judicial elections have raised concerns and rejection among several sectors of society. Furthermore, these electoral processes have taken place in the context of deep political polarization in the country. Thus, the IACHR held that it is imperative for the State to ensure that appointments and selections, including pre-selection, are not made or perceived as decisions based on political motives. To this end, it is essential to comply with the principles of prior dissemination of calls for applications, deadlines, and procedures; to guarantee equal and inclusive access for candidates; to allow for the participation of civil society; and to evaluate candidates based on merit and professional capabilities[206].

Information on compliance

238. The State informed the IACHR that it had passed Law No. 1549[207], whose aim was to regulate the judicial elections held on December 15, 2024. Likewise, it stressed that Law No. 1513 had been approved in June 2023[208], which was declared unconstitutional by the Plenary Chamber of the Plurinational Constitutional Court through Constitutional Judgment 060/2023.[209].

239. For its part, civil society claimed that the judicial elections took place in December 2024, although they were originally scheduled for 2023 and then October 2024, due to the social unrest that arose during that period[210]. The judicial elections were held with the participation of 94 candidates, despite the challenges rejected after the elections. The election day was attended by national and international observation missions, such as the OAS and the Inter-American Union of Electoral Organizations, among others. Voter turnout reached 82%, and for the first time since 2011, valid votes (64.29%) exceeded blank and invalid votes (35.71%)[211].

240. Likewise, civil society emphasized that the Citizen Initiative for Monitoring Justice participated in the citizen oversight of the pre-selection process for candidates for judicial elections, which showed that the electoral processes and the establishment of criteria for the pre-selection of said candidates

[206] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras. 406, 428, 434 and 435.
[207] Plurinational Assembly of Bolivia, Law No. 1549, "Transitory law for the 2024 judicial elections", approved on February 6, 2024.
[208] Plurinational Assembly of Bolivia, Law No. 1513, "Transitory law to guarantee the pre-selection process of candidates for the formation of the Plurinational Constitutional Court, Supreme Court of Justice, Agro-Environmental Court, and Council of the Judiciary, approved on June 5, 2023.
[209] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[210] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 16.
[211] Supreme Electoral Court, Public information supplement N° 3, December 29, 2024.

have been strengthened in each of the calls. In addition, certain organizations held that the electoral process has not been fully completed, which has led to the extension of the terms of some magistrates, who continue to administer justice in high-level positions[212].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

241. The Commission takes note of the regulatory framework in place for the preselection, selection, and appointment of candidates. In that sense, the IACHR acknowledges the completion of the process, albeit belatedly, and highlights the high level of citizen participation. However, the Commission expresses its concern that this was only partially implemented, allowing four of the magistrates to continue exercising their functions through an extension granted by the court itself. In addition, the lack of a legal structure prior to the electoral process that clearly sets out the objective criteria for the election of magistrates was highlighted during the recent electoral process.

242. In its 2024 annual report, the IACHR noted that judicial elections were held on December 15, 2024, after several deferrals by the ALP and the TCP. However, it highlighted however, that the judicial election process was biased following the TCP's decision to declare the call for magistrates for the Plurinational Constitutional Court void in the departments of Pando, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Beni, and Tarija, as well as the call for magistrates for the Supreme Court of Justice in the departments of Beni and Pando, which extended judicial terms and generated public rejection.

243. The IACHR promoted a process of technical cooperation with Bolivia's Plurinational Legislative Assembly regarding the pre-selection procedure for candidates for the courts and the Judicial Council of the Judiciary. This process was based on inter-American standards for the formation of judicial authorities and involved the participation of the State through various institutions. The cooperation included the preparation and submission of a document systematizing the inter-American standards relevant to the justice sector, as well as the drafting of a technical note on the merit criteria for the evaluation of candidates, which was the subject of discussions between the ALP and the Country Rapporteur.

244. According to information from the Plurinational Electoral Body, citizen participation in the electoral process held at the end of 2024 reached 82% of the population. Unlike the judicial elections of 2011 and 2017, on this occasion valid votes exceeded blank and invalid votes, reaching 64.29% of the total. However, the partial suspension of the elections and the new extension of the terms of office of the TCP representatives from Pando, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Beni, and Tarija, and of the TSJ (Supreme Court of Justice) from Beni and Pando, generated public disapproval as they were considered a threat to the rule of law and confidence in the justice system. In this context, the TCP (Plurinational Constitutional Court) announced criminal and disciplinary sanctions against magistrates who judge against this ruling, which was pointed out by justice operators as a violation of their judicial independence. This situation has increased social mistrust in the instrumentalization of ongoing court cases.

245. In order to strengthen confidence in the judiciary, it is necessary that selection processes and terms of office comply with the deadlines and powers established in the legal system. It is therefore essential that elections to the courts and the National Council of the Judiciary be held on time and in full. The Commission therefore considers that this recommendation has been **partially fulfilled**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

246. In order to comply with this recommendation, the State must strengthen the legal framework to ensure the inclusion of objective criteria in the pre-selection, election, and appointment of judicial authorities in the courts and the Judicial Council. This should be done through laws that apply generally to all judicial candidate selection processes, without the need for immediate debate prior to each electoral process,

[212] Civil society has held that the plenary chamber of the Plurinational Constitutional Court is comprised of nine judges, four of whom were elected in the 2024 judicial elections.

as this encourages excessive politicization. Likewise, attention should be paid to the part of the recommendation that requires independent external audits of these processes and to the conclusion in paragraph 437 of the country report, which invites the State to review the processes for appointing senior court officials and the Judicial Council, in order to determine, within the framework of the constitutional order, any reforms necessary to guarantee election based on objective parameters; and to avoid the extension of the terms of office of authorities who should be elected through democratic processes.

Recommendation No. 29. Initiate, in the immediate term, a comprehensive reform of the judicial system, with broad citizen participation, following up on the various summits that have been held on this issue, taking into account the structural demands that have been noted by the IACHR since 2006. This reform should include:
I) Strengthening the judicial career and the Public Ministry by allocating enough resources to address the temporary nature of judicial and prosecutorial positions within a reasonable time frame, as well as strengthening due process guarantees in disciplinary proceedings against justice operators.
II) the optimization of budget allocation and execution for the judiciary, taking into account parameters such as annual investment, equipment, infrastructure, and personnel needs, transparent accountability, and attention to deficiencies in execution.
III) Reviewing existing programs aimed at reducing procedural delays in order to identify deficiencies, optimize them, and ensure their sustainability over time.
IV) The effective implementation of a comprehensive policy involving the judiciary and the executive branch to reduce the excessive use of pretrial detention, in accordance with international standards, as well as to guarantee access to and the effective application of prison benefits and pardons, with attention to the situation of older persons deprived of liberty who may be eligible for such legal remedies.
V) Guaranteeing effective judicial remedies, with the support of an independent international mechanism that ensures the application of international standards against arbitrary detention and the application of due process in each of the criminal prosecutions that may have political motivations.
VI) Strengthening indigenous and peasant jurisdiction through a reform of the Jurisdictional Demarcation Law—after consultation with and consent of the peoples—; the allocation of sufficient budget for its operation; the effective implementation of the perspective of interculturality in all ordinary courts.
VII) Mitigation of barriers to access justice, including physical, linguistic, knowledge, and cultural obstacles.
VIII) Creation or reform of laws to optimize the justice system, including the adoption of a law on agro-environmental jurisdiction procedures and the adaptation of crimes of terrorism, financing of terrorism, and torture to objective criteria, in accordance with international standards for criminal typification.

247. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR held that Bolivia's justice system faces historical structural challenges that affect judicial independence. These challenges have been present throughout different administrations. Initial efforts by different state administrations have not been sufficient to address the causes of the structural problems, which has led to their worsening, and weakened their continuity[213]. Consequently, it urged the State to implement comprehensive judicial reform.

Information on compliance

248. The IACHR received information from the State corresponding to several bodies: the Judiciary, the Agro-Environmental Court, and the Plurinational Constitutional Court (TCP)[214], the Public Ministry and the Judicial Council.

[213] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 425.
[214] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.

249. With regard to the judicial career (paragraph I), the State reported that the Judicial Council has the authority to regulate and supervise the judicial career, including the admission, tenure, evaluation, and dismissal of judges. To this end, in 2024 it approved the "Manual for the Evaluation and Tenure Subsystem in the Judicial Career"[215]. Thus, it was indicated that the judicial career is made up of qualified officials who applied at the time to the public calls for applications issued by the Council of the Magistracy or who were assessed for access to the position after graduating from the State School of Judges. Currently, the agro-environmental jurisdiction has a total of 63 career judges, representing 100%. As for the ordinary jurisdiction, there are 1,134 career judges throughout the country, equivalent to 97%. According to the State's report, the transitional situation of judges is an exception that does not require the extraordinary allocation of economic resources[216].

250. The State's General Prosecutor's Office (FGE) reported that, in order to have career prosecutors, public calls for applications have been implemented to recruit career prosecutors through selection processes conducted through internal and external calls for applications. The recruitment process begins with a preparatory online course, a merit-based competition, a written knowledge test, and a personal interview, and concludes with an initial training program run by the State Prosecutors' School (EFE). Performance evaluations and continuous skills updating through specialized training are also applied. From 2020 to 2025, seven initial training programs have been developed for entry into the prosecutorial career, with a total of 381 lawyers graduating. As of August 2025, 432 prosecutors were reported to be in office.

251. With regard to the optimization of budget allocation and execution (section II), the Supreme Court of Justice issued two plenary agreements[217] which expanded the powers of investigating judges, sentencing judges, and sentencing courts in matters of anti-corruption and violence against women, thereby optimizing human resources and leading to an effective reduction in procedural delays. For its part, the Public Ministry noted that, during the 2024 fiscal year, 95% of the allocated resources were used, all of which were destined to cover the operational and logistical needs of all the substantive areas that comprise the institution, the nine Departmental Prosecutor's Offices, the Forensic Investigation Institutes (IDIF), and the School of State Prosecutors.

252. With regard to procedural decongestion (section III), on May 9, 2024, Jurisdictional Agreement TCP-AJ-SP-04/2024 was approved for the "Optimization of Procedural Management for the Resolution of Freedom Actions." Likewise, the TCP noted that, through Institutional Strategic Action No. 1, the organization of jurisdictional processes and procedures was established as a priority in order to progressively move toward digital justice. In addition, the Public Ministry reported that instructions are issued to prosecutors to comply with due diligence and that, with the aim of modernizing and optimizing technological means (ROMA Ecosystem, the digital portfolio, digital citizenship, and electronic notifications), tools have been implemented that allow for monitoring from the receipt of complaints, criminal investigation, and technical-scientific analysis of evidence to the conclusion of the case. These digital tools allow prosecutors and other parties to the proceedings to monitor procedural deadlines, issue timely responses to requests, and streamline the processing of criminal proceedings, thereby contributing to the improvement of the judicial system.

253. With regard to indigenous and peasant jurisdiction (section VI), the State reported on the "Protocol for intercultural action by judges, within the framework of egalitarian legal pluralism" and the processing of the draft law on "Amendment of Law No. 73 on Jurisdictional Demarcation," which is still under discussion in the Legislative Assembly. In addition, it reported on the approval of the Strategic Plan for the Care, Protection, and Sustainable Development of Vulnerable Indigenous Nations and Peoples 2024–2026, as a

[215] Judicial Council, Manual for the Subsystem for Assessment and Permanence in the Judicial Career,, approved in May, 2024.
[216] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August, 2025.
[217] Plenary Agreement No. 22/2024 of February 28, 2024, on "Extension of powers to Criminal Investigation Courts in matters of anti-corruption and violence against women" and Plenary Agreement No. 28/2024 of April 30, 2024, on "Extension of powers to Criminal Sentencing Courts and Sentencing Tribunals."

methodological tool to promote the implementation of mechanisms and actions to protect Indigenous Peoples in Situations of High Vulnerability.

254. With regard to barriers to access to justice (section VII), the Judiciary's Policy on Access to Justice – Short Term 2024 and Projection 2025[218]- aims to improve access to justice, strengthen conciliation in court, and promote a culture of peace. Likewise, the Plurinational Constitutional Court reported on ruling SCP 0258/2024-S1, which urges the Public Ministry to guarantee access for persons with disabilities[219] to infrastructures.

255. Finally, the State noted that bills to amend various regulatory bodies are currently being debated in the Assembly[220], and undergoing the legislative process. As for the adoption of an agro-environmental procedure (section VIII), the Agro-Environmental Court drafted the "Agro-Environmental Procedural Code Bill," which is currently in the socialization phase. With regard to constitutional justice, the Plurinational Constitutional Court presented bills to strengthen its framework for action. Likewise, it noted that bills aimed at modifying the crimes of terrorism (Bill No. 292/2020-2021) and torture (Bill No. 042/2024-2025) are still pending.

256. For its part, civil society highlighted, regarding the judicial career (point I), the implementation of inspections in prosecutors' offices, with the aim of verifying compliance with procedural goals and deadlines, as well as decongesting criminal proceedings at the national level[221]. Civil society confirmed that the number of prosecutors nationwide had increased from 595 in 2023 to 701 in 2025 and reported the creation of 34 prosecutor's offices located in urban and rural areas. With regard to the Judiciary, in 2024, 107 calls for judges would have been issued and executed under the "Zero Vacancies" program, which would have strengthened the judicial service through the institutionalization of 99.82% of judges in the ordinary and agro-environmental jurisdictions[222].

257. As regards financial resources (section II), civil society noted that for the 2025 fiscal year, there was an increase in the budget for most institutions in the justice sector (Prosecutor's Office, SEPDEP, TCP, SEPDAVI, MJTPI), except for the judiciary, which saw a reduction despite having declared a state of emergency in March 2025 and requested an urgent budget adjustment from the State[223]. In this request, the Judiciary recognized the need for a minimum budget equivalent to 3% of the General State Budget (PGE) and that this should be established by law, so as not to depend on budget allocations and thus contribute to guaranteeing judicial independence[224].

Institution	A. Budget 2024 in Bs	B. Budget 2025 in Bs	Percentage of comparative increase 2024-2025 (B-A)/A
Judicial Body	1125494637	1054225817	-6,33%
General Prosecutor's Office	245223233	294486306	20,09%
SEPDEP	11143675	14299149	28,32%

[218] Plenary Chamber of the Judicial Council, Agreement No. 74/2024 of February 19, 2024.

[219] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, September, 2025.

[220] Civil Code and Commercial Code, Civil Procedural Code, Criminal Code, Law No. 1008 on Coke and Controlled Substances, Code of Criminal Procedure, Code of Families and Family Procedure, Code on Children and Adolescents, Law on the Judiciary, Code of Labor Procedure, Law on Social Enforcement Proceedings, and Law on Abbreviated Labor Proceedings for Reinstatement.

[221] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 18.

[222] 1201 male and female judges, leaving only one temporary judge.

[223] Supreme Court of Justice. Judicial Body declares budget emergency and demands immediate economic adjustment from the State.

[224] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 17.

Plurinational Constitutional Court	75616388	77500676	2,49%
SEPDAVI	5320582	6801239	27,83%
Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency	80758228	84003571	4,02%
State Judges' School	8139557	8557754	5,14%
TOTAL	**1551696300**	**1539874512**	**-1%**

Source: Report on the state of Justice in Bolivia 2024

258. Likewise, civil society held that most judges have a program to combat procedural delays (section III), such as the Civil Chamber, for example, which has had a management policy called "Zero Delays" since 2019, thanks to which cases have been managed without procedural delays for six years[225]. On the other hand, it held that there is currently no comprehensive policy to reduce pretrial detention (section IV)[226].

259. With regard to legislative proposals (section VIII), civil society mentioned that the Draft Environmental Procedure Code was presented in August 2022; however, it has not yet been processed by the legislature. Regarding the crime of torture, civil society explained that, through the Citizen Coalition Against Torture, it promoted the enactment of Bill No. 080/2023-2024, which was approved by the Senate and is currently being processed by the Chamber of Deputies[227].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

260. The Commission welcomes the measures that have been implemented following the publication of the Report on Social Cohesion. The IACHR has already emphasized that one of the main challenges facing Bolivia's ordinary justice system is the lack of a judicial career path that guarantees the stability and professional growth of civil servants. This is reflected in the temporary appointments that have affected job stability[228].

261. It should be noted that this recommendation is in line with those incorporated into the Universal Periodic Review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, which emphasized the need for transparency mechanisms in the appointment of judges, the provision of sufficient resources for the optimal functioning of the judiciary, the implementation of a judicial reform plan to remove obstacles to access to justice, the intensification of oversight and public scrutiny to ensure judicial independence, impartiality, and integrity of the judiciary; adopting and implementing laws which guarantee equal access to justice and comprehensive support services for victims of violence, with particular attention to vulnerable groups, and having an updated legal framework to prevent, investigate, punish, and redress torture[229].

262. In that sense, the Commission welcomes the progress made in strengthening the judicial and prosecutorial careers, with significant percentages in the hiring of judges and prosecutors, and it is essential that 100% be achieved in the shortest possible time. Likewise, measures have been adopted to address procedural congestion in the various courts. On the other hand, the Commission expresses its concern about the lack of adequate budgetary allocation for the justice system, which has been highlighted by the judiciary itself. In addition to the above, no progress has been reported in the implementation of an independent international mechanism to ensure fair trial and due process in cases of arbitrary detention in political contexts. Furthermore, no concrete steps have been taken toward the approval of regulations that would help improve

[225] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 19.
[226] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 20.
[227] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 20.
[228] IACHR, Social cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, January 20, 2024, OAS/Ser.L/V/II, p. 158.
[229] United Nations Organization (ONU), Human Rights Council, Report of the Work Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, A/HRC/59/7, March 19, 2025, paras. 122.16 - 122.30.

the application of pretrial detention, strengthen indigenous justice, address barriers to access to the justice system, or optimize the justice system through the adoption of a law on agro-environmental jurisdiction procedures and the adaptation of the crimes of terrorism and financing of terrorism to objective criteria, in accordance with international standards for the classification of crimes. Therefore, the Commission considers that this recommendation demonstrates **partial compliance**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

263. With the aim of continuing to implement this recommendation, the State is requested to adopt the necessary measures and report on compliance with the following recommendations: I) progress in eradicating the transitory nature of judicial operators and prosecutors, and measures to strengthen disciplinary measures for such persons, taking into account due process guarantees; II) update the budget allocation for the justice system, considering the parameters of annual investment, equipment, infrastructure, and personnel needs, transparent accountability, and attention to deficiencies in execution; III) additional measures adopted to reduce the procedural burden and its sustainability over time; IV) measures to implement a comprehensive policy involving the judicial and executive branches to reduce pretrial detention and the application of prison benefits; V) measures to guarantee effective judicial remedies and to conduct cooperative actions with the aim of implementing an independent international mechanism that guarantees the application of international standards against arbitrary detention and due process in criminal prosecutions that may be politically motivated; VI) to report on the status of legislative proposals, in particular the bill to amend Law No. 73 on Jurisdictional Demarcation and the bill on the Agro-Environmental Procedural Code; VII) measures to mitigate barriers to access to justice, including physical, knowledge, and cultural barriers; and VIII) progress in the adaptation of criminal offenses, as well as in the advancement of Bill No. 080/2023-2024 on the crime of torture, among others related to these issues.

Recommendation No. 30. Investigate, prosecute, punish, and provide redress, with due diligence, for cases of serious human rights violations, as well as to adopt public policies and legal reforms that include measures to prevent recurrence.

264. In its Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR stated that serious human rights violations remain pending prosecution, punishment, and redress. It therefore held that the State must adopt effective measures to end impunity for human rights violations. In addition, the State must promote channels for dialogue and active listening with organizations representing victims of human rights violations, in order to understand and adequately address their various demands through effective redress policies[230].

Information on compliance

265. The State held that the Public Ministry guarantees the course of investigations, deploying all necessary and essential actions to identify the alleged perpetrators and determine their involvement and responsibility, conducting this work independently and without external influence, in an impartial manner. It also emphasized that investigations are coordinated with the operational arm of the Bolivian Police, with experts and other entities, such as the Institute of Forensic Investigations (IDIF)[231].

266. With regard to ongoing investigations into human rights violations, the Public Ministry issued instructions to the departmental prosecutors' offices where the investigations identified in the GIEI's Final Report are being conducted. In this sense, reference was made to the Extraordinary Analysis Commission for Implementing the Recommendations of the GIEI Report, which holds regular meetings with departmental

[230] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras.476 and 483.
[231] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, August, 2025.

prosecutors and the commissions of prosecutors in charge of investigations related to human rights violations that occurred between September 1 and December 31, 2019. In addition, the President of the Supreme Court of Justice was sent[232] information on the cases included in the GIEI report so that prioritization measures can be adopted, and the continuous development of the oral hearings and the processing of the corresponding procedural appeals can be guaranteed.

267. According to civil society, no measures were adopted to prevent recurrence, nor were specific public policies implemented to prevent serious human rights violations. In addition, the organizations held that there are still challenges to be addressed with regard to compliance with the recommendations of reports by international organizations and national mechanisms, such as the Truth Commission, which was responsible for investigating serious human rights violations during the period of military dictatorships. In this regard, it was held that, in the absence of a comprehensive system of reparations, the risk of impunity would persist, and therefore they consider it a priority to adopt measures to comply with this recommendation, as it remains an outstanding issue for the victims of the serious human rights violations of 2019 and the dictatorships[233].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

268. The Commission values the information provided by civil society and the State regarding the measures adopted by the Public Ministry to prioritize cases related to serious human rights violations, as well as those initiatives aimed at strengthening coordination with other relevant actors in the process. However, the IACHR stresses that the efforts of a single entity, such as the Public Ministry, are not enough to effectively guarantee people's right to a fair trial, particularly in cases of human rights violations. Therefore, it is necessary to know the efforts made by other entities of the Judiciary—such as the first instance courts, the public defender's office, the high courts—and, where appropriate, by other entities participating from the Executive Branch, the Institute of Forensic Investigations, or the Mechanism against Torture.

269. On this point, the IACHR recalls that there is a state duty to investigate the facts, which is an obligation of means and not of results, but which must be assumed by States as a legal duty in its own right and not as a mere formality doomed beforehand to being futile, or as a mere management of particular interests, depending on the procedural initiative of the victims or their relatives, or on the private contribution of evidence[234]. In other words, the analysis of compliance with this recommendation is not aimed at determining whether responsibilities were assigned in specific cases, but rather at analyzing whether the State has taken all measures consistent with its obligations in the context of human rights violations. Furthermore, such justice must be delivered in a timely manner, and therefore unjustified delays that prevent victims from accessing a mechanism for redress violates people's rights to a fair trial.

270. Based on the foregoing, the IACHR expresses its deep concern about the procedural provisions of August 2025 that have led to the annulment of the judicial proceedings for the serious human rights violations that occurred in Sacaba and Senkata in 2019. The IACHR considers that the annulment of these proceedings represents a dangerous setback in the search for timely and adequate justice for the victims of these serious human rights violations. This situation compromises compliance with the recommendations of the GIEI Report – Bolivia[235] and the Bolivian State's international obligations to investigate, punish, and provide reparations to victims, which also contributes to their revictimization.

271. Consequently, considering that the measures reported are timely but insufficient to address a complex problem that requires coordination among various entities, and given the impact that the lack of

[232] Public Ministry, nota FGE/RRMM Nº 655/2025.
[233] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 22.
[234] IHR Court, Case of Maldonado Vargas and others Vs. Chile, Merits, Reparations and Costs, Judgment of September 2, 2015, Series C No. 300, para. 75.
[235] GIEI Bolivia, Final Report on the acts of violence and human rights violations occurred between September 1 and December 31, 2019, July 23, 2021.

comprehensiveness has on the development of judicial processes and victims' access to justice, it is considered as **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

272. This recommendation covers three actions on the part of the State. Therefore, in order to move forward with this recommendation, the State is requested to report on: a) the measures adopted by the Judiciary, the Public Defender's Office, the Bolivian Police, the IDIF, as well as other institutions that have an impact on the development of judicial proceedings. It is also requested that information be provided on situations that have led to disproportionate delays in judicial proceedings related to human rights violations; b) the design and implementation of public policies of non-repetition aimed at guaranteeing the State's obligations to investigate, prosecute, punish, and provide reparations in cases of serious human rights violations. These may be aimed at strengthening the justice system, coordination between entities, and access to adequate and timely information and evidence; c) the presentation, debate, approval, and implementation of legal reforms aimed at non-repetition, designed to adapt criminal offenses, strengthen the powers of public entities responsible for investigating, punishing, and providing redress to victims of human rights violations, and guarantee the functional and administrative independence of the justice system. With regard to reparations, a legal norm should be adopted which clearly establishes the right to reparation for victims of human rights violations, as well as the specific mechanisms and powers necessary to this end.

Recommendation No. 31. Create and implement a national public policy to reduce prison overcrowding, including unified and efficient information management to identify the status of sentence compliance and expedite release orders.

273. In the Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR held that, although concrete progress has been made, challenges remain in the area of prison conditions. In this regard, it stressed that the lack of attention to the increased use of pretrial detention and the challenges in accessing alternative measures have led to alarming rates of overcrowding that endanger the lives and integrity of persons deprived of liberty. In this regard, it urged the State to correct the excessive use of pretrial detention by reducing its use and duration and ensuring that this measure is used only in exceptional cases and is limited to the principles which govern it[236].

Information on compliance

274. The State reported on various measures taken to reduce prison overcrowding [237]:

- Decongestion days in prisons throughout the country with the aim of reducing the prison population of people in pretrial detention, offering alternatives to the judicial process, such as summary proceedings, conditional suspension of sentences, conciliation, and the criterion of opportunity. In 2024, 1,677 people throughout the country benefited from this initiative.
- Review of cases and implementation of measures to improve the legal situation of persons deprived of liberty, performed by the Departmental Courts of Justice, the General Directorate of the Prison System, and the Plurinational Public Defense Service (SEPDEP).
- Reform and expansion of prison infrastructure, including the construction of prison complexes in the cities of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and Beni. It is also foreseen that prison infrastructure be reformed and expanded throughout the country.
- Prison identification systems, such as the "ED-4 Digital State Prison System," will contribute to the automated and centralized management of information on persons deprived of liberty.

[236] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., paras 500 and 512.
[237] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.

This system has been implemented in several prisons throughout the country and allows for the identification of the status of sentences served and the expediting of release orders.

275. For its part, civil society held that in August 2025, Instruction No. 19/202 was approved, ordering the implementation of prison decongestion days nationwide to verify compliance with pretrial detention[238], in coordination with the Public Ministry, SEPDEP, and the Departmental Directorates of the Penitentiary System, among other public and private entities. It should be noted that this has been questioned by inmates, since initially it only benefited three prisoners who have a public profile[239].

276. Likewise, it was noted that on March 25, 2025, Presidential Decree No. 5137 was enacted, granting amnesty and pardon on humanitarian grounds, although there is no information on the prison population that benefited from this measure. Along the same lines, in August 2025, the Executive approved the Draft Bill on Pardon and Amnesty, which must be submitted to the Legislative Assembly for consideration. In this regard, civil society held that, although palliative measures were approved to reduce prison overcrowding, their results are unknown.

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

277. The IACHR thanks the State and civil society for the information reported. In that sense, the recommendation aims to create and implement a national public policy to reduce overcrowding of prisons. Therefore, it aims to improve the management of information on sentences and release orders, as well as to evaluate the pretrial detention system used in judicial proceedings, which increases the prison population without criminal convictions.

278. It therefore welcomes actions aimed at strengthening technology and infrastructure and improving information on persons deprived of liberty, although the Commission considers that these actions should be accompanied by the adoption of a public policy to organize and strengthen them, so as to respond to the needs of persons deprived of liberty. It observes that progress has been made toward achieving the objective of the recommendation. Likewise, it should be noted that the granting of pardons and amnesties is not a strategy capable of having a significant and sustainable impact on prison overcrowding. Therefore, considering the information provided, the Commission concludes that this recommendation has been **partially fulfilled**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

279. The Commission requests that steps be taken to adopt and implement a national public policy aimed at reducing prison overcrowding. In this regard, this policy should include an information system that allows for monitoring changes in the prison population, defining the actions to be taken to achieve its goal, and establishing mechanisms to measure its impact. Furthermore, the Commission requests that the State report on how it has reconciled its obligations to investigate human rights violations with the measures of freedom and amnesty that have been approved.

Recommendation No. 32. Design and implement a public policy regarding the prison system that guarantees, under dignified conditions, access for persons deprived of liberty to food; safe drinking water; adequate, specialized, and quality medical care —including the regular provision of sexual and reproductive health services—; access to education at all levels; and a family life for children and adolescents.

[238] Supreme Court of Justice, Instruction 19/202, Approved on August 25, 2025.
[239] Construir Foundation, ibid., p. 23.

280. In its Report on Social Cohesion, the IACHR identified that the structural problem of overcrowding in Bolivia is particularly serious, with overcrowding rates exceeding 200% in several prisons, reaching up to 500%. This is mainly due to poor infrastructure, a lack of police personnel and security equipment, shortages of water and food, and inadequate medical care. In this regard, the IACHR urged the State to guarantee conditions of detention compatible with human dignity and respect for fundamental rights, ensuring dignified treatment of persons in State custody, pursuant to standards on deprivation of liberty and addressing the special risks that may arise from gender or other conditions of the detained population[240].

Information on compliance

281. With regard to compliance with this recommendation, the State reported that the General Directorate of the Prison System has the authority to guarantee basic services, as well as access to health care and education, through occupational therapy for the prison population. It also held that, in accordance with Law No. 2298 on Criminal Enforcement and Supervision[241], the work of maintaining family ties for persons deprived of liberty is guaranteed through conjugal and family visits[242].

282. In turn, the State stressed that persons deprived of liberty are allocated a "prediario," which is a sum of money (Bs. 8.00) intended for the daily survival of each person deprived of liberty in social detention centers, which is distributed on equal terms. Its payment is under the supervision of the departmental territorial entities.

283. In terms of healthcare, it was mentioned that medical and dental care is provided on a quarterly and biannual basis, and that health fairs with different specialties and vaccination campaigns are held for the prison population according to the season. It was also reported that medication is managed through donations. A national disability card is currently being developed.

284. With regard to access to education, information was provided on inter-institutional agreements with entities such as the Ministry of Education for the implementation of educational programs. For the 2024 management period, information was provided on the scope of the program, with a total of 491 people in university education and 197 in pre-university education nationwide[243].

285. For its part, civil society[244] held that, according to information requested from the General Directorate of the Prison System, during 2024, 94% of persons deprived of liberty were covered by the Unified Health System (SUS). With regard to social reinsertion, a Multidisciplinary Productive and Post-Care Center for Social Reinsertion has been set up in Santa Cruz, where persons deprived of liberty work in carpentry, crafts, and clothing manufacturing. At the Qalauma Social Reintegration Center for Young People, the Franz Tamayo Private University, El Alto campus, conducted an entrepreneurship training program with 85 young people. In terms of education and literacy, various programs, workshops, and agreements were implemented at the national level. Finally, with regard to infrastructure, civil society reported progress in the construction of visiting modules and improvements to the infrastructure of the prisons in Palmasola (Santa Cruz), San Pedro de Arani (Cochabamba), and Mocoví (Beni).

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

286. The Commission appreciates the information provided on the situation of persons deprived of liberty and access to basic services. In this regard, it considers that since the report was issued, measures have been maintained to ensure access to services such as food, education, and health care. However, it notes

[240] Report on Social Cohesion, ibid., para. 542.
[241] Law No. 2298 on Criminal Enforcement and Supervision, passed on December 20, 2001.
[242] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[243] Inter-American SIMORE, Report of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on compliance with the recommendations of the Report on Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia, December, 2024.
[244] Construir Foundation, ibid., p.s. 24-25.

that problems remain in ensuring that these services effectively respond to the diverse needs of persons deprived of liberty, particularly certain vulnerable groups.

287. In the fourth cycle of the UPR, Bolivia was recommended to intensify its efforts to ensure dignified treatment of persons deprived of liberty. The conditions of deprivation of liberty were also mentioned, and it was held that these should be brought into line with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules)[245].

288. Nonetheless, the IACHR continues to express concern about the conditions of deprivation of liberty identified in the Report on Social Cohesion, which raised concerns about detention conditions affected by budget constraints. Added to this are limitations on access to sufficient and quality food and, in some cases, safe drinking water, which remain a cause for concern. Thus, the IACHR stresses that the development of public policy aimed at responding to the particular needs of certain groups and guaranteeing access to fundamental rights for human dignity is a persistent challenge; therefore, it considers that this recommendation is **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to move forward in the compliance of the recommendation

289. In order to advance compliance with this recommendation, the IACHR requests that information be updated on the measures adopted to design and implement a public policy aimed at guaranteeing access for persons deprived of liberty to food; safe drinking water; adequate, specialized, and quality medical care—including the regular provision of sexual and reproductive health services—; access to education at all levels; and a family life for children and adolescents. In this regard, such a policy should help to coordinate the provision of basic services for persons deprived of liberty, including: a) the content and scope of educational programs, as well as inter-institutional agreements; b) information on access to health care, ensuring that it is adequate, specialized, and timely; c) the protection of children and adolescents.

III. SUMMARY TABLE OF LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

290. The following chart shows the level of compliance by the Plurinational State of Bolivia with regard to the 32 recommendations in the Country Report that were analyzed in this follow-up report:

Recommendation number	Level of compliance 2025
1	Partial compliance
2	Pending compliance
3	Pending compliance
4	Partial compliance
5	Partial compliance
6	Pending compliance
7	Partial compliance
8	Pending compliance
9	Partial compliance

[245] United Nations Organization (ONU), Human Rights Council, , Report of the Work Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, A/HRC/59/7, March 19, 2025, para. 122.20.

10	Partial compliance
11	Partial compliance
12	Pending compliance
13	Pending compliance
14	Partial compliance
15	Pending compliance
16	Pending compliance
17	Pending compliance
18	Total
19	Partial compliance
20	Pending compliance
21	Pending compliance
22	Pending compliance
23	Pending compliance
24	Partial compliance
25	Pending compliance
26	Partial compliance
27	Pending compliance
28	Partial compliance
29	Partial compliance
30	Pending compliance
31	Partial compliance
32	Pending compliance

IV. CONCLUSIONS

291. Full compliance with the recommendations of the IACHR by OAS member states is essential to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights in the region and strengthen the effectiveness of the Inter-American human rights system. In exercising its mandate to follow up on these decisions, the Commission prepares reports identifying progress, challenges, and setbacks in the adoption of compliance measures that it has requested from States through its different work mechanisms.

292. This follow-up report details the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Commission in the Report on Social Cohesion, approved on January 20, 2024, by the IACHR. The recommendations contained therein were formulated based on the findings and information obtained by the IACHR before, during, and after its on-site visit from March 27 to 31, 2023.

293. In the aforementioned report, the IACHR included 32 recommendations addressed to the State, in accordance with the following three thematic areas: (i) social cohesion, (ii) pending challenges in human rights, and (iii) strengthening democratic institutions.

294. Based on the General Guidelines for Follow-up on Recommendations and Decisions of the IACHR, this follow-up report identifies the compliance measures adopted, the progress made, and the challenges in implementing the recommendations analyzed[246]. In preparing the report, the IACHR received information from the State on December 12, 2024, through the SIMORE platform. Subsequently, on July 21,

[246] IACHR, General Guidelines for Follow-up on Recommendations and Decisions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, OAS/Ser.L/V/II. Doc.385/23 (second edition), November 20, 2023.

2025, the IACHR requested that the Plurinational State of Bolivia respond within 30 days regarding its compliance with the recommendations contained in the Country Report. The State provided the requested information on August 20, 2025. For its part, the IACHR also sent a questionnaire to civil society organizations in order to obtain information relevant to the follow-up of the recommendations. Some of these responses were published through the Inter-American SIMORE.

295. For this follow-up report, the Commission concluded that, of the 32 recommendations analyzed, one has achieved full compliance (3.13%); none has achieved substantial partial compliance (0%); 13 are partially fulfilled (40.62%); and 18 are pending compliance (56.25%). The IACHR reiterates to the State the importance of effectively complying with the recommendations that have not been entirely fulfilled. The following are the main findings of the IACHR regarding compliance with the recommendations, according to the following thematic areas.

296. With regard to the first thematic area, social cohesion, the IACHR welcomed the interest in creating spaces for dialogue between State entities and civil society actors. These dialogues should serve as the basis for building mechanisms that allow public problems to be addressed in a pluralistic and consensual manner. However, their organization, their inclusion, and the tools generated to strengthen the capacity for dialogue with their main actors are still far from meeting their aims.

297. On the second axis, the remaining challenges in the human rights field:

a) With regard to indigenous peoples, although progress has been made in mechanisms for recognition and land titling, as well as in the implementation of prior consultation processes, there are still challenges to adequately protect indigenous autonomies, their territories, and the exercise of the right to prior and informed consultation. Thus, the IACHR emphasized the State's obligation to strengthen public policies aimed at respecting and guaranteeing their rights, adapting internal procedures and institutions, and providing adequate spaces for dialogue and consultation for their protection.

b) In the case of women and LGBTI persons, the Commission recognizes that progress has been made in the adoption of executive branch regulations which promote access to rights and protection from gender-based violence for these two groups. However, the Commission highlights the need to adopt statutes that provide a higher level of protection and promote proper implementation for all affected persons.

c) With regard to measures to prevent and remedy the effects of pollution and protect drinking water, the Commission has identified measures to preventively address the effects of pollution. However, emphasis was placed on requesting the strengthening of participation mechanisms for the instruments and plans to be implemented, the creation of timely and adequate mechanisms for redress for those affected, and the identification and addressing of gaps in access to drinking water services on an equal rights basis.

d) In the case of education and health services for the population, as well as access to social security and decent working conditions for domestic workers, the Commission stresses the need to improve the current regulatory framework but, above all, to strengthen implementation mechanisms, considering the impact they have on vulnerable groups and the characteristics that such services must meet.

298. With regard to strengthening democratic institutions:

a) The Commission highlights the need to create conditions that improve trust in institutions, particularly by strengthening judicial independence, protecting electoral authorities by extending to them the same guarantees for the exercise of their work as those afforded to members of the courts of justice, and protecting human rights defenders with early warning systems that allow risks against them to be identified and prevented.

b) With regard to freedom of expression, the State must strengthen the protection of journalists, prevent them from being harmed or stigmatized for fulfilling their role, and guarantee the impartial and

objective distribution of official advertising, without discrimination or interference in the editorial policies of the media.

c) The State implemented the National Population and Housing Census and published its results. The census was conducted taking into account the inclusion of categories disaggregated by ethnic-racial origin and disability.

d) Access to justice for those who have been victims of serious violations of their rights, as well as those affected by the disproportionate use of force, remains an urgent issue in Bolivia. Thus, although the Commission identified some management and investigation measures to strengthen such protection, the limited progress and setbacks in the judicial sphere highlight the lack of guarantees in relation to these events.

e) The Commission recognized actions aimed at strengthening the legal framework to ensure the use of objective criteria in the preselection, selection, and appointment of judicial authorities for the courts and the Council of the Magistrature. In this regard, it highlighted the technical cooperation between the IACHR and the State in the period leading up to the electoral process. However, measures still need to be adopted to ensure that judicial proceedings are conducted within the time frame provided for by the law, in order to prevent the justice system from suffering delays that could undermine public confidence in society at large.

f) The comprehensive reform of the justice system includes measures adopted by the State that have enabled progress in formalizing justice operators, both in the judiciary and in the Public Ministry. However, the State must allocate adequate resources for its effective functioning, and this must involve all entities that have an impact on the justice system.

g) The use of pretrial detention and the mismanagement of the prison system affect the rights of the prison population, hindering their adequate access to education, health, and food services, among others, and generating detrimental effects on the exercise of their rights.

299. Finally, the Commission expresses its gratitude for the information provided by both the State and civil society organizations for the preparation of this follow-up report. It also reiterates its willingness to provide technical assistance to promote the implementation of the recommendations analyzed, pursuant to applicable Inter-American standards.

REASONED VOTE BY COMMISSIONER CARLOS BERNAL PULIDO ON THE REPORT "FOLLOW-UP TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE IACHR IN THE SOCIAL COHESION REPORT: THE CHALLENGE FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY" IN RELATION TO BOLIVIA

With all due respect to my colleagues, and in accordance with Article 19.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ("the Commission" or "the IACHR") and in exercise of the right to freedom of expression, I submit this partially dissenting opinion in relation to the report "Follow-up to Recommendations Made by the IACHR in the Social Cohesion Report: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy" in relation to Bolivia, hereinafter "the Report." In this vote, I reiterate considerations made by the IACHR in the Social Cohesion Report that violate the Inter-American legal framework. Specifically, I will refer to: (i) the fact that the Report contains considerations that disregard the Inter-American legal framework and pose a risk to unborn persons; (ii) the scope of conscientious objection and women's access to information on matters related to their sexual and reproductive health; (iii) considerations related to the sexual and reproductive education of children and adolescents; and (iv) disregard for the vision incorporated by the ACHR on marriage and the scope for configuration in matters of adoption in relation to LGTBIQ persons.

1. El Informe contiene consideraciones que desconocen el marco jurídico interamericano y suponen un riesgo para las personas en gestación

Paragraph 63 of the report reads:

> "1. In the Social Cohesion Report, the IACHR took note of the State's training of public health personnel on women's right to access legal interruption of pregnancy, which was recognized by Bolivian law. However, despite these advances, multiple complaints about obstacles to accessing health services, particularly regarding ignorance on the part of health personnel, indicate that the ruling of the Plurinational Constitutional Court, which eliminated the requirement of judicial authorization to access legal termination of pregnancy in cases permitted by law, is not being fully complied with. Likewise, the absence of an educational and public health policy that prioritizes sexual and reproductive rights was noted.
>
> 66. For its part, the civil society reported that according to the report of the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations on Women's Rights for the Universal Periodic Review, the report of the Ombudsman's Office on "The situation of legal interruption of pregnancy as a human right of women" holds that there are still obstacles and impediments to accessing the service, since users who go to a health facility, even minors, are repeatedly subjected to questioning by medical staff, whether due to prejudice, ignorance of the law, or arbitrary decisions, even when they have been victims of sexual violence. Thus, the civil society held that although training is provided, there is no permanent national policy aimed at health services in a decentralized manner.

On this point, I will address the following issues: (i) the erroneous use of the concept of "legal interruption of pregnancy"; (ii) the non-existence of the right to abortion and the scope for state regulation; and (iii) the lack of protection for the unborn child.

1.1 Misuse of the term "legal interruption of pregnancy"

I highlight the importance of the IACHR using precise and appropriate language in its reports. This emphasizes the imperative of using accurate and rigorous language to ensure that decisions are based on clear understandings. In fact, on several occasions, the Commission itself has recognized the need for conceptual precision in the documents it issues[247] and has repeatedly emphasized the importance of correct use of language[248].

Language is, in fact, a fundamental element of human communication and the expression of thought, functioning as a dialectical unit in which both mutually condition each other[249]. It plays an essential role in decision-making, especially through its representative or referential function, which is aimed at conveying information, describing facts, and expressing ideas in a clear, accurate, and objective manner, so that they serve as a solid basis for the decisions that are adopted[250].

Therefore, the appropriate and rigorous use of language in IACHR reports ensures that the message is clear and understandable to all recipients. Beyond the simple transmission of data, this linguistic rigor legitimizes the technical-legal analysis and conclusions raised by the IACHR.

In light of the above, it is particularly problematic that the report uses the term "voluntary interruption of pregnancy" when these issues revolve around "abortion." However, it is essential to draw a clear conceptual distinction between the two terms.

I reiterate that abortion is a form of pregnancy termination performed with the direct intention of causing the death of the fetus, or in other words, of ending prenatal life[251]. Thus, it may involve termination before the fetus is viable or even the destruction of a viable fetus[252]. To that extent, an abortion will only be successful when it causes the death of the human being in gestation[253].

On the contrary, the expression "interruption of pregnancy" may suggest that the gestational process is likely to resume at a later date. However, as indicated, abortion necessarily involves the termination of pregnancy through the death of the human being in gestation.

I therefore consider it essential to use the appropriate terminology in order to avoid misunderstandings regarding the interpretation and the decision adopted by the Commission. Consequently, in my vote I will refer specifically to the conduct of abortion.

1.2 Inexistence of a right to abortion in the Inter-American Human Rights System

Without ignoring the regulatory changes adopted by some states, in this case Bolivia, which authorize access to abortion, I consider it necessary to highlight, as I have done in multiple votes[254], that there are no binding

[247] IACHR. Indirect violations of freedom of expression: The impact of concentration in media ownership; IACHR. Chapter IV. Report on access to information in the hemisphere: Access to information and economic development; IACHR. Guidelines for the development of indicators of progress in economic, social, and cultural rights. 2008.

[248] IACHR. The right of children to a family. Alternative care. Ending institutionalization in the Americas. 2013.

[249] Juan Alberto Mena Lorenzo, Noemí Sarracino Alum. Professional technical language in the training of future workers. Mendive, ISSN-e 1815-7696, Vol. 6, No. 4, 2008 (Issue dedicated to: October-December), pp. 234-241.

[250] Ibidem.

[251] Seeds JW. Direct Abortion or Legitimate Medical Procedure Double Effect? Linacre Q. 2012 Feb;79(1):81-87. doi: 10.1179/002436312803571546. Epub 2012 Feb 1. PMID: 30082962; PMCID: PMC6027086.

[252] Seeds JW. Direct Abortion or Legitimate Medical Procedure Double Effect? Linacre Q. 2012 Feb;79(1):81-87. doi: 10.1179/002436312803571546. Epub 2012 Feb 1. PMID: 30082962; PMCID: PMC6027086.

[253] Seeds JW. Direct Abortion or Legitimate Medical Procedure Double Effect? Linacre Q. 2012 Feb;79(1):81-87. doi: 10.1179/002436312803571546. Epub 2012 Feb 1. PMID: 30082962; PMCID: PMC6027086.

[254] Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4A_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_5_ElSalvador_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Report on the Situation in Honduras – 2023, https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter IV.A. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4B_VEN_ES.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter vs. El

sources in international law—and especially in the American Convention or other treaties that make up the Inter-American System—that contemplate (i) the so-called right to abortion or (ii) a corresponding obligation for States to provide abortion services. Within this context, States have broad discretion—by virtue of the principles of subsidiarity or complementarity and representative democracy—to take measures to protect prenatal life[255] which include, although not exclusively, the use of criminal law.

In light of the lack of abortion rights, former IHR Court judge Eduardo Vio Grossi made it clear in his partially dissenting opinion on the ruling in the case of Manuela and others vs. El Salvador:

> "And in this regard, it is indisputable that (...) there is no Inter-American or international legal norm, whether conventional, international custom, or general principle of law, that recognizes abortion as a right. There are only resolutions from international bodies, most of which are made up of international officials and not representatives of States, decisions that, in addition to not being binding, do not interpret current international law but rather reflect aspirations for it to change in the direction they suggest"[256].

In fact, it should be noted that the Inter-American Court recently heard the case of Beatriz vs. El Salvador, in which the IACHR and the victims' representatives alleged the existence of a "right to abortion." However, in its judgment, the Court did not establish the existence of such a right[257]. This is yet another example of the lack of a binding legal source from which a supposed right to abortion can be derived.

However, I would like to emphasize that this margin of configuration, derived from the absence of a right to abortion and the convergence of conflicting rights, is broadened by the competence of States to define punishable conduct and its consequences, and by the automatic referral that, according to the IHR Court, Article 7.2 of the American Convention makes to domestic law for matters related to deprivation of liberty—the principle of legal reservation—[258].

This is relevant when considering that, based on a systematic reading of Articles 31, 76, and 77 of the American Convention, only through consensus—expressed by the States through the signing and ratification of amendments or treaties—can international obligations arise that are additional to those already contemplated in the ACHR.

In conclusion, international human rights law—and in particular the Inter-American System—does not recognize abortion as a right, nor does it impose an obligation on States to guarantee, promote, protect, or provide it as a service. On the contrary, the American Convention expressly protects life as of conception and grants States a margin of discretion to adopt the measures they deem appropriate for its protection, within the framework of their democratic principles and legislative sovereignty.

The true response of the state to the violence, neglect, and inequality suffered by girls, adolescents, and women cannot be the elimination of a human life, but rather the implementation of effective and comprehensive policies for prevention, support, and justice.

Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_5_SLV_ES.PDF; Partially dissenting vote. Annual Report 2024 - Chapter IV.A Development of human rights in the region - overview of the human rights situation by country. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4A_ES.PDF, p. 201.

[255] ACHR. Article 4.

[256] Partially Dissenting Opinion of Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Case of Manuela and Others vs. El Salvador, Judgment of November 2, 2021, (Preliminary Exceptions, Merits, Reparations, and Costs) Paragraph 13.

[257] IHR Court. Case of Beatriz and Others vs. El Salvador. Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of November 22, 2024. Series C No. 549.

[258] IHR Court. Case of Romero Feris vs. Argentina. Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of October 15, 2019. Series C No. 391. Para. 77.

1.3 Lack of protection for the unborn in the Report

Thirdly, I note that in this report, as in others on which I have cast my vote[259], references to abortion ignore the other person whose right to life is also protected by convention: the unborn child. Thus, the necessary balance that must exist between the conflicting rights of all internationally protected persons is ignored. In this regard, it should be noted that unborn persons are also subjects of law and holders of the right to life. A ruling on abortion always implies a position on a practice that necessarily involves the termination of the life of a human being worthy of dignity and protected by Article 4 of the ACHR. It is therefore necessary to expressly recognize the rights of the unborn person as part of the balancing required in every case of abortion.

On this point, Article 1.2 of the ACHR clearly establishes that, for the purposes of the Convention, a "person" is any human being[260]. Thus, in light of the Convention, human rights are not only recognized for persons who have already been born, but protection must be afforded to all individuals from the moment of conception, understanding them as human beings. Furthermore, the IHR Court itself, in its Advisory Opinion 22, held that, without being a matter open to interpretation, the term "person" is equivalent to the term "human being" for the purposes of the ACHR[261].

It is biologically and materially indisputable that the developing fetus is a human being[262]. Furthermore, the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights states that "the human genome is the basis of the fundamental unity of all members of the human family and of the recognition of their inherent dignity and diversity. In a symbolic sense, the human genome is the patrimony of humanity"[263].

The consequence of recognizing the unborn as a person insofar as a human being is that it becomes the holder of rights. Thus, the ACHR establishes in the Articles that develop rights the formula "Every person (...)".[264]. Likewise, human rights instruments generally recognize the entitlement of members of the human species to rights, in particular the right to life[265].

Even in the Artavia Murillo ruling, the IHR Court determined that "the protection of the right to life is not absolute, but gradual and incremental as the fetus develops." This implies that, without prejudice to the concepts of graduality and incrementality (from which I completely disagree), the Court has already established that unborn persons must be protected by the State in their "right to life." Similarly, in the ruling

[259] Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4A_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_5_ElSalvador_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Report on the Situation in Honduras – 2023, https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter IV.A. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4B_VEN_ES.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter vs. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_5_SLV_ES.PDF; Partially dissenting vote. Annual Report 2024 - Chapter IV.A Development of human rights in the region - overview of the human rights situation by country. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4A_ES.PDF, p. 201.

[260] ACHR. Art. 1.2 "For the purposes of this Convention, a person is every human being."

[261] I/A Court H.R. AO-22/16. Ownership of rights by legal entities in the Inter-American Human Rights System. Advisory Opinion of February 26, 2016. Series A. No. 22. Para. 48.

[262] Kaluger, G., and Kaluger, M., Human Development: The Span of Life, The C.V.

[263] Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights. Article 1.

[264] American Convention on Human Rights. Articles 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24 and 25.

[265] International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Preamble, para. 3; American Convention on Human Rights, para. 3. Preamble; African Charter on Human Rights. Preamble, para. 6; Geneva Declaration on the Rights of Children. Preamble, para. 1; American Declaration of the International Rights and Duties of Man. Art. 1; Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Preamble, para. 1; Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Preamble, para. 2; European Convention on Human Rights. Preamble, para. 2.

on the Cuscul Pivaral case[266], The IHR Court applied the ACHR to an unborn person and also applied Article 19 of the ACHR, thereby recognizing the legal status of the unborn person as a child.

In the same vein, I emphasize that the preamble to the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children need protection and care both before and after birth[267]. This implies that, in light of the CRC, the unborn child is a child who requires special care. This was reiterated in the preparatory work for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[268].

In short, a comprehensive interpretation of the Inter-American System and international human rights law leads to the recognition of the unborn child as a subject of rights, particularly the right to life, protected from conception by Article 4 of the American Convention. Ignoring this protection means arbitrarily excluding a human being from the moral and legal community of persons, running counter to the principle of human dignity that forms the basis of the international human rights order.

Therefore, any decision or ruling on abortion requires a genuine balancing of the conflicting rights—not the suppression of one of them—ensuring that the protection of prenatal life is coordinated with comprehensive care and the guarantee of rights of pregnant women. Only a balanced and respectful approach to all conventionally recognized rights can be considered consistent with the American Convention.

2. Scope of conscientious objection and women's access to information on matters related to their sexual and reproductive health

Paragraph 70 of the Report stated:

> "In its Social Cohesion Report, the IACHR has noticed that women, girls, and adolescents, as well as their families, face stigmatization, harassment, and abuse by healthcare personnel and third parties when they go to health centers to undergo a legal interruption of pregnancy. In many cases, their privacy and confidentiality as users of a health service is also violated, as their data is leaked to the press or to religious groups and organizations that oppose legal interruption of pregnancy. In this regard, the IACHR has held that States must guarantee that women, girls, adolescents, and all pregnant persons have access to reproductive health services, even in situations of conscientious objection in the health field, since conscientious objection is an individual decision and not an institutional or collective one"

In turn Paragraph 73 holds:

> "The Commission appreciates the information sent by the State and the civil society. It also notes that there is still no bill or other measure aimed at regulating conscientious objection within the regulatory framework. The IACHR therefore expresses its concern about the negative impact this may be having on the exercise of individuals' rights to access legal interruption of pregnancy. It therefore considers that this recommendation is still pending compliance".

[266] I/A Court H.R. Case of Cuscul Pivaral vs. Guatemala. Judgment of August 23, 2018. "On the other hand, the Court has pointed out that extreme poverty and the lack of adequate medical care for pregnant women or women who have recently given birth are causes of high maternal mortality and morbidity, and therefore States must provide adequate health policies that allow for assistance with personnel adequately trained in childbirth care, policies for the prevention of maternal mortality through adequate prenatal and postpartum checkups, and legal and administrative instruments in health policies that allow for the adequate documentation of cases of maternal mortality. Likewise, the Court has recognized that, under Article 19 of the Convention, the State must assume a special position of guarantor with greater care and responsibility and must take special measures guided by the principle of the best interests of the child".

[267] Convention on the Rights of the Child. Preamble.

[268] "The main reason for stipulating in Paragraph 4 [now Article 6(5)] of the original text that the death penalty should not be applied to pregnant women was to save the innocent life of the unborn child. United Nations. General Assembly. Report of the Third Committee on the Draft International Covenants on Human Rights. A/3764. Page 40.

In this regard, I will refer to: (i) the scope of conscientious objection in the Inter-American Human Rights System and (ii) women's right to access information on issues such as abortion.

2.1 The scope of the right to conscientious objection in the Inter-American Human Rights System

With regard to conscientious objection in the field of health, I would like to make two observations. First, conscientious objection, like any right, can of course come into conflict with other fundamental guarantees. However, this must be analyzed on a case-by-case basis under criteria of proportionality in conflicts that arise between the exercise of conscientious objection and other rights[269].

An interpretation that seeks to generically annul conscientious objection in contexts such as abortion without taking into account the particularities of each case (i) would render freedom of conscience and religion meaningless; (ii) would imply consolidating a hierarchical view of rights—far removed from the foundations of international human rights law; (iii) would completely depart from the logic of balancing rights; and (iv) would therefore represent a very serious attack on one of the most important guarantees of every person's internal sovereignty.

On the other hand, recognizing the full exercise of conscientious objection on the basis of Article 12 ACHR would be consistent with the high value that the jurisprudence of the IHR Court has placed on pluralism and the protection of cultural identity[270].

Having said all of the above, I reiterate that conscientious objection is a means of protecting rights and not an obstacle. Interpreting it as such implies an intense and unjustified—and completely unwarranted—limitation on the exercise of freedom of conscience. I emphasize that the Commission's role is to protect and defend human rights, not to tacitly repeal them.

Secondly, with regard to institutional or collective conscientious objection, I reiterate[271] that although legal entities do not possess a moral conscience, in many situations, the rights and obligations attributed to legal entities are resolved in the rights and obligations of the natural persons who constitute them or who act on their behalf or in their representation. In this sense, it could be natural persons whose rights are violated in cases of institutional conscientious objection, which would make the study of international responsibility for the violation of this right completely valid. In this regard, the I/A Court H.R. has established that:

> "Although legal persons are not expressly recognized by the American Convention, as they are by Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights, **this does not restrict the possibility that, under certain circumstances, individuals may turn to the Inter-American Human Rights Protection System to assert their fundamental rights, even when those rights are covered by a legal concept or fiction created by the legal system itself**[272]" (Bold text not in the original text).

The Inter-American Court has considered that, on occasions, "the rights and obligations attributed to legal persons are resolved in the rights and obligations of the natural persons who comprise them or who act on their behalf or in their representation"[273]. Likewise, it has established that "the recognition of rights to legal

[269] I/A Court H.R. Case Law Booklet No. 26: Restriction and suspension of human rights.
[270] Ibidem.
[271] Dissenting vote. Report on Religious Freedom Standards.
[272] I/A Court H.R. OC-22/16.
[273] I/A Court H.R. Case of Cantos Vs. Argentina. Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of November 28, 2002. Series C No. 97.

entities may directly or indirectly imply the protection of the human rights of the natural persons associated with them[274]".

Furthermore, it is reductionist to consider that only individuals have the right to define their actions in accordance with their convictions or values. In this regard, it is clear that, although legal entities do not have a moral conscience, they are capable, as institutions, of adopting ideologies and institutional ethical instruments that guide the way they work and act[275]. Therefore, it is clear that there are convictions or values in institutions that are also subject to protection.

On the other hand, by virtue of the right of association, not only does one have the freedom to associate with other people freely without intervention by public authorities, but one also enjoys the right and freedom to seek the common realization of a lawful end, without pressure or interference that could alter or distort its purpose[276]. This issue is essential, since one of the ways of forming an association is through the establishment of legal entities, and in any case, the possibility of conscientious objection could materialize the pursuit or preservation of the association's aims.

That said, I emphasize that regardless of whether or not a legal entity's right to conscientious objection is recognized, expressions of convictions or beliefs must be protected in accordance with the implications that may arise for individuals, not only in terms of their right to religious freedom, but also their right to freedom of association. In any case, the provisions of domestic legal systems must be taken into account.

2.2 Failure to uphold women's right to comprehensive, accurate, and diverse information about their sexual and reproductive health

The report omitted women's right to broad, truthful and pluralistic information about their sexual and reproductive health which constitutes an essential dimension of freedom of expression and the right to health recognized in international human rights law[277]. As noted by the IACHR in its reports —including Merits Report No. 72/14[278] and the Beatriz case[279] —, access to information is an essential requirement for guaranteeing autonomy, personal integrity, and the possibility of making free and informed decisions regarding health. While the protection of personal data and medical confidentiality are guarantees that must be rigorously safeguarded, this cannot be interpreted or applied in a way that unjustifiably restricts women's access to comprehensive information about abortion procedures, risks, alternatives, and consequences.

In this sense, limiting the dissemination of or access to information on abortion affects not only the rights of women as recipients, but also the collective dimension of freedom of expression and, therefore, democratic debate on a matter of public interest. Although I do not fully agree with the rulings of the ECHR in the cases of Open Door and Dublin Well Woman[280] vs. Ireland and Annen vs. Germany[281], the Court emphasized that restrictions on the circulation of information or the expression of critical views on abortion must be subject to strict scrutiny, precisely because they concern the formation of public opinion on issues of high ethical and social sensitivity. Consequently, States have a positive obligation to ensure that women have access to diverse and verified information, so that the right to confidentiality does not become a barrier to the full exercise of autonomy and freedom of thought.

[274] I/A Court H.R. OC-22/16

[275] Scholarship I, Juan Pablo, & Astete A, Carmen. (2015). Conscientious objection in medical practice. *Chilean Medical Journal*, 143(4), 493-498. https://dx.doi.org/10.4067/S0034-98872015000400011.

[276] I/A Court H.R. Case of Cantoral Huamaní and García Santa Cruz Vs. Peru. Preliminary Exception, Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of July 10, 2007. Series C No. 167. Paragraph 144.

[277] Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Access to reproductive health information from a human rights perspective, OAS/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 61, November 22, 2022. Report 332/20.

[278] IACHR. Report No. 72/14.

[279] IACHR. IACHR Access to reproductive health information from a human rights perspective.

[280] European Court on Human Rights, case of Open Door and Dublin Well Woman vs. Ireland, complaints N° 14234/88 and 14235/88, judgment of October 29, 1992, Series A, No. 246-A.

[281] European Court on Human Rights, case of Annen vs. Germany, complaints N°. 3690/10, judgment of November 26, 2015.

3. Regarding sexual and reproductive education for children and adolescents

Paragraph 63 of the Report holds that "the absence of an education and public health policy that prioritizes sexual and reproductive rights was observed". In this regard, I will refer to: (i) the need to serve the best interests of children and adolescents and avoid their hypersexualization, and (ii) the exercise of parents' right to choose their children's education in these matters.

3.1 The need to serve the best interests of children and adolescents and prevent their hypersexualization

In light of the restrictions imposed on sexual and reproductive education, as well as education on sexual and gender diversity aimed at a children and adolescents, I reiterate[282] that it is essential to also recognize that it is vital to take into account the role of the family, society, and the State in protecting the rights of children, and therefore a broad dialogue must be opened that recognizes the needs of children according to their stage of development. Sex education without the recognition and mitigation of these risks can cause serious violations of the rights of girls and boys.

I emphasize that the best interests of children and adolescents are a guiding principle that should govern all government actions. Indeed, this principle is enshrined in binding instruments of the Universal Human Rights System (UHRS)[283], the Inter-American Human Rights System (IAHRS)[284] and the European System of Human Rights (ESHR)[285].

In the UHRS, the best interests of the child are enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Indeed, Article 3.1 of the CRC provides that "In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration." And the CEDAW, in Article 5.b, enshrines the obligation of States Parties to " To ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children, it being understood that the interest of the children is the primordial consideration in all cases".

In the Inter-American System, the ACHR recognizes this principle in Article 19, providing that "every child has the right to the measures of protection required by his or her status as a minor from his or her family, society, and the State".

This principle has been extensively developed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in General Comment 14. In this Comment, the Committee held that the best interest of the child is an umbrella term which encompasses three dimensions, namely: (i) a fundamental right of the child, (ii) a basic and interpretative principle, and (iii) a procedural rule[286].

With regard to the content of this principle, the Committee held that it implies that any action involving a child must consider the child's best interest as a primary consideration[287]. Hence, according to the Committee, the application of this principle means that not only must the interests of the child be considered, but their interests must always take precedence when they clash with other principles or interests.

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[282] Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter V. ElSalvador. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_5_SLV_ES.PDF

[283] 37 Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 3.1; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Article 5.b).

[284] American Convention on Human Rights. Article 19

[285] TEDH. R.L y others vs Denmark

[286] Committee on the Rights of the Child. General Comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (art. 3, para. 1). CRC/C/GC/14.

[287] Committee on the Rights of the Child. General Comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (art. 3, para. 1). CRC/C/GC/14.

In accordance with the above, all public policies implemented by States within the framework of their functions must take into account the interests of children and adolescents as an essential consideration. As a public policy, Comprehensive Sexual Education must also be governed by the best interests of children and adolescents.

I would like to raise a growing concern in this regard regarding sex education policies, namely the hypersexualization of children and adolescents. Hypersexualization represents a risk that disproportionately affects children. This has been recognized by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in General Comment 20, which states that "the digital environment can also expose adolescents to risks, including, among others, (...) **hypersexualization**".[288] The Committee has reiterated this in several reports, arguing that hypersexualization is a problem that must be addressed by States, as it jeopardizes the rights of children and adolescents[289].

Sex education, therefore, should be a means of preventing the hypersexualization of children and adolescents[290] and not a mechanism to promote it. Consistent with this, the ECHR has established that for sex education to be in line with the Convention, it must aim to provide children with **correct, precise, objective and scientific knowledge on the matter, presented in a manner appropriate to their age[291]**.

In light of the above, the ECHR has held that a sex education policy aimed at children and adolescents should: (i) be based on the principle of objectivity[292]; (ii) approach the issues in a neutral manner[293]; (iii) offer a precise and scientific approach to the subject[294] and (iv) make sure topics are presented in a way that is appropriate for the age and cognitive development of the child or teen[295]. In this context, the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights has held that sex education, "entails a right to comprehensive, non-discriminatory education on sexuality and reproduction", **based on evidence, scientifically rigorous, and age-appropriate**"[296] (Bold text not in the original text).

In this sense, the I/A Court H.R. has defined a goal that must be pursued and cannot be overlooked. In particular, it has stated that: "Such education must be capable of enabling girls and boys to adequately understand the implications of sexual and emotional relationships, particularly in relation to consent to such relationships and the exercise of freedoms with respect to their sexual and reproductive rights"[297].

However, the report completely omitted any analysis or consideration of the relationship and impact that this type of education may have on the best interests of children and adolescents, and the need for safeguards to prevent the hypersexualization of children and adolescents.

In short, sexual and reproductive education must be implemented with strict respect for the best interests of the child, ensuring an objective, scientific approach that is appropriate to their age and level of development. This means that States, in exercising their margin of discretion, must adopt measures aimed at protecting children and adolescents from hypersexualization and any practice that disregards their developmental maturity or their right to a comprehensive education. Likewise, educational policies must recognize the fundamental role of the family and foster values such as responsibility, self-control, and the protection of human life since conception.

[288] General Comment No. 20 (2016) on the effectiveness of children's rights during adolescence.
[289] Consideration of the reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention. Fifth periodic reports of States parties due in 2012; Committee on the Rights of the Child. Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2015.
[290] Universidad de La Sabana. La hipersexualización de la infancia. https://www.unisabana.edu.co/portaldenoticias/al-dia/la-hipersexualizacion-de-la-infancia/.
[291] TEDH. Case of Macatė vs. Lithuania.
[292] TEDH. Bayev and Others vs. Russia. 2018. Para. 72; Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen and Pedersen vs Denmark. 1976. Paragraph 53.
[293] TEDH. Macatė vs. Lithuania. 2023. Para. 68.
[294] TEDH. Macatė vs. Lithuania. 2023. Para. 207; Bayev and Others vs. Russia. 2018. Para. 72.
[295] TEDH. Macatė vs. Lithuania. 2023. Para. 68.
[296] ESCR Committee, General Comment No. 22 on the right to sexual and reproductive health (Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), paras. 9 and 49.
[297] I/A Court H.R. Case of Guzmán Albarracín and others vs. Ecuador. Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of June 24, 2020. Series C No. 405, Para. 139.

3.2 The application of parents' right to choose their children's education in these matters

I reiterate[298] that in all discussions concerning the sexual and reproductive education of children, the right of parents to choose their children's education, as recognized in Article 12.4 of the ACHR, must be safeguarded. The aforementioned article provides that **"Parents or guardians, as the case may be, have the right to provide for the religious and moral education** of their children or wards that is in accord with their own convictions" (Bold type not in the original).

This same guarantee has been provided for in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[299], the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights[300], the Convention on the Rights of the Child[301] and the Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights[302]. According to the ECHR, the **Parents' right to choose their children's education, including sex education**, is an aspect of the right to respect for private and family life protected by the ECHR[303].

Thus, there is consensus in international human rights law with regard to the existence and recognition of this right of parents. The Inter-American Commission has understood that the right of parents to choose their children's education (i) must be interpreted in conjunction with the rights of children and adolescents, especially the right to education[304] and (ii) it must comply with the provisions of Inter-American instruments that establish that education should be oriented toward teaching children to respect human rights, civil liberties, and tolerance[305].

Of course, I agree with these criteria; however, it cannot be overlooked that: (i) all types of education must respect the best interests of children as a guiding principle, and (ii) the right of parents to choose their children's education is derived from the right itself to education for children; for which reason, there is a false dilemma in considering that both rights are incompatible.

Thus, the ECHR, within the framework of its interpretation of Article 2 of Protocol No. 1, has held that[306], it is the fundamental right to education on which the right of parents to respect for their philosophical and religious convictions is based. According to the European Court of Human Rights, although this right rests with parents, it also rests with children, who have the right to education and teaching[307].

This right undoubtedly has an impact on sexual and reproductive education, since, like any other type of education, it must come within the scope of protection of the conventional right, recognized by international human rights law, which grants parents the right to choose their children's education, pursuant to Article 12.4 of the convention.

Issues related to sexuality, reproduction, sexual diversity, and gender are closely intertwined and have a significant impact on people's value systems. Therefore, sex education is an integral part of the moral education of children and adolescents. The broad social discussions on the subject and the diverse views that may arise from different value systems in a region as pluralistic as ours cannot be ignored. Therefore, it cannot be

[298] Reasoned vote on the report "Social Cohesion: The Challenge for the Consolidation of Democracy in Bolivia Bolivia". https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/informes/pdfs/2024/CohesionSocial_Bolivia_SPA.pdf; Reasoned vote. Report on the Situation in Honduras – 2023. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Reasoned vote. Annual report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual report 2023. Chapter IV.A. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4A_SPA.PDF.

[299] Article 18.4.

[300] Article 13.3.

[301] Article 14.2.

[302] Article 2.

[303] TEDH, Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen and Pedersen, Para. 53; Dojan and others, quoted earlier, Para. 78-83.

[304] IACHR. Study on Freedom of Religion and Belief | Inter-American Standards.

[305] IACHR. Study on Freedom of Religion and Belief | Inter-American Standards.

[306] The general principles set out by the ECHR are derived primarily from the judgments in Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen, and Pedersen vs. Denmark (ECHR 1976/5); Campbell and Cosans vs. the United Kingdom (ECHR 1982/1); Valsamis vs. Greece (ECHR 1996, 70); and Folgero and Others vs Norway (TEDH 2007/53).

[307] Case of Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen and Pedersen vs. Denmark (STEDH 1976/5, of December 7, para. 52).

interpreted that it is the State or the bodies of the Inter-American System who are called upon to choose the moral education of children, forgetting that it is the parents who are the holders of that right.

4. Same-sex couples: lack of awareness of the ACHR's view on marriage and margin of configuration in matters of adoption

Paragraph 82 of the Report states that "in order to advance on compliance with this recommendation, the Commission requests that the State provide information on the process for the approval of the law guaranteeing human rights, including DESCA, political rights, family rights, and the rights of transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse persons to filiation. It also asks whether the bill has been submitted to the legislative body and whether any action has been taken on it. Likewise, it asks whether there are other bills that have been promoted or approved in this regard."

On this matter, without prejudice to States adopting legal measures to protect same-sex relationships, I reiterate[308] that there is no conventional provision obliging States to recognize same-sex marriages. As I have mentioned on several occasions, the treaties that form part of the Inter-American Human Rights System and grant jurisdiction to the Inter-American Commission to address contentious cases do not include any obligation with respect to the recognition of same-sex marriage. This absence of obligation stems from the literal wording of the American Convention, which clearly establishes that marriage is a right reserved for "a man and a woman":

> "**The right of men and women** to marry and found a family shall be recognized if they are of legal age and meet the conditions required by domestic law provided that such conditions do not affect the principle of non-discrimination established in this Convention"[309] (Bold type not in the original text).

Therefore, in accordance with the hermeneutic principle that calls for a literal interpretation in good faith[310], the State is only compelled to recognize the right to marriage for couples specifically mentioned in Article 17.2 of the American Convention.

It is essential to stress that, according to the jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice, the interpretation of a treaty in good faith should not result in changes to the literal wording of treaties or in inferring what is not expressly contained in the text. This approach implies that the interpreter must assume that the parties had the intention that is apparent from the ordinary meaning of the terms used in the international agreement[311]. The text-centered approach to treaty interpretation is not only accepted in

[308] Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.A. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4A_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter V. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_5_ElSalvador_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2023. Chapter IV.B. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2023/capitulos/IA2023_Cap_4B_Venezuela_SPA.PDF; Reasoned vote. Report on the Situation in Honduras – 2023, https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/informes/pdfs/2024/informe-honduras.pdf; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter IV.A. Venezuela. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4B_VEN_ES.PDF; Reasoned vote. Annual Report 2024. Chapter vs. El Salvador. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_5_SLV_ES.PDF; Partially dissenting vote. Annual Report 2024 - Chapter IV.A Development of human rights in the region - overview of the human rights situation by country. https://www.oas.org/es/IACHR/docs/anual/2024/capitulos/IA2024_4A_ES.PDF, p. 201.

[309] American Convention on Human Rights. Article 17.1.

[310] Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Article 31.

[311] International Court of Justice. Case concerning rights of nationals of the United States of America in Morocco. France v. United States of America. ICJ Reports 1952, pp. 196-199. International Court of Justice. Interpretation of peace treaties with Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania (Second Phase). ICJ Reports 1950, pp. 229-230.

international law, but also highly recommended, as it is based on the only empirically verifiable evidence of the intentions of States: the text of the treaty itself[312].

Following these rules of interpretation, the European Court of Human Rights has considered marriage to be between a man and a woman— as established in the European Convention on Human Rights, in a provision similar to that of the ACHR[313]—. In that sense, the European Court supports the idea that there is no binding obligation for states to recognize same-sex marriage, which leaves ample room for states to regulate this matter[314]. Likewise, in terms of the European Court of Human R:

> "The Court reiterates that, in accordance with Article 14 in conjunction with Article 8, States are free to restrict marriage to opposite-sex couples only and have a certain margin of configuration to decide the exact nature of the legal status granted by other means of legal recognition".[315]

On this point, it is worth noting that this same approach is upheld by the European Court in the cases of Orlandi vs. Italy[316] and Fedotova and others vs. Russia[317]. In fact, in both cases, the European Court held that, although states must provide mechanisms to protect same-sex unions, this protection does not necessarily derive from the recognition of same-sex marriage.

Under this context, I fully agree that the margin of discretion available to States in this regard relates both to the form of recognition and to the content of the protection to be granted to same-sex couples, which, of course, cannot translate into a complete absence of protection for same-sex couples.

Secondly, I would like to note that there is no international instrument that establishes obligations regarding recognition of adoption by same-sex couples, which means that States have considerable leeway on this matter. However, it is essential to establish that any decision taken on this matter must consider the best interests of the child or adolescent[318].

With these reflections, I conclude my partially dissenting opinion, in which I express the reasons for my disagreement.

[312] International Court of Justice. Question of the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf between Nicaragua and Colombia beyond 200 Nautical Miles from the Nicaraguan Coast (Nicaragua vs. Colombia), Preliminary Objections, Judgment, I.C.J. Reports 2016, p. 116-123, paras. 34-38, 46. Although the International Court of Justice did not rely exclusively on the literal criterion of interpretation, it was one of the first criteria taken into account by the Court in rejecting the interpretation of the Colombian party.

[313] European Convention on Human Rights. Article 12: "Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry and to found a family, according to the national laws governing the exercise of this right".

[314] ECHR. Oliari and Others vs. Italy. July 21, 2015. Para. 193.

[315] ECHR. Chapin and Charpentier vs. France. September 9, 2016. Para.48.

[316] ECHR. Orlandi vs. Italy. "The Court reiterates that States are still free, under Article 12 of the Convention as well as under Article 14 taken in conjunction with Article 8, to restrict access to marriage to different sex. The same holds for Article 14 taken in conjunction with Article 12 (see Oliari and Others, cited above, § 193)." The same applies to Article 14 in conjunction with Article 12.) Para. 192.

[317] In this case, the Court analyzed only the possible violation of Article 8 of the ECHR, which refers to the right of individuals not to be subjected to arbitrary interference by the State in their private lives. In the case of same-sex couples, the Court established that the lack of a legal framework allowing same-sex couples to have their relationship recognized and protected under national law can create significant obstacles in the daily lives of these couples. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it established that the State may enjoy a margin of appraisal in determining the form of registration of same-sex unions, which implies that such registration does not necessarily have to be through the institution of marriage.

[318] ACHR. Article 19.

V.

Follow-Up of Recommendations in Country or Thematic Reports

El Salvador

CHAPTER V FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BY THE IACHR IN ITS REPORT ON THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN EL SALVADOR

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CHAPTER V

FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BY THE IACHR IN ITS REPORT ON THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN EL SALVADOR

1. This report presents the first follow-up diagnosis of the recommendations issued in the report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador" (Country Report), approved by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on June 28, 2024[1]. The report is submitted in compliance with Article 59(9), of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. Pursuant to this provision, through Chapter V of its Annual Report, the Commission will follow up on the measures adopted by the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) to comply with the recommendations submitted in their Country or Thematic Reports.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. On June 28, 2024, the IACHR approved the Country Report, in which it analyzed in detail the declaration of the state of emergency, decreed in March 2022 throughout the national territory of El Salvador[2] and its effects on human rights. In this Report, the IACHR recalled that, in accordance with Inter-American standards, the suspension of rights is an exceptional measure that must be necessary, reasonable, and proportional to the context of the emergency it seeks to address. Moreover, the Commission warned that States have an obligation to ensure that indispensable judicial guarantees are maintained in all circumstances, even under states of emergency[3].

3. In the case of El Salvador, the Commission recognized that maras and gangs are a serious problem that has gripped the country for decades. Nonetheless, it acknowledged the unprecedented rates of improvement in citizen security reported by the State, which would demonstrate that, in accordance with the requirements of the American Convention on Human Rights (hereinafter "American Convention" or "ACHR)", there is no emergency that justifies the continued suspension of rights and guarantees. Consequently, the Commission called on the State to reestablish the rights suspended by the emergency regime and to adopt measures for crime prevention, control and response crime as part of a citizen security policy, ensuring a human rights perspective[4] .

4. Regarding the citizen security measures taken to confront criminal groups, referred to by the State as "terrorist organizations", the Country Report considered, among others, the following measures[5]:

- The declaration of the emergency regime and its extension, mentioned by the State as one of the measures adopted in the field of citizen security[6].
- Legislative amendments in the fields of criminal law, criminal procedure and juvenile justice.
- 73,000 persons were detained between March 27, 2022, and early November 2023, most of whom were held in pretrial detention.

[1] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28.2024.
[2] The emergency regime was declared by Legislative Decree No. 333 on March 27, 2022, following a wave of violence that culminated in at least 92 deaths during 24-27 March 2022. This decree has remained in force through successive extensions.
[3] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 1 and 4.
[4] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 2, 3 and 4.
[5] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 5.
[6] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, 28 June 2024, para. 99.

- Construction of the Terrorism Confinement Centre (CECOT).
- Additional cross-sectoral efforts in the prevention of violence, mitigation of risks and damages to vulnerable groups, as well as the rehabilitation of social and community ties.

5. Country Report identified human rights concerns related to social participation and accountability in citizen security policy, in addition to the emphasis on a heavily punitive approach to citizen security through legislative reforms. It also referred to the insufficient knowledge of the Inter-American legal framework, as proven by the mandatory application of pretrial detention to certain crimes, the confidentiality of justice officials' identities during criminal proceedings, and the application of adult prison sentences to minors under 18.[7]

6. In turn, the IACHR received complaints regarding the following matters[8]:

- Alleged human rights violations perpetrated by security forces, including systematic and widespread, illegal and arbitrary detentions, unlawful searches of homes, excessive use of force and violations of children's and adolescents' rights.
- Challenges in access to justice posed by detentions and their impact on judicial guarantees and judicial protection, including those of children. Among these challenges, the delays in judicial reviews of detentions, ineffective habeas corpus proceedings, the lack of evidence supporting the charges, abuses related to pretrial detention, the holding of mass judicial hearings, restrictions on the right to defense and judicial guarantees, disregard for due process of law, among others.
- With respect to persons deprived of liberty, the already precarious situation of this population aggravated by deplorable conditions of detention, high levels of overcrowding in certain centers and excessive use of pretrial detention.
- Information regarding the possible deaths of between 189 and 200 persons deprived of liberty – in the absence of consistent figures- and concerns about shortcomings in investigations into such cases, the process of notifying families, and the treatment of corpses.
- Legislative reforms imposing limitations on freedom of expression, as well as limitations on access to information due to a range of obstacles, including an alleged rise in the classification of public information, and reports of a hostile environment for carrying out journalistic coverage and human rights advocacy in the country.

7. Based on its findings, in the Country Report, the Commission formulated 23 recommendations and requested the State to adopt measures to promote human rights, considering the challenges identified.

8. On June 28, 2024, the IACHR notified the State of the publication of the Country Report and asked it to submit information on the level of compliance with these recommendations within the following six months. In response, on January 29, 2025, the State of El Salvador requested the IACHR to hold an in-person meeting with El Salvador's Presidential Commissioner for Human Rights and Freedom of Expression to present a report on compliance levels[9]. In addition, on April 23, 2025, through Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, the State submitted the document "*Report of the State of El Salvador to the IACHR on the Compliance with the Recommendations of the Report on State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador*". (hereinafter "State Report" or "Report Submitted by the State") and reiterated to the Commission an in-person meeting to present this information.

9. On May 2, 2025, a delegation of the IACHR, headed by its President José Luis Caballero and Commissioner Carlos Bernal Pulido, Rapporteur for El Salvador, met with a delegation from El Salvador led by the then Presidential Commissioner for Human Rights and Freedom of Expression Andrés Guzmán. At this

[7] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 5 and 6.

[8] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 7, 8 and 9.

[9] El Salvador, Note No. MPOEA-OAS-007/2025, June 28, 2025.

meeting, the State presented the written report that was provided to the Commission and outlined the main measures implemented to comply with the recommendations formulated in the Country Report.

10. For the preparation of this document, in addition to the information provided by the State, on July 21, 2025, the IACHR requested that the State of El Salvador submit their response, within 30 days, on compliance with the recommendations in the Country Report, through a questionnaire covering each recommendation[10]. On August 19, 2025, through Note Verbale MPOEA-OAS-090-2025, the State requested a 15-day extension of the original August 21 deadline. On August 21, the IACHR granted an additional period of 10 days through Note 254-25-IACHR-SE-GAB-CE. The State finally provided the information on September 5 2025[11]. The Commission values and appreciates and is grateful for the information received, which has been incorporated, as appropriate, into this document.

11. For its part, the IACHR also sent a questionnaire to civil society organizations so that they could provide information related to the follow-up of the recommendations. The IACHR appreciates the information provided by some organizations, which was considered for the follow-up of the recommendations of the Country Report and values their involvement in the follow-up processes of the Commission's recommendations[12] .

12. On October 28, 2025, the Commission transmitted a copy of the preliminary draft of this report to the State, following Article 59 (10) of its Rules of Procedure, and requested it to submit its observations. On November 28, 2025, the Commission received observations and comments from the State[13], which were incorporated, as pertinent, into this version and whose document is annexed to this Report. The final version of this Report was approved by the Commission on December 23, 2025.

13. This follow-up report assesses compliance with the recommendations in accordance with the IACHR's General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations and Decisions[14], in line with the thematic structure incorporated in the Country Report. Furthermore, the preparation of this document is consistent with the IACHR's recommendation follow-up practice.

14. With respect to each recommendation under follow-up, the report presents: (i) the reasons that led the IACHR to formulate them; (ii) the information that has been known since the publication of the Country Report, including that reported by the State and civil society organizations, as well as the information gathered in the monitoring of the general human rights situation in the country[15]; (iii) an analysis of the level of compliance with each recommendation, noting the main advances and implementation challenges; and (iv) a diagnosis of the information that the State has not yet submitted or of the measures that have yet to be adopted to determine progress in the level of compliance. Following the analysis for each recommendation, the IACHR presents its conclusions on the overall progress and challenges of compliance.

15. Full compliance with the recommendations of the IACHR is essential to ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights in the OAS Member States and strengthening the Inter-American Human Rights System (hereinafter "IAHRS"). The current international scenario demands that the actors involved not only actively participate by reporting information on measures to comply with the decisions adopted by

[10] IACHR, Note 229-25/IACHR/SE/GAB-CE, July 21, 2025.
[11] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[12] The organizations that responded to the IACHR questionnaire were: Cristosal, Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) and Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS).
[13] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the draft report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[14] IACHR, General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations and Decisions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. 385/23 (second edition), November 20, 2023. (Available only in Spanish)
[15] To this end, the IACHR has made use of information gathered during public hearings, investigations conducted ex officio, input from petitions and cases and precautionary measures mechanisms, and responses to requests for information submitted under the authority established in Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights, as well as information gathered from other public sources, and the decisions and recommendations of specialized international organizations, among others.

international bodies, including the IACHR, but that these efforts translate into suitable, timely, and effective State measures that achieve the objectives of each decision.

16. The IACHR reiterates the importance that the State of El Salvador fully comply with the recommendations made in the report under follow-up. It also hopes that this tool will facilitate the establishment of a dialogue process to advance the implementation of El Salvador's public policies on human rights.

II. FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 1. Put an end to the suspension of the rights and guarantees curtailed under the state of emergency.

17. In the Country Report, the IACHR warned that the States do not enjoy unlimited discretion to establish an emergency regime, and the Inter-American bodies must exercise subsidiary and complementary control within their spheres of competence. It also took note of the information available on the current and unprecedented rates of improvement in citizen security in El Salvador reported by the State, which would demonstrate that there is no emergency that justifies maintaining in force the suspension in accordance with the requirements of the American Convention. Consequently, the Commission considered that this measure was no longer exceptional and proportionate and should be replaced by policies in line with human rights[16].

Information on compliance

18. In April 2025, the State justified the extension of the state of emergency by citing the persistence of illicit activities by criminal organizations, other than ordinary crime, and their serious threat to national public security, as well as a need to prevent serious human rights violations attributable to organized crime. It noted that this measure is supported by the American Convention on Human Rights and the Salvadoran Constitution and concluded that the regime will remain in force as long as the circumstances justifying its application persist. In addition, the State affirmed that it has complied with the elaboration and implementation of a comprehensive and multisectoral public policy on citizen security, guided by a human rights perspective[17].

19. Subsequently, in its second report of September 2025, the State reported that the state of emergency remains subject to continuous review through successive extensions approved by the Legislative Assembly, based on the Constitution of the Republic and on technical analyses by the competent authorities. It explained that the measure responds to the persistence of criminal structures with a high capacity for rapid deployment, requiring national-level implementation, and aims not to address common crime, but a criminal phenomenon of exceptional proportions. It also indicated that, in accordance with Legislative Decree No. 344 of July 31, 2025, the suspended rights are those provided for in Articles 12, paragraph 2, 13, paragraph 2 and 24 of the Constitution, concerning the maximum period of administrative detention, the immediate notification of reasons for detention and the inviolability of correspondence and telecommunications, noting that the freedom of assembly and association under Article 7 is no longer suspended, as it was in former Decree No. 333 of March 2022[18] .

20. It also stressed that these suspensions are applied in accordance with criteria of necessity, proportionality, reasonableness and temporality, and are strictly limited to what is authorized by the constitutional framework and to public security needs. Concurrently, a comprehensive public security policy is

[16] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 3, 49, 67.

[17] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.

[18] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.

being implemented with an inter-institutional and human rights approach, based on technical evidence and social participation. As support, the State cited the U.S. State Department's 2024 report, which acknowledged the significant reduction in gang-attributed killings as a result of policies implemented under the emergency regime[19].

21. In turn, the State affirmed its recognition that the IACHR does not authorize the suspension of certain rights, even in exceptional situations. In this regard, it underlined that legislative decrees have precisely defined the scope of restrictions, applying them only to constitutional rights expressly permitted and excluding those which, by their nature, are non-derogable. Specific measures have been taken to guarantee the observance of these rights, including the maintenance of judicial and prosecutorial oversight to prevent irreparable violations, as well as the continuous legal assistance provided by the Office of the Attorney General (PGR), through its Public Criminal and Juvenile Criminal Defender Units, to guarantee the right to technical defense of persons deprived of liberty[20].

22. On November 25, 2025, the State notified that the Legislative Assembly approved a new extension of the emergency regime, based on criteria of necessity, proportionality, reasonableness and temporality. It noted that complex criminal structures continue to operate in both urban and rural areas, alongside persistent risks of gang resurgence and digital communication patterns involving adolescents, as well as transnational dynamics that would require extraordinary measures. In this context, the State argued that the continued application of the state of emergency allows for the anticipation and dismantlement of these threats, ensures coordinated operational actions and guarantees an effective state response to a criminal phenomenon that, in its view, retains exceptional nature[21] .

23. At the same time, the State highlighted operational indicators that it considers to reflect sustained improvements in public security, including reaching an accumulated of 1,000 days without homicides nationwide as of August 30, 2025, and the stabilization of communities formerly affected by gangs. It emphasized that territorial control, prevention and integration policies have contributed to a substantially safer and more predictable environment, consolidating the country as a family-friendly place and as the safest country in the hemisphere according to verifiable data. According to the State, the alignment between these results and the identified risks is seen as justifying the continuation of the regime while maintaining conditions that it considers exceptional[22].

24. In the field of international organizations, the Commission observes that, in the report of the Universal Periodic Review of El Salvador, published July 11, 2025, by the United Nations Human Rights Council, multiple States recommended lifting the state of emergency and restoring the suspended guarantees, in particular the right to liberty and due process[23].

25. The organizations Cristosal and CEJIL, for their part, pointed out that the State has not fully restored the suspended guarantees. According to the information provided to the Commission, the Assembly has extended the state of emergency 40 times, (the last extension having been adopted on July 31, 2025), thereby maintaining the suspension of rights to be informed of the reasons for detention; to remain silent; to be assisted by counsel; and to the inviolability of correspondence. They emphasized that the maintenance of the state of emergency is in breach of the recommendation[24]. At the same time, the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) confirmed that there are no State measures to restore rights. On

[19] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[20] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[21] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[22] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[23] United Nations Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review - El Salvador. July 11, 2025.
[24] Cristosal Foundation and Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

the contrary, the Assembly has extended the state of emergency more than 40 times and has approved legal reforms that entrench the concentration of power[25].

26. Finally, the Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) organization also reported more than 40 extensions of the state of emergency and more than 88,000 detentions. It stated that the rights to personal liberty, technical defense and inviolability of correspondence continue to be suspended. It added that the suspension has lasted for more than three years without any measures to restore rights, and that recent reforms have lengthened criminal pre-trial proceedings, extending pretrial detention to as much as five years[26]. Most recent public information indicates that El Salvador approved the 43rd extension of the state of emergency, which will remain in force until November 1st, 2025, and records a total of 89,500 persons detained[27].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

27. The IACHR appreciates the information provided to follow up on the recommendation. In this regard, it notes that the UPR of the Human Rights Council called for the lifting of the state of emergency and reinstating guarantees; civil society organizations, for their part, reported multiple extensions for more than three years.

28. It also observes that the State maintains the ongoing state of emergency through successive extensions by claiming the necessity, proportionality and constitutional basis of such a measure. In addition, it maintains suspended rights related to the deprivation of liberty and communication and that, according to the State, the state of emergency will remain in force "for as long as the circumstances that justify it persist". In turn, it warns that the State has reported the existence of indicators describing a broadly stabilized and predictable security context, including 1,000 days without homicides and the country as the safest in the entire Western Hemisphere. This coexistence between a context described as highly safe and the continuity of the suspension of rights does not translate into actions aimed at lifting the restrictions required by this recommendation.

29. The Commission recalls that, within the framework of the present follow-up Report, it is not appropriate to re-examine the relevance or necessity of the state of emergency, a matter already addressed in the Country Report. Rather the assessment is limited to determining whether the State has taken measures to comply with Recommendation No. 1: to lift the suspension of the rights and guarantees restricted under that measure. The information provided by the State confirms that, on November 25, 2025, a new extension of the state of emergency was approved and that the suspension of rights remains in force, which explicitly runs counter to the requested measure.

30. Based on the information reported, the Commission finds that the State has not taken action to end the suspension of rights, nor has it established a plan for the progressive restitution of guarantees. In accordance with the General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations, when the State acts against the intent of the recommendation (here, to extend and consolidate the suspension of rights) and repeatedly asserts that the state of emergency will remain in force, no meaningful steps toward compliance can be observed. Therefore, the Commission concludes that this recommendation has **not been complied with**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

31. In response to the determination of non-compliance, the Commission regards the specific follow-up to this recommendation as concluded for the purposes of this report. However, it reserves the right to resume its evaluation should the State, in the future, modify its stance or implement verifiable measures

[25] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

[26] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.

[27] Associated Press, El Salvador aprueba 43ra prórroga del régimen de excepción y reporta 89.500 detenidos (in Spanish), October 1, 2025.

enabling a new assessment of the level of compliance with the recommendation. Such measures could include, for example, the non-renewal and formal lifting of the state of emergency through the immediate and verifiable restitution of suspended guarantees; or the issuance of a court ruling that cancels the suspension of guarantees, accompanied by public and periodic information that allows verification of its implementation and results.

Recommendation No. 2. Elaborate and implement a comprehensive and multisectoral public security policy on the causes and consequences of crime, based on evidence, with a focus on human rights, establishing the participation of civil society bodies in its definition and implementation.

32. In the Country Report, the IACHR reiterated that public policies on citizen security should aim to prevent and control violent or criminal behavior that affect the exercise of rights, so that the members of a society can go about their daily lives with the lowest level of threat to their personal integrity, their civic rights, and the enjoyment of their property. In the case of El Salvador, it noted that it has been monitoring the State actions in the field of citizen security, particularly since the change of government in June in 2019, including the Territorial Control Plan, and welcomed the fact that a sum of efforts have been made in the prevention of violence, mitigation of risks and damages to vulnerable groups. Likewise, the Commission observed that no concrete mechanisms were identified to allow citizen participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of the citizen security policy at national and local levels and therefore requested that measures be adopted in this regard[28].

Information on compliance

33. In April 2025, the State reported having a citizen security policy grounded on comprehensive strategies that combine crime prevention, crime prosecution, and the reconstruction of the social fabric, highlighting the implementation of the Territorial Control Plan. In addition, the State indicated that its initiatives are founded not solely on sanctions, but also on social integration and restoration of the community fabric, in particular: (i) the creation of Urban Centers for Welfare and Opportunities (CUBO) for youth development; (ii) implementation of vocational education programs and extracurricular activities for young people at risk; (iii) promotion of initiatives for the social reintegration of individuals with no involvement in crime; (iv) the adoption of the Act on the National System of Integration - Phase VI of the Territorial Control Plan, which created the National Directorate of Integration (DNI)[29].

34. Regarding the human rights approach, the State reported that it has conducted training and implemented protocols to monitor the use of force by the authorities. It delved into what it describes as a "citizen security approach", stating that the Territorial Control Plan responds to a comprehensive security perspective, highlighting the Opportunities and Integration phases. It also reiterated the creation of the DNI, which conducts programs to reduce poverty and improve social, human, and economic conditions of the population, and reported the integration of a council with representatives of different ministries and the employment sector[30].

35. Regarding the participation of civil society in the Territorial Control Plan, the State mentioned the creation of Local Rights Committees, which are spaces for coordination between the State and civil society, through which it supports community projects, handles collective complaints, provides technical assistance, and coordinates with public and private institutions. In addition, it stated that the Territorial Activation Plan creates pathways for economic, social, and cultural development, aiming to reduce vulnerability among historically excluded communities. The State also referred to the promotion of community listening spaces by the Ministry of Local Development and other institutions, involving children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly. It mentioned an agreement between the Ministry of Culture and the Directorate of Social Integration

[28] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 89, 113, 114 and 115.
[29] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[30] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.

and provided an update on ongoing dialogue with civil society, emphasizing the Presidential Commissioner for Human Rights and Freedom of Expression's policy of openness to dialogue with civil society organizations[31].

36. Subsequently, in its second report of September 2025, the State reported that it has developed and implemented a comprehensive and multisectoral public security policy with a focus on human rights, based on evidence and aimed at addressing the structural causes of crime. It pointed out that this policy is mainly articulated through the Territorial Control Plan, and particularly its Phase VI, approved by the Act of November 14, 2023, on the National System of Integration. According to the State, the Directorate of Integration, an autonomous institution, was created and empowered to plan, regulate, and implement integration policies aimed at poverty reduction, social cohesion, and the consolidation of security. The State stressed that this strategy involves different ministries, autonomous institutions, mayors' offices, universities, and civil society organizations, promoting spaces for the active participation of communities, families, children and adolescents in the definition and follow-up of policies[32].

37. According to the reports, the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescence (CONAPINA) plays a central role in the implementation of this policy by developing preventive and support measures, such as monitoring the Integration Act, the development of technical guidelines with impact indicators and the implementation of territorial activation plans and psychosocial programs. Protection measures have also been implemented through the Protection Boards, interagency coordination with the Office of the General Prosecutor, the Office of the Attorney General and the National Police, and by addressing collective rights violations, particularly the prevention of the recruitment of adolescents into criminal structures. In addition, the active participation of children and adolescents is encouraged through consultations, awareness-raising campaigns and an Advisory Council made up of representatives of the country's fourteen departments[33].

38. The State reported that the Act on the National System of Integration is in force and has enabled the centralization and coordination of efforts from both the public and private sectors into a social development model based on the Culture of Integration. It indicated that the Directorate of Integration has implemented programs such as "ADN de la Pobreza y Cultura de Integración", "Ferias Integra", "Integrando Comunidades", "Continuidad Académica y Técnica", "Escuelas Integradoras", programs for the elderly, and Florecimiento de la Vivienda y Acceso al Crédito, among others, which in 2024 benefited over 330,000 people across social, educational, cultural and housing areas[34] .

39. The State pointed out that, in continuity with what was informed in the first report, progress has been made in the implementation of the social programs of the Directorate for the Reconstruction of the Social Fabric, with the emphasis being on the Urban Centers for Welfare and Opportunities (CUBO). It stated that, until January 2025, eleven centers had been built and that at least ten additional centers are scheduled to open during the year. It indicated that the CUBOs offer technical and vocational training, complementary education, sports and recreational activities, and the promotion of a culture of peace, serving 28,500 young people per month, with a retention rate of 95% and 2,400 technical certifications granted. According to the State, areas where the program has been implemented have seen a decrease in the number of young people recruited by criminal structures, positioning these programs as transformative spaces for community cohesion, citizen participation, and violence prevention[35].

40. Later, in November 2025, the State emphasized that security policy is, by nature, a human rights policy, as it restores territorial control and reduces violence, and is built on a comprehensive strategy that includes territorial control and the phase of "integration", aimed at removing barriers to access to education, employment, culture, sport, health and coexistence. The State explained that the Directorate of Integration is conducting nine integrative projects in fields such as employability, educational opportunities,

[31] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[32] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[33] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[34] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[35] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.

youth participation, conflict mediation, mental health, social infrastructure and local entrepreneurship, all of which have publicly available reports and results[36]. Finally, it argued that the Act on Foreign Agents seeks to guarantee transparency in external financing and rejected any claim that it is used to intimidate organizations or to engage in practices of persecution against human rights defenders[37].

41. Cristosal and CEJIL organizations reported that the State had failed to create spaces for dialogue with human rights organizations or groups of victims, such as the Movimiento de Víctimas del Régimen de Excepción or the Bloque de Búsqueda de Personas Desaparecidas. On the contrary, they pointed out that since May 2025 the government pursued criminal charges against human rights defenders, which Amnesty International described as arbitrary detentions, and that the President delivered a speech in June 2025 stigmatizing these people and refusing international monitoring[38].

42. For its part, the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) recalled that, after the presentation of the "Integration" phase of the Territorial Control Plan in 2023, the Assembly approved the Act on the National System of Integration, which created a Directorate of Integration responsible for implementing social programs that, according to official data, served 22,123 men and 36,566 women between June 2023 and May 2024. However, it warned that public information was insufficient to assess its impact and that there were no spaces for dialogue with organizations critical of state power, while regulations such as the Act on Foreign Agents, used to intimidate, had been passed[39].

43. In turn, the Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) reported that, in March 2025, the government launched Phase 6 of the Territorial Control Plan, called Integration, announcing programs such as "ADN de la Pobreza", "Integrando Abuelos" or "Ferias Integra", but noted the absence of public information on their implementation or on State efforts to establish a comprehensive, multisectoral citizen security policy. It also indicated that lack of transparency hindered the assessment of civil society's participation and that spaces for dialogue were reportedly closed.

44. Also, in November 2025, SSPAS noted that the State had taken a number of measures, including strengthening the operational capacity of the National Civil Police and investing in the modernization of that institution, as well as the National Academy of Public Security and the Ministry of Public Security and Justice (MSPJ). It also identified an increase in investment in infrastructure to support institutional modernization, exceeding the levels recorded for recreational spaces for crime prevention and reconstruction of the social fabric, according to the 2024-2025 MSPJ's Report on Activities. Finally, it mentioned as one of the main achievements reported by the 2024-2025 MSPJ, the creation of the Readaptation, Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Centre, aimed at providing training opportunities for the population deprived of liberty. However, SSPAS reiterated the need for greater transparency and consolidated and verifiable information on the implementation of the Territorial Control Plan and the security policy[40] .

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

45. The IACHR is grateful for the information provided by the State and civil society organizations. Drawing on the three State reports, including documentation submitted in November 2025, as well as contributions from civil society, the Commission notes that the State has adopted measures representing progress in the implementation of a comprehensive citizen security policy. These measures include the establishment and operation of the National Integration Directorate, which represents a positive step toward rebuilding the social fabric. Likewise, investment aimed at strengthening the police's operational capacity and

[36] The State provided the following link: https://www.transparencia.gob.sv/documentos/462-5 (in Spanish).
[37] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report, November 28, 2025.
[38] Cristosal Foundation and Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[39] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[40] The Human Rights Program of the Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Follow-up Report on the Recommendations made by the IACHR under the Emergency Regime in El Salvador, November 2025, p. 19-26.

advancing its institutional modernization constitutes a significant step forward in enabling the police to fulfill its citizen security responsibilities. The establishment of the Readaptation, Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Centre for Persons Deprived of Liberty further reinforces the preventive and social aspects of the security policy. In turn, the IACHR observes the information provided regarding the implementation of several educational, community and psychosocial programs under the Territorial Control Plan and the Act on the National System of Integration, reflecting progress in the programmatic dimension of the recommendation.

46. For their part, civil society organizations, despite having mentioned these actions and state programs, reported insufficient public information on their implementation and results, as well as a lack of effective opportunities for dialogue with critical sectors.

47. Although the IACHR values the information provided, this does not allow for concluding that a comprehensive and multisectoral public policy on citizen security has been adopted and implemented in accordance with the recommendation. In this regard, the IACHR considers that the information presented requires more consolidated evidence to allow a comprehensive assessment of how security policy is articulated across the territory in a coherent manner, based on interrelated rather than isolated measures, how it explicitly incorporates the human rights approach, how it is grounded on empirical evidence, and what effective mechanisms ensure the participation of civil society at its various stages. These elements represent areas of development that will strengthen the coherence, transparency, and overall effectiveness of public policy. In view of the foregoing, the IACHR concludes that the recommendation is **partially complied with**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

48. To advance compliance, the Commission invites the State to provide information that will allow a comprehensive verification of how the citizen security policy explicitly incorporates a human rights approach, how it is grounded in evidence, and which bodies ensure the effective participation of civil society in its design, implementation and evaluation. It also invites the State to report in a consolidated way on how these dimensions are coherently articulated across the territory and within the various institutions responsible for their implementation.

Recommendation No. 3. Periodically publish data on the actions taken in connection with citizen security policy and the results obtained, including within the framework of the different stages of the Territorial Control Plan.

49. In the Country Report, the IACHR highlighted the importance of state measures to publicize the Territorial Control Plan and expressed concern about the lack of transparency surrounding the actual impact of the measures implemented in the field of citizen security. In this regard, the Commission emphasized the importance of this information for ensuring accountability and highlighted the need for public indicators to assess whether the measures fulfill objectives consistent with human rights[41] .

Information on compliance

50. In its April 2025 Report, the State provided IACHR with a Data Systematization Matrix of the Territorial Control Plan to facilitate a clear visualization and understanding of the plan's outcomes. The Matrix displayed 149 results from 2021 to 2025. Each result was assigned to a category and, in addition, included the

[41] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 91, 177 and 317.

applied indicator, the data, a corresponding summary, and the source referenced[42]. With respect to the categories of the results presented, the State reported the results disaggregated by year as follows[43]:

- 2021: 2 results: 1 on economic impact and 1 on impact on public services).
- 2022: 62 results: 15 on crime reduction, 12 on reconstruction of the social fabric, 9 on economic impact, 7 on international perception, 6 reflecting impact on labor, 4 on tourism, 3 on citizen perception, 2 concerning impact on security, 1 related to impact on education, 1 on public security facilities, 1 concerning the dismantlement of criminal organizations, and 1 pertaining to prison control.
- 2023: 47 results: 8 concerning impact on security, 6 on crime reduction, 5 on economic impact; 5 on citizen perception, 4 on impact on public services, 4 on tourism, 3 reflecting impact on labor, 2 related to prison control, 2 on reconstruction of the social fabric, 2 on the protection of children and adolescents, 2 on the protection of human rights, 1 on the judicial system; 1 on international perception, 1 on social impact, 1 on the judicial system.
- 2024: 34 results: 5 on economic impact, 5 on reconstruction of the social fabric, 4 on protection of children and adolescents, 3 on tourism, 3 on social impact, 2 on social reintegration, 2 of international perception, 2 on crime reduction, 2 on international cooperation, 1 concerning impact on security, 1 on impact on public services, 1 on protection of human rights, 1 on technological development, 1 pertaining to protection of women, 1 related to impact on education.
- 2025: 3 results: 1 concerning impact on security, 1 on crime reduction, 1 related to impact on public services)[44].

51. In its September 2025 official report, the State reiterated the Data Systematization Matrix of the Territorial Control Plan as a measure of compliance. It explained that the Plan draws upon public records and news, which ensure transparency and accessibility of information. It further noted that, as the data originates from official, open-access sources, they are disseminated regularly, allowing citizens and the international community to learn and evaluate the Plan's progress and outcomes. However, in response to the IACHR's request for a public access link, the State indicated that the matrix provided is not publicly available and does not have a dedicated link, while clarifying that the information presented was compiled from databases and public news[45].

52. Subsequently, in November 2025, the State asserted that it had complied with this recommendation, noting that all competent institutions regularly publish information, results and updates related to the Territorial Control Plan on its websites and official channels. It argued that the Data Systematization Matrix cited by the IACHR does not constitute a standalone document intended for publication but rather serves as an internal tool that organizes and consolidates information already publicly available through open sources, institutional communications, and online repositories. According to the State, publishing it as a separate file would exceed the recommendation's scope, as the information is already accessible and verifiable through the various official portals[46].

53. Regarding the publicity of data on the actions taken in the framework of the citizen security policy, the civil society reported that over 73% of information requests are denied or ignored, while authorities'

[42] The cited sources include the Presidency of the Republic; the Central Reserve Bank; the Legislative Assembly; the Ministries of Economy, Justice and Public Security; Culture, Foreign Affairs, Tourism and Environment; the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents; the Directorate for the Reconstruction of the Social Fabric; the Salvadoran Institute of Women Development; National Civil Police; Supreme Court of Justice; UNICEF; UN Tourism; El Salvador Journal; Los Angeles Times; La Página journal; La Prensa Gráfica; the digital newspaper "Dinero"; El Mundo; AES El Salvador; Forbes Central America; Corporación Salvadoreña de Turismo; and the Argentinean media outlet "Expediente Público".

[43] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.

[44] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.

[45] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.

[46] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.

excessive classification of public interest information, burdensome filing requirements, and a weakened oversight institute hinder access"[47]

54. In their reports to the IACHR, civil society organizations agreed that the State had failed to fulfill its obligation to periodically publish data on the actions and results of its security policy. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) noted the absence of a consolidated record: security institutions only released infographics with general figures on social networks such as Facebook or X; institutional websites provide limited and outdated information; and, until August 2025, the data were reported as unavailable, with the only official figures being the totals recorded in each decree extending the state of emergency[48].

55. For its part, the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA)indicated that information, in general, is limited. It noted that the transparency portal of the National Civil Police has not been updated since 2022. In addition, the Office of the Attorney General, in its 2024-2025 Report on Activities, highlighted significant reductions in the homicide rate (1.4 per 100,000 inhabitants) and the impunity rate (reaching 98.2%), attributing these outcomes to inter-agency coordination and the state of emergency. However, it warned that these figures are not disaggregated by gender, age or other factors, and that other statistics, such as those on violence against women, have not been published since 2023[49].

56. Finally, Cristosal and CEJIL affirmed that the State remains noncompliant with the recommendation. They indicated that the few figures known are those disseminated in official propaganda format. In addition, they emphasized that the official document of the Territorial Control Plan has not yet been published, remaining classified as confidential despite the expectation that it should be made available informally. They also noted that this restriction is recorded in the 2023 index of reserved information of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, which is the most recent one published on the transparency portal of its website[50].

57. Lastly, based on ongoing monitoring, the IACHR emphasizes that, in the same vein, other reports from civil society organizations indicate that all three branches of government systematically deny requests for public information regarding femicides, homicides, serious crimes, as well as prevention, reintegration and rehabilitation programs. This lack of transparency has led them to conclude that in the country, "the right to public information in the field of security is permanently violated," a situation that could also extend to other areas of democratic life[51].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

58. The IACHR appreciates the information provided by the State and civil society organizations. It expresses particular concern regarding the reports submitted by civil society on the difficulties and obstacles created by the State in accessing information of public interest about the citizen security policy, its outcomes, and the Territorial Control Plan. It highlights the high percentage of omissions or refusals of requests for information, as well as the overclassification of data. The IACHR recalls that access to information is a right protected by the American Convention on Human Rights and urges the State to guarantee its full exercise in accordance with applicable Inter-American standards.

59. Furthermore, the IACHR emphasizes that, in accordance with the principles of maximum disclosure, accessibility and integrity, information should be published in an organized and easily understandable manner, enabling interested parties to assess its content. While the State identified the Data Systematization Matrix of the Territorial Control Plan as a relevant mechanism for compliance with the

[47] Human Rights Watch, World Report 2025: El Salvador Events of 2024, 2025.
[48] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.
[49] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[50] Cristosal Foundation and Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[51] Artículo 19, El Salvador: reinvención del autoritarismo. Pasos hacia el fortalecimiento de un régimen autoritario, 2025.

recommendation and maintained that its content can be traced through information available on various institutional portals, the Commission observes that, because this data is fragmented across multiple portals and institutional sources, its accessibility and usefulness are limited. For the Commission, the mere existence of requested public data, scattered across different platforms and lacking clear, centralized, or systematic identification does not amount to effective compliance with the duty of disclosure. In addition, it recalls that its recommendation is based on a prior diagnosis, which identified structural deficiencies in publicity, transparency, and systematization of official data. Compliance therefore requires the adoption of new, specific, and verifiable measures that directly address these issues, rather than mere reference to existing fragmented or scattered information.

60. In accordance with its General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations, and in the absence of evidence that the State has implemented measures to ensure the regular dissemination of reliable, disaggregated, up-to-date, and systematically compiled information on its security policy and its outcomes, the IACHR considers that this recommendation is **pending compliance.**

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

61. The IACHR believes it is essential that the State adopt measures to strengthen transparency, accountability, and social participation in relation to the Territorial Control Plan and the citizen security policy. It is essential to ensure the availability of public, accessible, up-to-date, and verifiable information, so that both the general public and the international community are able to know, monitor and assess the actions undertaken and the outcomes achieved within the framework of the measures set forth in the recommendation. The IACHR also reiterates the importance of establishing public indicators that enable the assessment of whether the measures adopted are consistent with Inter-American standards and ensure respect for and protection of human rights.

Recommendation No. 4. Develop and implement a policy to assist victims of crimes perpetrated by gangs, ensuring the participation of victims and civil society throughout the process.

62. In the Country Report, the Commission emphasized the importance of ensuring proper attention to and reparation for victims of crimes perpetrated by gangs, including those who lost their lives, in accordance with relevant international standards. It also reiterated the importance of providing assistance to victims as a central element of its work in the field of citizen security, including material, medical, psychological, and social assistance, among others. In this regard, the Commission expressed its readiness to provide technical support in strengthening these attention-focused measures [52].

Information on compliance

63. In his first April 2025 report, the State indicated that it had requested technical assistance from the IACHR for specialized support in developing a comprehensive framework for assisting victims of gang violence, and requested a response to achieve progress in fundamental policies aimed at guaranteeing the rights of gangs victims and strengthening the human rights protection system in the country. In addition, it reported that the following measures had been taken[53]:

- Submission of more than ten written requests relating to areas requiring technical cooperation, specifying objectives and the expected scope.

[52] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 5, 93, 95 and 97.

[53] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.

- Participation in thematic hearings and bilateral meetings with commissioners, reiterating the request for support and emphasizing the importance of involving international human rights experts in providing assistance to victims.
- Delivery of official documentation, encompassing specific requests.

64. It also stated that it has undertaken significant efforts to design and implement a comprehensive policy for assisting victims, without providing further details[54].

65. Subsequently, in its second report, dated September 2025, the State noted that it had adopted a comprehensive policy to support victims of gang crimes, aimed at ensuring an immediate, specialized, and coordinated response in line with the Constitution and international human rights standards. To this end, the State noted strengthening permanent complaint-filing and assistance mechanisms, such as Line 119 and the Protection Boards; improving coordination among entities of the National System of Comprehensive Protection; and creating specialized programs for relatives of victims to reduce psychosocial impacts and facilitate access to protection, health and legal assistance services[55] .

66. The State also highlighted the consolidation of the capacities of judges and technical personnel to address children's and adolescents' issues, as well as the implementation of inter-agency operations at the territorial level to reduce the exposure of children and adolescents to street situations, trafficking, and exploitation. It added that the active participation of civil society has been ensured throughout the definition and monitoring of these actions, which, in its view, strengthens the comprehensive and participatory nature of the implemented policy[56].

67. In November 2025, the State reiterated that it has taken multiple measures to provide comprehensive assistance to victims of gang crimes, including psychosocial and legal support, inter-agency coordination across health, education, and social protection sectors, and maintaining individualized victims' registers. It noted that these actions are coordinated through the Directorate of Integration and affirmed that they had previously been reported to the IACHR. It also reiterated that it had made formal requests for technical assistance before the Commission[57].

68. The civil society organizations that sent information related to compliance with this recommendation agreed that the State failed to design or implement a comprehensive policy to assist victims of gang crimes. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) reviewed publicly available documentation from National Civil Police and observed that the actions undertaken were limited to isolated activities of the National Directorate for Victim Assistance. In 2024, the local assistance offices served 5,736 people (61.7% women), while the Bureau for the Assistance of Victims of Forced Displacement assisted 1,161 people, primarily through the distribution of vouchers. The review found no evidence of dedicated programs for gang victims or of a comprehensive strategy. It further noted that the units responsible were constrained by limited staff and resources[58].

69. In the same vein, the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) indicated that State actions target the mass detention of persons allegedly connected to gangs, rather than ensuring justice or reparation for the victims. Although the Office of the Attorney General noted in its 2025 Report on Activities that 102,820 victims received assistance and 107,368 persons were criminally charged, the organization warned that these figures were not disaggregated, and the characteristics of both the victims and the alleged perpetrators remained unknown, hindering the assessment of access to justice. It also denounced that, far from encouraging the participation of victims and civil society, the adoption of the Foreign

[54] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[55] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[56] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[57] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report, November 28, 2025.
[58] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.

Agents Act in May 2025 imposed restrictions on organizations and fostered a climate of intimidation and self-censorship[59].

70. For their part, Cristosal and CEJIL emphasized that the State has not introduced any new measures and has merely continued with existing programs, which remain clearly insufficient. To illustrate the lack of priority, they cited some budget figures: the general budget for 2025 allocated 589 million to the Public Security and Justice area, but only 428,840 (0.07%) to the category of "Comprehensive Attention to Victims", an amount that had even decreased compared to 2024, and by mid-year, only 12.8% had been executed. Against this backdrop, they concluded that the recommendation is still not complied with and that the participation of victims and civil society organizations in its design and implementation is non-existent[60].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

71. According to the information received, it is noted that the State has repeatedly expressed its willingness to develop a comprehensive policy to assist victims and has requested technical cooperation from the IACHR to this end. However, the information presented lacks specific details on the existence, design or implementation of such a policy and focuses on describing efforts to secure external support and on examining the operations of existing offices.

72. For their part, civil society organizations agreed that the State has not designed or implemented a comprehensive policy to assist gang victims. They noted that actions have been confined to pre-existing programs providing isolated assistance, characterized by limited resources and lacking clear mechanisms for the participation of victims or civil society. They also highlighted the absence of targeted programs for gang victims, the lack of disaggregated official data, which hampers the assessment of access to justice, and the limited budget allocated to victim assistance, representing only a minimal share of overall spending on security and justice.

73. Consequently, the Commission considers that, to date, no substantive progress has been demonstrated in the design or implementation of a comprehensive policy to assist gang victims in accordance with Inter-American standards. The level of compliance with this recommendation is therefore **pending.**

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

74. To advance compliance with this recommendation, the Commission considers it necessary for the State to provide detailed and verifiable information on the design of a comprehensive policy to assist gang victims, including its regulatory framework, allocated budget, responsible institutional mechanisms, and the results obtained. It is also essential to substantiate the actual participation of victims and civil society organizations in the design, implementation, and evaluation phases of this policy. Lastly, information is needed on the measures taken to guarantee material, medical, psychological, and social assistance to victims, as well as on the remedies provided for reparation and access to justice.

Recommendation No. 5. Establish a register that identifies individually the victims of human rights violations perpetrated in the context of detentions and criminal prosecutions initiated under the state of emergency, ensuring the participation of victims and civil society throughout the process.

75. In the Country Report, the IACHR expressed its concern about the information available on alleged unlawful, arbitrary detentions as part of the security policy in the context of the emergency decreed by

[59] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

[60] Cristosal Foundation and Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

the State, as well as on challenges identified in access to justice and their implications for the guaranteeing of rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection. In this regard, the Commission considered it necessary to identify the circumstances that generated this pattern of alleged violations, as well as the victims and damage suffered, in order to provide them with comprehensive reparation[61].

Information on compliance

76. In April 2025, the State affirmed that, prior to the issuance of the recommendation by the Commission, the Office of the Attorney for the Defense of Human Rights (PDDH) had already conducted an individualized register of victims of alleged human rights violations arising from detentions and criminal prosecutions. Based on the information provided, the PDDH has established a register that enables the individual identification of each case and incorporates follow-up mechanisms and objective evaluation procedures to ensure that victims receive the necessary assistance and reparation[62] .

77. The State also noted that it has implemented rigorous monitoring mechanisms throughout the application of the state of emergency, including internal and external control and audit procedures conducted in collaboration with human rights organizations and civil society. In addition, it indicated that it remains open to constructive dialogue with the IACHR and the international community to strengthen existing mechanisms and adopt new measures that foster a safer, more just, and respectful country in relation to human rights[63].

78. Subsequently, in its second report, dated September 2025, the State reported that the PDDH, as an autonomous body, had established an individualized register of victims of alleged human rights violations as early as 2019, including those associated with detentions and criminal proceedings under the state of emergency. It indicated that this register, supported by an Institutional Management Computer System (SIGI), enables the identification and follow-up of each case, the systematization of patterns, and the guidance of actions related to protection, investigation, monitoring and comprehensive reparation, maintaining strict confidentiality and data protection measures. It also noted that the documentation is prepared with rigor and a focus on the affected individuals, incorporating direct input from the PDDH and the participation of family members. As context, it referenced the 2024 U.S. State Department Report, which addressed the decreasing gang violence and the absence of "credible reports of significant human rights abuses."[64]

79. In addition, the State reported that mechanisms have been implemented to supervise the state of emergency, with a focus on children and adolescents, in response to the recommendation issued by the IACHR. It highlighted that, by August 8, 2025, the Technical Board for Referral and Case Management had been established between the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA) and the PDDH, formalized through a letter of understanding. According to the State, this team defined responsibilities and joint working procedures to ensure a coordinated and effective intervention, guaranteeing the direct participation of victims and civil society in the monitoring and follow-up of cases, in line with the objective of developing and maintaining the register of victims set forth in Recommendation No. 5[65].

80. In November 2025, the State reaffirmed its position that there is no systematic pattern to human rights violations under the state of emergency and therefore does not warrant the creation of a dedicated register of victims beyond the existing general register, emphasizing that all detainees are subject to judicial proceedings and that the competent institutions, including the PDDH, already maintain records in accordance with their respective mandates. It also reiterated that the register operated by the PDDH enables

[61] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 7, 10 and 148.
[62] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[63] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[64] U.S. Department of State, 2024 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: El Salvador.
[65] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.

the identification of victims, the provision of individual follow-up, the detection of patterns and the coordination of protection and support measures[66] .

81. The organizations Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) and the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) agreed that the State did not establish an official register of victims of alleged human rights violations during the state of emergency. SSPAS noted that, by February 2025, civil society organizations had identified 6,889 affected persons and recalled that the President had announced the release of 8,000 "innocent" persons. However, it underlined that those who were released remained subject to substitute measures and that the Government never recognized them as victims[67]. IDHUCA maintained that, as of August 2025, there was no verifiable information indicating the creation of a register, emphasizing that the releases announced by the Executive constituted neither recognition nor reparation. Furthermore, it stressed that reforms such as Decree 227 of 2025 facilitated the extension of pretrial detention, resulting in individual being held for more than three years without an initial hearing[68].

82. Cristosal and CEJIL also stated that no measures had been taken to design or create a register of victims of violations committed under the state of emergency and therefore considered the recommendation to be non-compliant. All four organizations concluded that the State neither provided official data nor recognized the affected persons as victims; as a result, no reparation process was initiated[69] .

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

83. The Commission notes that the State has cited the existence of a register administered by the PDDH since 2019, as well as coordination bodies such as the CONAPINA-PDDH Technical Board. However, the register did not demonstrate specificity regarding human rights violations committed under the state of emergency, which is the direct focus of this recommendation, nor did it provide verifiable, disaggregated data on the number of victims associated with these violations who have been registered, assisted, referred, or provided with reparation. Nor was there evidence regarding its methodology for registration (including minimum fields, eligibility criteria, and verification mechanisms), its traceability of cases (from registration to protection measures, investigation and reparation), or its interoperability with the Office of the Attorney General, the Public Defender Service, the Institute of Legal Medicine or other key institutions to facilitate access to justice and comprehensive reparation.

84. Similarly, the State failed to demonstrate that the register meets the two substantive criteria of the recommendation: (i) effective participation of victims and civil society throughout the process (design, operation, validation and monitoring of the register); and (ii) sufficient individualization to allow follow-up of each case and the public dissemination of statistical information in accordance with transparency standards. The Commission considers that merely referencing a prior institutional register of general scope does not fulfill the requirement for a specific register addressing the violations that occurred under the state of emergency, nor is it conceived to guide processes of recognition and reparation of the victims.

85. In view of the foregoing, the Commission concludes that the State failed to develop or implement a dedicated register, in collaboration with victims and civil society, capable of demonstrating verifiable results with respect to assistance and reparation. Consequently, the recommendation is still **pending compliance**.

[66] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[67] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.
[68] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[69] Cristosal Foundation and Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

86. To advance compliance, the State shall establish a dedicated register for victims of human rights violations occurring under the state of emergency, separate from the existing general register, supported by a public protocol that defines its purpose, criteria for inclusion, minimum identification fields, confidentiality safeguards and referral mechanisms for protection, investigation and reparation. This register shall be designed and operated with the effective participation of victims and civil society throughout all phases. Likewise, it is necessary to ensure its interoperability with key institutions and publish, on a defined periodic basis, aggregated and anonymized statistics (high/low, types of violation, assistance mechanisms/reparations granted, response times), together with documentary evidence supporting its functioning.

Recommendation No. 6. Elaborate and implement a comprehensive reparation plan for the victims of human rights violations perpetrated in the context of detentions under the state of emergency, considering the gender perspective and the intersectionality of other factors of vulnerability and discrimination.

87. In the Country Report, the IACHR expressed its concern about complaints on human rights violations related to the criminal policy implemented during the state of emergency. This information concerned a significant number of allegedly illegal and arbitrary detentions affecting victims with diverse vulnerability profiles, as well as practices recorded during operations conducted by the security forces that involved acts of discrimination and criminalization. The IACHR emphasized that the State must adopt measures to remedy the harm suffered by the victims of these practices, ensuring full reparation and non-repetition of these acts[70].

Information on compliance

88. The State affirmed that, as of 2025, it provides mechanisms to ensure access to justice and comprehensive reparation in accordance with Article 245 of the current Constitution, drawing attention to those implemented by the following bodies[71]:

- Office of the General Attorney (PGR): Provides legal assistance and representation to people in vulnerable situations. It noted that this entity operates particularly in cases of human rights violations, offering free advice and support in judicial proceedings.
- Courts of Justice: They hold jurisdiction over matters in which the State can be held liable.
- General Prosecutor's Office (FGR): Competent to investigate and to employ the legal mechanisms necessary to clarify any circumstances that may give rise to State liability.
- Office of the Attorney for Human Rights' Defense (PDDH): It refers to an autonomous body that hears complaints, investigates alleged human rights violations, and formulates recommendations.

89. Regarding the enhancement of legislation and access to reparation, the State affirmed that the existing Salvadoran legal framework ensures access to comprehensive reparation mechanisms, without specifying the particular rules or mechanisms to which it refers[72].

90. Subsequently, in its second report, dated September 2025, the State reported that it has implemented a comprehensive reparation plan for victims of gang crimes, incorporating a gender perspective and addressing the intersectionality of vulnerability factors in a cross-cutting manner. It highlighted that the plan provides immediate and coordinated attention, psychological support, legal advice, and measures aimed at restitution and rehabilitation, as well as guarantees of non-repetition. It emphasized that the State policy is grounded in the principle of *restitutio in integrum*, as established by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights,

[70] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 10, 95, 143, 144, 147, 148, 151, 152 and 399.
[71] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[72] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.

which entails both the reestablishment of the previous situation and the remediation of the effects of the violation[73].

91. Regarding gender-specific attention and access to justice for women, it highlighted the work of the Salvadoran Institute for Women Development (ISDEMU), which enhanced protection programs by providing support networks, interdisciplinary attention services, psychological support, and legal guidance in accordance with the Special Comprehensive Act on Violence-Free Life for Women (LEIV). It also mentioned PDDH's work in capacity-building, awareness-raising, providing gender-sensitive direct assistance, as well as convening roundtable discussions to strengthen public policies in this field. In addition, the Office of the Counsel-General of the Republic (PGR) provides free legal assistance to detained women and their families, including representation in judicial remedies and protective measures for families, with particular attention to dependent children and adolescents[74] .

92. The State also referred to community recovery initiatives implemented by the Directorate for the Reconstruction of the Social Fabric, such as the "Nuevos Paradigmas" programs, focused on mental health and therapeutic support, and "Yo Soy, Yo Puedo", aimed at women's empowerment and strengthening community leadership. For its part, the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA), through its Protection Boards, launched a Plan for the restitution of rights for children and adolescents, and participates in the Specialized Assistance Program for Families of Victims of Feminicide and other forms of violence, ensuring psychosocial support and comprehensive protection measures[75].

93. The State further emphasized that this comprehensive reparation plan is anchored in a robust legal framework. It noted that the Constitution of the Republic recognizes the right to compensation for miscarriages of justice and provides safeguards for the protection of rights, even under states of emergency. Among these, it referred to *habeas corpus*, as regulated by the Constitution and the Constitutional Procedures Act; the ordinary judicial mechanisms provided for under the Criminal Code; and the actions of institutions such as the FGR, which is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases; the PDDH, which is mandated to investigate violations, recommend measures of reparation, and ensure the participation of victims and their family members; and the PGR, which guarantees free, legal representation and defense to persons in vulnerable situations. In addition, it highlighted specific norms, including LEIV, whose article 26 establishes immediate assistance measures for women and their families. According to the State, this normative and institutional framework guarantees that victims have effective access to justice and comprehensive reparations in accordance with national and international human rights standards[76].

94. In November 2025, the State argued that the Commission was requesting the adoption of a single, standalone instrument, designated as such, aimed exclusively at "victims of the state of emergency", which it regarded as unnecessary. It noted that there are no elements to presume human rights violations resulting from legal detention that warrant a dedicated reparation plan. It reaffirmed that the current reparations framework is intended for victims of gang crimes and is implemented through assistance, referral, legal representation, mental health services, community empowerment and differentiated restitution schemes[77].

95. Civil society organizations informed the IACHR that the State had not designed or implemented a comprehensive reparation plan for victims of the state of emergency. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) indicated that there was no State plan and that the initiatives arose from civil society. It mentioned that, in September 2024, movements such as the Movimiento de Victimas del Regimen (MOVIR), the Unidad de Derechos Humanos y Comunitarios (UNIDEHC) and the Bloque de Resistencia y Rebeldía Popular (BRP) submitted an "alternative and popular project" to the Legislative Assembly with the objective of increasing social investment and reducing military expenditures and propaganda, while noting that the

[73] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[74] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[75] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[76] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[77] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report, November 28, 2025.

authorities neither considered the proposal nor reported on any progress. It noted that, as of August 2025, no official reparation plan had been released, and no State institution had published information about victims through its official channels[78]. For its part, the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) contended that there was no comprehensive reparation plan because the Government had not even established a register of victims. It noted that the State continued to label all detainees as "terrorists" and barred them from reintegration programs and any form of reparation, even though they had not been convicted[79].

96. Cristosal and CEJIL agreed that the State has not developed a reparation plan for victims of violations committed during the detentions under the state of emergency. They asserted that no investigations have been conducted into the reported abuses, and that the authorities insisted on maintaining the state of emergency without acknowledging the violations extensively documented by human rights organizations and the national and international press. Based on this position, they concluded that the recommendation was not complied with and that the State remained unwilling to recognize or compensate the victims[80].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

97. State information describes actions related to service provision, support, and reparation for victims of gang crimes. However, the recommendation specifically concerns the development and implementation of a comprehensive reparation plan for victims of human rights violations resulting from detention and criminal prosecution under the state of emergency, with the participation of victims and civil society. In this regard, the Commission warns that the State has not provided verifiable information demonstrating the existence of a plan pursuant to the stated objective, its formal adoption, budget, participation mechanisms, eligibility criteria, procedural steps, or any differentiated reparation measures applied to such victims.

98. Civil society organizations reported the absence of a reparation plan aimed at victims of the state of emergency, lack of official recognition of persons released as victims and lack of public information to verify measures of restitution, rehabilitation, compensation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition applicable to these cases. Based on the above, no material progress has been made with respect to the specific scope of the recommendation, and it therefore remains **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

99. To advance compliance with this recommendation, the Commission considers it necessary for the State to provide detailed and verifiable information on the existence of a comprehensive reparation plan specifically addressing the victims of human rights violations that occurred during the state of emergency. It is essential that the State identify the measures implemented to ensure reparation across its various dimensions (restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition), with particular emphasis on gender perspectives and intersectionality. It is also essential to demonstrate the participation of victims and civil society in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the plan, and to provide details on the budget and the results achieved.

Recommendation No. 7. Bring the criminal and criminal procedure legislation adopted or amended during the state of emergency into line with Inter-American norms and standards, in particular:

a. Repeal any provision that requires the mandatory application of pretrial detention or that prevents its substitution due to the type of crime, in particular Article 5° of Legislative Decree No. 339 of March 30, 2022;

[78] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.
[79] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[80] Cristosal Foundation and Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

b. Repeal the provisions that allow for the confidentiality of the identity of justice operators in the context of their actions in criminal proceedings, in particular Article 2 of Legislative Decree No. 339 of March 30, 2022.

100. In the Country Report, the IACHR noted that, since the installation of the emergency regime, a series of legislative amendments have been approved in the areas of criminal law, criminal procedure, and juvenile justice, addressing issues of concern. In this regard, it noted that these reforms above all pursue a strongly punitive approach to address challenges to citizen security, highlighting the aspects contrary to the Inter-American legal framework and the standards developed by the Inter-American Human Rights System, particularly the mandatory application of pre-trial detention to certain offenses and the confidentiality of the identity of justice officials in the framework of their actions in criminal proceedings[81].

Information on compliance

101. In April 2025, the State justified the declaration of the state of emergency, which served as the basis for the enactment of the criminal law and criminal procedure legislation referred to in the Recommendation under follow-up. According to the information provided, the state of emergency is legal and necessary, insofar as it "responds to the best interests of the State, the protection and security of the Salvadoran population in the face of criminal structures that have undermined the peace and stability of the country for years."[82]

102. Thus, the State explained the validity of Articles 2 and 5 of Legislative Decree No. 339 of March 30, 2022, noting that these provisions are essential to prevent impunity, to guarantee the effectiveness of criminal proceedings, and to safeguard the physical integrity and life of justice officials. Furthermore, it noted that, although these rules —in particular Article 2— exist, they have been applied restrictively, and that, in practice, the defendants have had access to the identities of judges and prosecutors at every hearing[83].

103. At the same time, in September 2025, the State noted that Article 5 of Legislative Decree No. 339, which provides for mandatory pretrial detention for certain offenses, is still in force. However, it stated that detention "is not automatic" because the procedural rule requires the judge to provide reasoning and to evaluate other factors necessary for the application of precautionary measures, ensuring that each decision is ruled reasonably and in accordance with the Constitution and Inter-American standards. About Article 2 of the same decree, which provides for the protection of the identity of judges, prosecutors and other justice officials, the State affirmed that it has not been repealed and emphasized that it is intended as a preventive security measure against potential reprisals by criminal organizations. It highlighted that confidentiality of identity applies only to the information contained in communications and in the public versions of court rulings, without prejudice to the right of defense of the alleged offenders[84].

104. The State also outlined that legislative activity is conducted in accordance with the Constitution and the human rights treaties ratified by El Salvador, which enjoy superior legal status compared to secondary legislation. Accordingly, any law that has been approved is subject to review for compatibility with international standards[85].

105. Subsequently, in November 2025, the State affirmed that its actions have been oriented toward protecting the right to life and personal integrity of the population. In addition, it argued that "the Commission exceeds its mandate by attempting to direct the modification of domestic legislation, a matter that falls within the sovereignty of the State and its democratic process of deliberation, especially in the field of

[81] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 6, 123, 126, 188 and 219.
[82] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[83] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[84] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[85] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.

criminal justice''. It reiterated that pretrial detention remains subject to specific procedural criteria, denying that its application is systematic or mandatory with respect to any particular criminal offense. It maintained that safeguarding the identity of justice officials is an essential security measure to prevent potential reprisals by criminal structures. Finally, it objected to the inclusion by IACHR of references to other legal reforms, including the Organized Crime Act, the Penitentiary Act and the Juvenile Criminal Act, on the grounds that this would unduly broaden the original scope of the recommendation[86].

106. For their part, the organizations Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) and the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) agreed that the State failed to adopt measures to bring criminal and procedural legislation under state of emergency into conformity with Inter-American standards. They pointed out that, instead, a number of regressive reforms were adopted in 2025: the Organized Crime Act extended indictment periods, permitted open hearings of up to two years, and allowed minors to be tried before adult courts; the Prison Act transferred powers from supervisory judges to special courts; and the Juvenile Criminal Justice Act allowed the transfer of adolescents to adult prisons. Both emphasized that Article 5 of Legislative Decree 339, which establishes compulsory pretrial detention, and Article 2, which permits the reservation of the identity of judges and prosecutors, remain in force[87].

107. The organizations Cristosal and CEJIL further noted that recent reforms neither harmonized legislation with the standards of the Inter-American system nor repealed the provisions on pretrial detention and the anonymity of justice officials, which constitutes a breach of the recommendation. They emphasized that, in the jurisdiction dealing with organized crime, pretrial detention was applied as a rule and judges operated under conditions of reserved identity; moreover, these practices extended to cases with no connection with gangs. As an example, they mentioned the detention of human rights defender Ruth Eleonora López, who was accused of illicit enrichment and subjected to an exceptional period of 15 days of administrative detention without a warrant or access to defense attorneys. They noted that this constitutes evidence of the use of the emergency-regime powers to criminalize opponents and dissenting voices[88] .

108. Based on available public information, the Commission was able to verify that, according to the Security Cabinet, as of August 2025, 88,600 persons had been arrested under the state of emergency, of whom at least 8,000 have been granted alternative measures to detention, although their judicial proceedings remain ongoing[89]. The Commission was also aware of the adoption of Decree No. 383, which introduced reforms to the Organized Crime Act[90]. This amendment allows for the further extension of pretrial detention periods, increasing the timeframe within which the Office of the Attorney General may file formal charges against certain persons under the state of emergency to three years (currently two). In addition, it establishes the figure of the “open hearing", which permits an active proceeding to be maintained for up to two years, allowing new defendants to be added as the prosecuting institution presents additional evidence. Finally, the decree provides for the removal of adolescents from the juvenile justice system, so that they will be prosecuted by ordinary courts.[91].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

109. The Commission observes that the State’s response serves only to justify the current legislation, noting that pretrial detention is not applied automatically and that the anonymity of judges and prosecutors is intended to protect them from reprisals. However, no legislative or administrative measures

[86] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[87] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025. Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[88] Cristosal Foundation and Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[89]La Prensa Gráfica Notifican ampliación de detención provisional en casos del régimen de excepción hasta agosto de 2027, September 1, 2025 (in Spanish).
[90] El Salvador, Legislative Assembly, Decree No. 383 which enacts amendments to the Organized Crime Law, August 15, 2025 (in Spanish).
[91] La Prensa Gráfica, Assembly approves reforms to the Organized Crime Act, August 15, 2025 (in Spanish).

aimed at modifying these provisions have been identified, nor any review processes established to align them with Inter-American standards, as required by the recommendation.

110. With regard to the State's claim of an alleged exceedance of the IACHR's mandate, the latter recalls that issuing recommendations may entail regulatory adjustments and that monitoring compliance with international human rights obligations falls within its powers. These recommendations do not supersede the legislative authority of the State, but rather specify the international obligations undertaken and the measures necessary for their effective implementation.

111. Furthermore, in response to the content of its recommendation, the IACHR expresses concern regarding the adoption of regressive laws in 2025, such as the Organized Crime Act and Prison Act, which extend detention periods and authorize the trial of adolescents as adults, contrary to the mandate of the recommendation. Concerns are raised regarding the use of the state of emergency to criminalize persons expressing dissent and the preservation of judges' identities, which restricts transparency and the right to defense. Consequently, the Commission considers that this recommendation remains **pending.**

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

112. To advance compliance with this recommendation, it is essential that El Salvador review and repeal the provisions imposing mandatory pretrial detention, starting with Article 5 of Decree 339, and ensure that such precautionary measures are applied solely in exceptional and justified circumstances, with the possibility of substitution according to the Inter-American standards. It should also amend Article 2 of the same decree and other provisions allowing the identities of judges and prosecutors to be preserved, so that anonymity may be authorized only in exceptional cases, subject to judicial oversight, and without compromising the right to defense or judicial transparency. Finally, it is recommended that reforms enacted during the state of emergency, including the Organized Crime Act, the Prison Act, and the Juvenile Criminal Justice Act, be reviewed to harmonize them with Inter-American human rights standards and to ensure that public security measures uphold due process, the presumption of innocence and the special protection afforded to adolescents in conflict with the law.

Recommendation No. 8. Bring the legislation on juvenile justice amended during the state of emergency into line with inter-American norms and standards, in particular:

a. Repeal any provision ordering the mandatory application of preventive detention or imprisonment or preventing its substitution due to the type of crime, in particular Article 3° of Legislative Decree No. 342 of March 30, 2022;

b. Repeal the provisions that allow application of adult prison sentences to persons under 18 years of age within the framework of juvenile justice, in particular Articles 1° and 2° of Legislative Decree No. 342 of March 30, 2022.

113. In the Country Report, within the series of legislative amendments adopted by the State as part of its citizen security policy, the IACHR examined those concerning juvenile justice and expressed concern over the substantial deterioration of measures applicable to children and adolescents in conflict with the law. Consequently, it requested that concrete measures be taken to ensure that this regulation is consistent with the applicable Inter-American standards[92].

[92] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador", OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 6 and 127.

Information on compliance

114. In 2025, the State highlighted the need for the state of emergency, and particularly the reforms to the Juvenile Criminal Law (Legislative Decree No. 342, March 30, 2022), which allows pretrial detention and adult detention to be applied to persons under 18 years of age. According to the State, "organized terror, extortion and homicide networks" exploited the protections afforded by the juvenile justice system, recruiting adolescents to commit crimes on the basis that their legal responsibility would be reduced. In this regard, while affirming its commitment to the protection of the rights of children and adolescents, it maintained its position concerning the regulations in force[93].

115. On pretrial detention (Art. 3 of Legislative Decree No. 342), the State noted that while its application in minors is not widespread, it is deemed justified in cases involving serious crimes linked to organized crime, particularly where there exists a risk of flight, reoffending, or interference with the judicial process. It justified this measure on the grounds of preserving public security and preventing the risks of flight and reoffending, provided that its application is proportionate, differentiated, and in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child[94].

116. With respect to the application of adult-regime prison sentence to minors (Articles 1 and 2 of Legislative Decree No. 342), the State maintained that "minors have not been equated with adults," emphasizing that differentiated and specialized measures exist for adolescents involved in serious crimes within the context of organized crime. In this regard, it explained that the elements of this policy include a specialized juvenile justice system; the separation of juvenile offenders and gang members; guarantees of proportionality and mechanisms for the review of penalties; protection of adolescents not involved in organized crime; safeguards for juveniles; and alignment with international standards, including the "Beijing Rules" and the "Mandela Rules"[95].

117. Finally, El Salvador made extensive reference to the legislative authority vested in the head of State, noting that this authority includes the power to adapt legislation to the "realities of the country." However, it noted that the criminalization of youth has not been pursued; rather, measures have been implemented to facilitate the social reintegration of minors who are not affiliated with organized crime[96].

118. Subsequently, in its second report, dated September 2025, the State reported that the reforms to juvenile justice legislation, approved during the state of emergency, have not been repealed, but noted that they have been implemented in accordance with international standards. It noted that the legislative authority is empowered to enact reforms in exceptional circumstances, including situations in which minors participate in organized criminal structures, and emphasized that any such measures shall not affect the validity of ordinary juvenile criminal law. To guarantee the rights of this population, the administration of the Social Integration Centers (CIS) implemented measures including the separation of detainees by age, gender and type of detention; protection against cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; access to face-to-face or virtual judicial proceedings; improvements in infrastructure, hygiene, food, and medical care; specialized facilities for teenage mothers and their children; and human rights training for staff, with a view to ensuring decent treatment, non-discrimination and the integration of a gender perspective[97] .

119. The State also reported that Article 3 of Legislative Decree No. 342 of March 30, 2022, has not been repealed, while clarifying that it does not provide for the automatic imposition of pretrial detention. It explained that the application of this provision requires individualized judicial assessments, conducted in accordance with the principles of proportionality, reasonableness, and adequate justification. It specified that,

[93] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[94] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[95] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[96] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[97] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.

in the case of minors, pretrial detention may be imposed in felonies linked to organized crime only when there is evidence of a risk of flight, repeated offenses, or attempts to manipulate the judicial process[98].

120. In addition, the State indicated that the provisions allowing the imposition of penalties on adolescents do not render them equivalent to adults. It argued that minors continue to be prosecuted under the Juvenile Criminal Justice Act with due process and without changing the age of criminal responsibility. It added that specific centers have been established for adolescents associated with gangs, offering differentiated social reintegration programs administered by the Directorate-General of the Directorate-General of Prisons. It further noted that the sanctions imposed are proportionate, subject to periodic review and potential reduction, and that custodial measures comply with the UN Beijing Rules and Mandela Rules, prioritizing rehabilitation and minimizing exposure to negative influences[99].

121. At the same time, in November 2025, the State held that Legislative Decree 342 and its subsequent reforms do not equate adolescents with adults or establish automatic application; stating that preventive detention is imposed only through individualized judicial decisions, which are subject to review under proportionality criteria. It emphasized that juvenile justice continues to be governed by the Juvenile Criminal Justice Act, featuring institutional specialization, access to technical defense, and judicial oversight, and that centers for adolescents operate separately according to age and gender, applying comprehensive protection protocols and implementing reintegration programs. It added that the preservation of identity of justice officials is maintained only in the presence of real risks, without prejudice to the right of defense. Finally, it reiterated that these norms respond to the realities of the country and are grounded in its sovereign authority to promote peace and well-being[100].

122. For its part, civil society indicated that recent reforms to the Special Act on Organized Crime (LECO) would disproportionately affect young people, as they permit them to be tried by the same judges who handle adult cases in matters related to organized crime[101].

123. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) reported that, as of August 2025, the State had taken no steps to bring the juvenile justice legislation, as amended during the state of emergency, into compliance with Inter-American standards; it noted that Article 3 of Legislative Decree 342, which establishes compulsory preventive detention, and Articles 1 and 2 of the same decree, provide for the application of adult penalties to minors, remained in force[102]. The Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) agreed that no corrective reform had been adopted and further observed that, in 2025, even more regressive standards were implemented: Decree 225 amended the Juvenile Criminal Justice Act to enable the transfer of adolescents accused of organized crime to adult prisons, and Decree 383 curtailed the role of juvenile court judges, reducing their function to that of mere supervising judges. None of the provisions imposing compulsory detention or adult sentences on minors had been repealed[103]. In turn, the organizations Cristosal and CEJIL noted that the State had neither taken measures to harmonize juvenile justice legislation nor repealed the provisions in question and therefore concluded that the recommendation had not been observed[104].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

124. Based on information provided by the State, it is noted that the State has defended the validity of Legislative Decree No. 342 and other subsequent reforms, arguing that they do not equate adolescents with adults and that they are applied in accordance with proportionality criteria and with differentiated assistance measures. It also reported improvements in detention conditions and in reintegration programs at specialized

[98] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[99] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[100] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[101] Cristosal, Regime Legalizes Early Penalties in El Salvador, August 18, 2025 (in Spanish).
[102] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.
[103] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[104] Cristosal Foundation and Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

centers for adolescents. However, the State acknowledged that the provisions mandating preventive detention and permitting the imposition of adult sentences on minors have not been repealed.

125. For their part, civil society organizations reported that none of the contested provisions have been amended and that, moreover, certain regressive measures have been adopted, exacerbating the situation. These include Decree 225 of 2025, which allows the transfer of adolescents accused of organized crime to adult prisons, and Decree 383, which restricts the functions of juvenile court judges. They also emphasized that the reform of the Special Act on Organized Crime establishes that adolescents are to be tried before the same judges who prosecute adult offenders. In this regard, civil society concluded that the recommendation has not been observed and that the reforms adopted further entrench setbacks in juvenile justice.

126. Considering this information, the Commission finds that the State has not adopted measures to repeal provisions incompatible with Inter-American standards on juvenile justice. On the contrary, the current legislation retains the contested provisions, and additional reforms have been adopted that further extend these restrictions. Therefore, this recommendation is still **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

127. To advance compliance with this recommendation, the Commission considers it necessary for the State to report on the legislative measures undertaken with a view to repealing the provisions that impose mandatory pretrial detention on adolescents and that permit the imposition of adult sentences on minors. It should also be specified how sanctions are to be ensured to be differentiated, proportionate and oriented toward social integration, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Beijing Rules and the relevant Inter-American jurisprudence. Finally, information is needed on the mechanisms in place for judicial oversight of the implementation of these measures, as well as on the participation of civil society in the design and follow-up of any potential reforms.

Recommendation No. 9. Produce, and move ahead with implementing, the plan for the gradual withdrawal of the armed forces from citizen security tasks.

128. In the Country Report, as part of its monitoring of the State's actions in the area of citizen security, the Commission recalled that, since 2021, it has drawn attention to the importance of building police capacities in order to advance the implementation of the plan for the gradual withdrawal of the Armed Forces from citizen security tasks[105].

Information on compliance

129. In 2025, the State reiterated its commitment to the protection of human rights, recognizing the fundamental role that both the National Civil Police (PNC) and the Armed Forces of El Salvador (FAES) play in ensuring citizen security. Under this pretext, the State pointed out that, within a complex context shaped by the fight against organized crime, both institutions must act in a coordinated and complementary manner. Thus, they explained that the participation of FAES in security tasks is not limited solely to the state of emergency context but has been part of the comprehensive public security strategy of the State in accordance with Article 168 of the Constitution of the Republic. Therefore, according to the State, the Territorial Control Plan empowers the Armed Forces to act in a complementary way to the PNC to maintain public order and safeguard citizen security[106].

130. However, the State acknowledged the "importance" of the PNC assuming exclusive responsibility for citizen security functions, noting that, over time, the operational and technical capacities of

[105] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, par. 92.
[106] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.

that institution will be progressively strengthened. According to the State, the gradual withdrawal of the Armed Forces from these functions must be preceded by a thorough technical analysis that accounts for both the evolution of the security context and the institutional strengthening of the PNC. It further explained that the Salvadoran State maintains a continuous and systematic evaluation of these measures[107].

131. Subsequently, in its second report, dated September 2025, the State reiterated that the participation of FAES in citizen security tasks is not confined exclusively to the state of emergency context, but has been part of the comprehensive security strategy implemented by successive administrations and enshrined in the Constitution. It further explained that the use of the Armed Forces constitutes an exceptional and transitional measure designed to complement the work of the PNC in the face of serious threats. It also noted that, pursuant to Executive Decree No. 27 of December 2024, this support was extended until December 31, 2025, within a legal and constitutional framework intended to strengthen state capacities. It clarified that military participation follows a gradual transition strategy, aimed at its progressive withdrawal as territorial control is consolidated and citizen security institutions are strengthened[108].

132. The State also reported on progress in strengthening the operational and technical capacities of the PNC, with the aim of facilitating the gradual withdrawal of the Armed Forces from citizen security tasks and in accordance with Inter-American human rights standards. It highlighted the implementation of the "ONI" artificial intelligence platform under Phase III of the Territorial Control Plan, which enables real-time identification of gang members with outstanding arrest warrants, analysis of criminal patterns and optimization of resource deployment. It assured that the use of this tool adheres to the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality in the use of force[109].

133. It also noted the expansion of the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), such as surveillance centers, license plate recognition cameras and the Police Information System (SIP), which collects and analyzes data to enhance investigative and operational efforts. According to the State, these innovations have reduced crime, increased the efficiency of the PNC, and allowed its agents to focus on territorial work by relieving them of administrative tasks. Accordingly, it confirmed that the Police have taken a leading role in restoring citizen security and is increasingly capable of assuming the responsibilities previously held by the Armed Forces[110].

134. In turn, in November 2025, the State held that the participation of FAES in public security tasks is exceptional, temporary and under civilian command in accordance with Article 168 of the Constitution. It reiterated that the continued military deployment responds to persistent risks arising from organized crime, and that Executive Decree 27 of December 4, 2024, established both a time frame until December 31, 2025, and a mechanism for continuous evaluation to support a potential gradual withdrawal. It also noted that progress has been made in strengthening the National Civil Police, including technological capabilities, training, and operational reorganization, which provides the essential foundation for a gradual and enduring transition[111].

135. The Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) observed that, contrary to expectations of a withdrawal from security tasks, the State has further increased the Armed Forces' presence. Based on monitoring conducted by the University Observatory of Human Rights, it reported that by December 2024 there were ten active military fences across various areas of the country, supported by a deployment of 64,230 troops, of which 64% were from FAES and 36% from the National Civil Police. San Salvador reportedly concentrated almost half of the agents. It further noted that in June 2025 a new siege was established in Ilopango, involving 500 police officers and 1,500 military personnel, and that no public reports were available regarding the results of these operations or their impact on violence or on the rights of affected

[107] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[108] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[109] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[110] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[111] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report, (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.

communities. It also highlighted that a captain of the armed forces had been appointed Minister of Education in August 2025, which it considered indicative of the militarization of civilian-designated positions[112].

136. For its part, the Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) also indicated that the Government has not take measures for a gradual withdrawal of FAES. It also noted that, as of September 2022, there were already 20,237 military personnel assigned to public security, and that the Executive Decree of December 27, 2024, extended for an additional year the deployment of the Army in the streets to safeguard borders and prisons. It argued that these broad decrees not only increased the scope of responsibilities of FAES but also signaled a shift toward authoritarianism. It added that Ministry of Defense's budget reached 314.3 million dollars in 2025, an increase of 169.17 million and ten times that of the Ministry of Environment, and that between 2024 and 2025, it grew by 53 million. It further noted that, together with the reform of Article 39 of the Criminal Code, which equated military and police officers as security agents, these developments demonstrated the strengthening of the military role in citizen security[113].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

137. Based on information provided by the State, it is noted that the State has recognized the need to strengthen the PNC and has indicated that military participation is exceptional, transitional, and part of a broader strategy aimed at possible gradual withdrawal. However, to date, no specific plan has been presented with a timetable, define objectives, or verifiable criteria to allow for the monitoring of progress toward the gradual replacement of FAES in citizen security tasks. On the contrary, the State reported that military support has been extended through an Executive Decree until the end of 2025.

138. For their part, civil society organizations emphasized that, rather than diminishing, the Army's engagement in citizen security tasks has expanded. They indicated that military fences are present in various parts of the country with significant numbers of troops, that the defense budget has grown substantially, and that recent legal reforms have broadened the range of tasks entrusted to FAES. They also stressed the lack of public reports on the results of these operations and considered that these developments reflect a trend toward the militarization of security and civilian-designated functions.

139. In light of the foregoing, the Commission warns that the State has not only failed to present a plan for gradual withdrawal but has also adopted and extended measures that perpetuate and expand military involvement in citizen security, contrary to the intent of the recommendation and impeding compliance during the period under review. Pursuant to the General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations, and considering the State's conduct, which obstructs the required implementation, specifically the gradual replacement of FAES by the PNC, it must be concluded that the recommendation has **not been complied with**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

140. In response to the determination of non-compliance, the Commission concludes the specific follow-up to this recommendation in the framework of this report. However, the IACHR reserves the right to resume its assessment at a future stage should the State modify its position or adopt verifiable actions that would allow for renewed examination, including the development of a clear and verifiable plan for the gradual withdrawal of FAES from citizen security tasks, with defined timelines, measurable objectives, and monitoring mechanisms.

Recommendation No. 10. Urgently conduct diligent and impartial investigations in all cases that occurred within the framework of the state of emergency where civilians were injured or killed by police or

[112] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[113] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.

military forces, or in state custody, while also investigating possible acts of torture, to establish the facts and determine the corresponding criminal or other responsibilities.

141. In the Country Report, the IACHR highlighted the State's obligation to investigate crimes that consist of human rights violations, including deaths, allegations of torture and ill-treatment of persons deprived of liberty, effectively seeking the truth about what happened, and prosecute and punish those responsible. In addition, it noted the importance of due diligence in the conduct of investigations, particularly with respect to persons in state custody[114].

Information on compliance

142. In 2025, the State categorically rejected the widespread allegations of torture or ill-treatment in State custody, stating that contrary to such allegations, there are no systematic patterns of human rights violations in the country's prisons. It stated that each complaint has been investigated in a transparent and strictly legal manner. In addition, the State provided the following information concerning the implementation of oversight and transparency mechanisms[115]:

- International Monitoring: It stated that international organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and human rights officials from the US embassy in El Salvador have been granted unrestricted access to detention centers, enabling them to carry out inspections and verify compliance with relevant prison protocols.
- Adherence to international standards: It emphasized that El Salvador's prison system has been rigorously adapted to the Nelson Mandela Rules.
- Investigation of complaints: According to the State, although complaints have been filed, none has been corroborated as constituting a systematic practice of abuse under the state of emergency.

143. Additionally, the State reported that all competent institutions have received the complaints submitted and duly process them, while initiating thorough investigations. However, it further stated that no civilian deaths have been recorded in clashes with the security forces and that, to date, there are no investigative or judicial determinations establishing responsibility for acts of torture or for deaths occurring while in state custody. In addition, it argued that the State has responded diligently to the complaints filed by non-governmental organizations and pointed out that precise operational intelligence, the prioritization of non-violence, and the peaceful containment of criminal structures are pillars of its security policy[116].

144. In turn, the State commented that it has a solid institutional framework, comprising independent and effective bodies for investigating any abuse or violation of human rights, including the Office of the Attorney General (FGR), the Office of the Attorney for the Defense of Human Rights (PDDH), the Judiciary, civil society organizations, international organizations, and access to international mechanisms[117].

145. Subsequently, in its second report, dated September 2025, the State reported that it is actively conducting an impartial and diligent investigation into all incidents occurring under the state of emergency that could amount to human rights violations, including instances of civilians wounded or killed by security forces or while in state custody, as well as potential acts of torture. It pointed out that these investigations involve the FGR, the PDDH, the Judiciary and international verification bodies[118].

[114] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 5, 93, 95, 180, 183, 291, 298, 299 and 307.
[115] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[116] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[117] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[118] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.

146. The State indicated that, as of August 15, 2025, the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA) had not received any reports of civilians being wounded or killed in State custody, nor any complaints amounting to acts of torture. For its part, the PDDH reported a total of 11,482 complaints filed in 1,498 cases related to the state of emergency, of which 909 remain pending and 589 have been concluded, which, according to the State, demonstrates the existence of an ongoing investigative process[119].

147. In addition, it reported that the National Civil Police (PNC) referred 171 complaints to the FGR, imposed disciplinary sanctions on 14 officers, and dismissed 12 of them. It clarified that no judicial or administrative investigation has established the existence of a pattern of torture or ill-treatment in prisons, thereby refuting the widespread allegations to that effect. It emphasized that each case has been subject of individualized analysis, which serves to prevent any practices of impunity[120].

148. The State reiterated that it has permitted international oversight by bodies including the International Red Cross, OHCHR and human rights officials of the United States Embassy, who have been granted access to prisons. According to the State, the verification findings confirm that the security strategy has been directed toward safeguarding the lives and dignity of persons, with no verified deaths of civilians in confrontations with security forces, and no proven cases of torture occurring in State custody[121].

149. It is important to note that, in November 2025, the State questioned the reliability and verifiability of the information used by civil society organizations concerning deaths in State custody and alleged torture. It stated that any death of a person deprived of liberty is, without exception, formally investigated. It reiterated that international verification had uncovered no evidence of human rights violations and urged the IACHR to conduct a balanced assessment of the State's official statements.[122]

150. For its part, Amnesty International reported that, as of August 2024, it had documented more than 300 deaths of people in state custody. In this regard, they noted the lack of effort by the State to investigate such deaths and to implement measures of non-repetition[123].

151. Cristosal and CEJIL affirmed that the State had entirely disregarded the recommendation to investigate incidents in which civilians were injured or killed by police or military forces, or while in State custody, as well as to investigate allegations of torture. They emphasized that there is no public record of investigations into arbitrary deaths in prisons or of abuses perpetrated by security agents during the state of emergency, reflecting a complete unwillingness to clarify these events[124].

152. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) and the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) agreed that no judicial investigations had been initiated, nor had anyone been held accountable for the reported incidents. The SSPAS noted that the State had neither recognized the deaths caused by security forces nor those occurring in custody, thereby preventing any legal action. It recalled that Cristosal had recorded the deaths of 261 adults and four children and adolescents in prison between March 2022 and April 2024, and that the authorities did not release any information regarding these cases. It also cited data from the Office of the Attorney for of Human Rights' Defense (PDDH), which recorded dozens of complaints of ill-treatment, torture, disproportionate use of force and extrajudicial executions between 2022 and 2024, although it was unclear whether the PDDH had reached any final resolution regarding these cases. Both organizations noted that neither the Office of the General Attorney nor the Office of the General Prosecutor

[119] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[120] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[121] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[122] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[123] Amnesty International, El Salvador: A thousand days into the state of emergency. "Security" at the expense of human rights, December 20, 2024.
[124] Cristosal Foundation and Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

had reported any investigation into potential acts of torture, and that the authorities stated they had not received any related complaints[125].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

153. Information provided by the State indicates that it denies the existence of torture or deaths in custody, while outlining the procedures for receiving and addressing complaints, applying administrative sanctions, and granting international mechanisms access to detention facilities. However, it did not provide verifiable evidence of effective criminal investigations, including the initiation of individualized cases, the conduct of proceedings (such as autopsies, forensic examinations, and witness interviews), the filing of formal charges and accusations, the publication of judgments, or the implementation of reparation measures. Consequently, based on information provided by the State, it is not possible to establish compliance with the standards of enhanced due diligence, impartiality, and independence in the investigation of deaths, injuries, and potential acts of torture under the state of emergency.

154. Information received from civil society organizations shows numerous cases of deaths in custody and allegations of torture or ill-treatment without evidence of effective criminal investigations or determination of responsibility. In the absence of official public data documenting concrete procedural progress, such as investigative measures, prosecution, and outcomes, it cannot be concluded that the facts have been investigated diligently and impartially, in accordance with applicable standards.

155. Based on the foregoing, the Commission does not validate empirical research findings that conform to Inter-American standards, including timeliness, comprehensive investigation (including adherence to expertise under the Istanbul and Minnesota Protocols), independence, public disclosure consistent with investigative confidentiality, prosecution, and punishment. Under these circumstances, the recommendation is **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

156. To advance compliance, the State is required to provide comprehensive and substantiated details regarding current and concluded criminal and disciplinary inquiries, categorized by timeframe, location (detention centers or security force operations), responsible entity, and procedural phase. It should also ensure the independence and impartiality of investigations, including the preventive separation of officers under investigation; the protection of victims and witnesses; and public disclosure compatible with investigative confidentiality through accessible periodic reports. Finally, it is essential to establish binding investigative deadlines, ensure reasonable access to files for family members and representatives, and implement measures of non-repetition in detention centers and security forces, including operational protocols, training and effective supervision.

Recommendation No. 11. Prepare a diagnosis on the current needs of the following institutions, regarding their competencies in criminal cases, as well as a road map with concrete actions for them to carry out their work effectively:

a. Office of the Attorney General;
b. Office of the General Prosecutor;
c. Judiciary.

157. For 2025, the IACHR highlighted the importance of ensuring that these institutions have sufficient resources to perform their functions, considering the specific challenges identified within the justice system considering the arrests made and their implications for the rights of Salvadoran people. In this regard,

[125] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.

the IACHR noted the relevance of the fact that, at the present time and in light of the measures adopted in the area of citizen security, these entities should have the capacity to respond to current demands for services, both in terms of the legal defense and in the investigation and conduct of proceedings related to alleged violations of human rights, as well as the exercise of constitutional actions such as habeas corpus[126].

Information on compliance

158. In 2025, the State emphasized its authority to design and implement public policies, indicating that any proposal for diagnosis or strategic planning in the field of justice "must constitute a sovereign initiative, originating from and led by the State itself." In short, it did not provide information on the conduct of a diagnosis of the referred institutions[127].

159. However, the State did refer to the "concrete and substantive actions" it has taken "to consolidate the justice system in El Salvador." It highlighted the modernization and optimization of resources in the Judiciary, including the establishment of specialized courts for the prosecution of organized crime; the reform of the Judicial Career Act to strengthen meritocracy within the service; and the digitalization of judicial processes. Regarding the strategic strengthening of the Office of the General Prosecutor, the State highlighted the establishment of specialized units for the investigation of organized crime and the advancement of forensic investigation capabilities. Finally, with respect to the Attorney General's Office, the State referred to citizen-oriented reforms, including the strengthening of free technical defense and the implementation of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms[128].

160. Subsequently, in its second report, dated September 2025, the State reported that the Attorney General's Office (PGR), the Office of the General Prosecutor (FGR) and the Judiciary conducted comprehensive internal assessments to identify needs arising from the increase in criminal cases associated with the state of emergency, on the basis of which they implemented measures to strengthen, modernize, and optimize their institutional capacities[129].

161. Regarding the Office of the Attorney General, the State indicated that the sharp increase in demand for public defense led to a strengthening plan, which includes the expansion and adaptation of infrastructure (new offices and spaces ensuring confidentiality), the hiring of criminal public defenders under a professional services modality, the acquisition of computer equipment to expedite case management, and the implementation of continuous training programs for complex cases related to organized crime. As a guide, it stated that its actions are governed by Article 194.11 of the Constitution, the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, special laws, its Organic Act and the Instruction for the Public Criminal Defense (RV 07, 28 May 2024), ensuring a comprehensive and efficient defense in accordance with access to justice and due process[130].

162. As for the Judiciary, it reported structural measures based on its diagnosis aimed at decongesting and modernizing criminal justice. These include: the creation of the Digital Judicial Management System for Courts against Organized Crime (Agreement 1-P, 13-Feb-2025); the implementation of a unique file number (NUE) (Agreement 6-P, 27-Mar-2025) for traceability and standardization; the implementation of the platform "Judicial Edicts - El Salvador" (Agreement 3-P, 25-Feb-2025) for digital publication with legal validity; and the restructuring of the Integrated Judicial Center of Soyapango into the Judicial Center against Organized Crime with six specialized courts (Agreement 8-P, 22-Apr-2025). It further noted the establishment of a

[126] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 182, 215 and 216.
[127] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[128] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[129] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[130] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.

Specialized Coordination of Cases against Vulnerable Groups and Hate Crimes, attached to the Criminal Chamber, to enhance analysis through a gender and human rights perspective[131].

163. About the FGR, it stated that in response to the increase in organized crime cases, it has established a roadmap aimed at strengthening investigative capacities. This includes creating and consolidating special groups addressing offenses committed by criminal structures, hiring additional prosecuting officers, establishing special training programs with a human rights approach, and establishing inter-agency coordination mechanisms with PDDH and PNC for effective criminal prosecution upholding due process. As a cross-cutting component, it reported the following inter-institutional training measures: 304 activities at the national level within the PDDH-PNC Working Group on the proportional use of force and the guarantees for persons deprived of liberty, with particular attention to children, women and the elderly, as well as 99 training programs offered by the Human Rights School of the PDDH for the PNC, FAES and representatives of the Judiciary[132].

164. The State reported results attributable to these measures, such as the acceleration of judicial proceedings for specialization and digitalization, the technical and legal strengthening of investigations through continuous training and standardization of operational activities (NUE, digital system, electronic edicts), and the improvements in respect for human rights by enhancing the quality of evidence and institutional traceability. According to the State, these advances have improved the effectiveness of investigating and prosecuting organized crime, while upholding procedural guarantees or human rights standards[133] .

165. In November 2025, the State reiterated that it has steadily strengthened the Office of the General Attorney, the Office of the General Prosecutor and the Judiciary. It highlighted once more that these institutions receive continuous training in international human rights standards, have their own budgets and are guaranteed constitutional funding for the Judiciary. As part of the new information, it highlighted the inauguration of the new central building of the Office of the General Prosecutor, funded with support from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), which is expected to improve operational efficiency, optimize internal coordination, and reduce costs for the institution. According to the State, these actions demonstrate the structural strengthening of the judicial system[134] .

166. The Commission emphasizes that it did not receive information from civil society organizations on compliance with this recommendation. On the other hand, it was able to verify from public information that, in response to the increase in criminal cases under the state of emergency, successive extensions of procedural periods were adopted (Decree 547 of 2022, Decree 803 of 2023 and Decree 383 of 2025) which, rather than reflecting an effective strengthening of institutional capacities, have delayed judicial response. According to several reports, trials arising in the context of the state of emergency could begin only in 2027, and the deadlines established by the Organized Crime Act were again extended, with notifications issued for extensions of provisional detention until August 2027. There are also serious delays in the processing of *habeas corpus* actions: thousands of pending applications and resolutions taking up to three years are reported, heightening concerns about the lack of material effectiveness of the justice system to deal with the situation created by mass arrests[135].

[131] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[132] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[133] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[134] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[135] La Prensa Gráfica, Juicios del régimen de excepción en El Salvador empezarían en 2027, January 8, 2025 (in Spanish); La Prensa Gráfica, Asamblea aprueba reformas a la Ley contra el Crimen Organizado, August 15, 2025 (in Spanish); La Prensa Gráfica, Notifican ampliación de detención provisional... hasta agosto de 2027, September 1, 2025 (in Spanish); La Prensa Gráfica, Corte Suprema de Justicia tarda tres años en responder habeas corpus en favor de capturados del régimen de excepción, September 28, 2025 (in Spanish); El Mundo, Más de 3,200 demandas de habeas corpus en Sala por régimen de excepción, según SJH, September 7, 2025 (in Spanish).

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

167. Based on the information provided by the State, it is noted that, although no specific diagnosis was initially reported, it was later indicated that the PGR, the FGR and the Judiciary carried out internal diagnoses and, on that basis, adopted measures to strengthen institutional capacities. However, this submission is limited to general reformulations and modernization measures, without providing verifiable documentation of diagnoses or roadmaps detailing objectives, goals, timetables, budget, and indicators. In addition, publicly available information indicates successive extensions of procedural deadlines (Decrees 547 of 2022, 803 of 2023 and 383 of 2025) and prolonged delays in the resolution of *habeas corpus*, suggesting that structural bottlenecks persist in the justice system in the face of the volume of cases and extended pretrial detention, and that the measures outlined have not been sufficient to ensure timely access to defense, effective judicial oversight and constitutional protection.

168. Considering the foregoing, the Commission notes that, while the State has announced initiatives aimed at strengthening and modernizing, it has yet to demonstrate the development of a comprehensive and participatory diagnostic assessment or the definition of a roadmap with concrete actions tailored to address the current needs of the PGR, the FGR and the Judiciary in this exceptional situation. Accordingly, this recommendation is still **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

169. To advance compliance with this recommendation, the Commission deems it necessary that the State provide verifiable documentation of the diagnoses carried out by the PGR, the FGR and the Judiciary, as well as the roadmaps designed with goals, timetables, indicators and allocated budget. It is also essential to demonstrate how these measures have effectively strengthened the capacity of these institutions to meet the demands arising from the state of emergency, including access to legal counsel, the impartial investigation of human rights violations and the exercise of constitutional actions. Finally, information is needed on mechanisms for civil society participation in the development and follow-up of these initiatives.

Recommendation No. 12. Adopt measures to guarantee due process for all people arrested in the context analyzed. In particular:

a. Immediately inform the person under arrest and their family and representatives of the motives and reasons for which they are being held.
b. Safeguard exercise of the right of the accused to defend himself or herself personally or to be assisted by counsel of his or her own choosing, and to communicate freely and privately with that person.
c. Cease the practice of mass judicial hearings.

170. In the Country Report, the IACHR expressed its concern about the information received regarding a significant number of complaints of violations of due process by persons detained under citizen security policies, as well as specific challenges in access to justice, including the holding of mass hearings that do not allow for individualized knowledge of the cases and guilt of each individual[136].

Information on compliance

171. In 2025, the State emphasized that, as a matter of sovereignty, it alone possesses the authority to structure its judicial system and formulate its own public security policies. Furthermore, about immediate and accessible information on detention, it noted that strict protocols have been established to ensure immediate notification to the detained person of the reasons for their detention, and that information channels

[136] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 7, 142, 146-161, 198-216.

have been implemented so that the family members and legal representatives of the detained persons are informed and know the whereabouts of their loved ones. According to the State, this includes the creation and maintenance of detailed public records that facilitate the timely location of persons under State custody[137].

172. Regarding the exercise of the right to defense and legal assistance, the State affirmed that it has strengthened the system of free, public defense through the PGR, as well as ensured the provision of legal assistance to all persons detained through the Presidential Commission on Human Rights and Freedom of Expression. It further noted that it has guaranteed, without restriction, the right of detainees to appoint legal counsel of their choice and to communicate freely and privately with their defense attorney[138].

173. Finally, regarding the mass judicial hearings, the State indicated that this exceptional measure is being implemented under strict judicial supervision, pursuant to regulations in force and due process, highlighting the hearings optimization and the judicial system capacity. Therefore, it did not address the recommendation to cease this practice[139].

174. Subsequently, in its second report, dated September 2025, the State reported that it has implemented several measures to ensure that detainees, their families, and their representatives are promptly informed of the reasons for detention. It noted that the Office of the Attorney General (PGR), through its Public Criminal Defender's Unit, provides legal assistance from the initial interview and uses the Public Criminal Defense Information System (SIDEP) to grant real-time access to case data. It also highlighted the creation of the Virtual Attention Center (CAVAL), which provides information to family members through digital platforms, thereby reducing the need for mobility. It indicated that the Office of the General Prosecutor (FGR) complies with Articles 12 of the Constitution and 82 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by informing the detained person at the time of the arrest, and by notifying family members of the place and reason for detention, as well as the name of the human rights counsel. It also mentioned the involvement of the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA), which provides comprehensive support and guidance on the rights of adolescents in custody[140].

175. The State, in turn, reported that it has guaranteed the conditions necessary for the exercise of the right to a defense, either personally or through a defense counsel. The PGR has provided adequate spaces to ensure privacy and confidentiality between detainees and their defenders, thereby enabling free and secure communication for the preparation of legal strategies. It added that the technical defense explains to the detainees their legal situation and represents them in hearings and proceedings, in-person or virtually, upholding due process of law[141].

176. Finally, the State noted that substantial changes have been implemented to stop mass judicial hearings. It argued that the decrease in arrests during 2025 reduced the number of individuals charged simultaneously and that the creation of the Specialized Courts for Organized Crime enabled a more efficient distribution of hearings, thus avoiding an excessive concentration of defendants in a single proceeding. According to the State, hearings are currently conducted with a much smaller number of defendants, which ensures a more individualized handling of each case and strengthens the guarantees of due process[142].

177. In November 2025, the State reiterated the measures previously reported and highlighted the operation of the CAVAL as a mechanism for family members and representatives to access information on detained persons. It reported that this system provided 99,549 services between June 2024 and May 2025. It

[137] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[138] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[139] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[140] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[141] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[142] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.

also noted that CAVAL facilitates coordination with technical defense and ensures private communication, including accessibility for persons with hearing impairments[143].

178. For its part, the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) emphasized that no action by the State had been ascertained to promptly inform detainees or their families about the reasons for detention, nor to uphold the right to a defense. On the contrary, it highlighted that the Government expanded the purview of the state of emergency such that it encompasses common crimes and resorted to administrative detentions surpassing the constitutional limit of 72 hours. It reported that human rights advocates were detained without access to legal counsel and transported to unknown locations and noted that mass dismissals in the Office of the General Attorney in 2024 exacerbated challenges in securing public defense[144]. In addition, it indicated that the practice of mass judicial hearings continued[145].

179. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) agreed that no measures are taken to promptly notify relatives and legal representatives of detainees or to facilitate contact with their counsel. It highlighted that, according to its records, there is no separate, accessible mechanism in place to determine who is being detained, under what charges and where. It also emphasized that persons deprived of liberty remain entirely cut off from all forms of communication, including being denied visits from lawyers and family members, which constitutes a form of torture. It further stated that mass hearings continue to occur as a result to amendments to the Organized Crime Act, which extended the statutory deadlines for indictments[146]. Cristosal and CEJIL, in turn, added that the State has not taken any action to comply with recommendation 12. On the contrary, they denounced that, on August 15, 2025, the Legislative Assembly had approved the Decree 383, which violates procedural guarantees and rights enshrined in the Constitution and the American Convention and further confirms the inobservance of the recommendation[147].

180. The Commission recalls its press release of June 6, 2025, in which it expressed concern over measures that restrict the defense of human rights and civic space. In that occasion, it reaffirmed its concern regarding the excessive prolongation and inappropriate implementation of the emergency regime in El Salvador, specifically citing reports of arbitrary detention, widespread and prolonged use of pretrial detention, trials under reserve, restrictions on contact with the defense and family, and mass judicial hearings without individualized analysis. It therefore urged the State to limit the application of the state of emergency to lawfulness and necessity, to guarantee immediate judicial oversight, to make proceedings public except in duly justified exceptions, to permit private communication with the defense, and to avoid incommunicado or disproportionate restrictions. It also called for an assessment of the lawfulness of the arrests, the liberation of individuals detained without legal basis, the investigation of any abuses, the non-application of the state of emergency to unrelated cases or against human rights defenders[148].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

181. The State claims to have implemented mechanisms to guarantee immediate notification, contact with family members and defenders, and private communications. It also claims to have reduced the number of defendants in hearings, which would consequently limit the holding of mass hearings. However, it did not provide verifiable information on the effectiveness of these measures, nor any concrete evidence to confirm that detainees are able to fully and systematically exercise their rights in practice. Nor has it specified

[143] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[144] They mentioned: Alejandro Henríquez, José Ángel Pérez, Ruth López and Enrique Anaya.
[145] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[146] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.
[147] Cristosal Foundation and Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[148] IACHR, Press Release No. 115/25 El Salvador: IACHR expresses grave concern over measures that restrict the defense of human rights and civic space, June 6, 2025.

whether the mechanisms it claims having adopted have been adapted or tailored to the context of arrests carried out under the state of emergency, which is the one assessed by the recommendation.

182. For their part, civil society organizations reported that the measures indicated by the State have not been effectively implemented. They have recorded instances where human rights defenders were detained without access to legal counsel or timely information, the lack of a distinct system for publicly registering detainees, and the continued practice of mass judicial hearings. They also noted that the incommunicado detention of persons deprived of liberty continues to amount to a form of torture and denounced the adoption of regressive legislative reforms that further restrict due process.

183. In conclusion, there is no verifiable evidence of substantive progress in any of the three areas addressed by the recommendation in the context of the arrests carried out under the state of emergency: (a) no operational or auditable system was established to provide immediate notification to detainees, family members and defenders; (b) effective and sustained guarantees of unrestricted and private communication with the defense were not demonstrated; and (c) the cessation of mass hearings was not proven through comparative data or the application of established guidelines. Since the actions reported by the State do not demonstrate verifiable results and the information provided by civil society corroborates the continued existence of the practices in question, the level of compliance remains **pending**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

184. To advance compliance with this recommendation, the Commission deems it necessary that the State provide verifiable and disaggregated information on the measures implemented in the context of the state of emergency, to ensure immediate notification of arrests to family members and defenders, including accessible public records. It is also essential that it demonstrates the existence of effective guarantees of private communication between detainees and defenders, and that it reports on the number of hearings held, specifying whether these are mass or individual hearings. Finally, information is needed on the measures implemented to ensure that no legislative reform restricts the basic procedural rights recognized in the American Convention and the Salvadoran Constitution.

Recommendation No. 13. Maintain a registration system for all persons deprived of liberty, including those detained in penitentiary centers as well as in places of temporary housing, in the terms indicated in paragraph 273 of this report, updated and easily accessible by the competent authorities, representatives, and persons in charge of the defense and/or protection of rights, as well as their relatives.

185. In the Country Report, the IACHR referred to the situation of persons deprived of liberty in the country, considering that, according to the State, as of June 27, 2023; 63,114 adults had been detained since the implementation of the state of emergency, of whom 6,296 people were subsequently released. This group included adults, children and adolescents. The Commission also noted that it lacked information on the total number of persons deprived of liberty at the national level, disaggregated by police detention centers, prisons and detention facilities for children and adolescents, or by population groups, and did not have the official data necessary to assess the real situation of prison overcrowding[149].

Information on compliance

186. In April 2025, the State affirmed having implemented a comprehensive system to ensure that family members, legal representatives and competent authorities can access verified information about

[149] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 243 and 253.

persons in state custody in a timely manner. In this regard, it indicated that the following mechanisms are in place[150]:

- Specialized attention centers were set up in prisons where family members and legal representatives can submit requests for information directly; additionally, clear and rigorous protocols were established to ensure that every person detained is fully identified and their location known from the moment they enter the prison system.
- The PGR has developed and implemented the digital platform "CAVAL 24/7", a system that allows ongoing and real-time consultation on the current location and procedural status of persons deprived of liberty.
- Regular and systematic updating of prison registers, which are fully accessible to the competent authorities[151].

187. The State subsequently emphasized that the Directorate General of Prisons administers the Prison Information System (SIPE). This system compiles information on the legal status of each detainee, including their location, authorized visits, legal counsel data and the record of transfers between different facilities. In addition, the SIPE is linked to the National Registry of Natural Persons, which facilitates the identification and location of individuals within the system[152].

188. For adolescents, the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA), together with other institutions, maintains a comprehensive register of those subjects to criminal responsibility. This system is designed to ensure the traceability of each case and protect the rights of adolescents. Access to this information is confidential and restricted to competent authorities, legal representatives, rights defenders and family members[153].

189. Finally, it highlighted that communication channels have been established to ensure the immediate verification of the location and legal status of detainees, allowing the authorities to follow up on each case effectively. According to the U.S. Department of State Human Rights Report, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Office of the Public Defender, adequate mechanisms are in place to allow citizens to locate their detained family members[154].

190. The Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) reported, by March 2025, a total of 110,000 people in prison, of whom 85,000 have been detained since the implementation of the state of emergency in March 2022[155].

191. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) found that, as of August 2025, the State had not established a public and updated register of all persons deprived of liberty in both prisons and temporary detention facilities. It noted that the General Directorate of Prisons keeps this information confidential and therefore relied on its own projections: it estimated 118,373 persons deprived of liberty, of whom 39,538 were detained before the state of emergency and 78,835 were arrested under this regime; it estimated that only 8,000 had been released. The SSPAS warned that the lack of official data on who is being detained, under what charges and where, leads to short-term forced disappearances: it recorded 540 cases of families who remained unaware of the whereabouts of their relatives for prolonged periods. It also indicated that the number of detained children or adolescents is uncertain: official figures from 2023 reported 2,826, but organizations such

[150] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[151] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[152] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[153] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[154] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[155] WOLA, Mass Incarceration and Democratic Deterioration: Three Years of the State of Exception in El Salvador, March 27, 2025.

as Human Rights Watch and CONAPINA reported more than 3,000 and 3,319 arrests, respectively, without the State having updated these figures[156].

192. In the same vein, the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) corroborated that a system for the comprehensive registration of persons deprived of liberty has not been implemented, and consequently, no updated and accessible list is available for authorities, defenders and family members to consult[157].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

193. The recommendation entails the establishment of a comprehensive, up-to-date and easily accessible register of all persons deprived of liberty, including those held in temporary facilities, which shall ensure traceability from apprehension through custody. The State reported the existence of attention mechanisms, the "CAVAL 24/7" platform, the SIPE and CONAPINA registers, as well as verification channels available for authorities, defense and family members. However, it failed to demonstrate: (i) the adoption of operational protocols that ensure full identification and location from the very moment of detention (according to para. 273 of the Country Report); (ii) an effective interoperability between PNC, FGR, DGCP/SIPE and CONAPINA including real-time updating and a unique identifier per person; and (iii) verifiable accessibility mechanisms, such as auditable records or queries or standardized access methods, that enable checking of the register's content.

194. Furthermore, the information provided by civil society organizations serves to corroborate these structural deficiencies, noting the absence of an updated and accessible list for family members and defense, as well as the existence of reservations concerning prison data. This raises doubts about the comprehensive scope and practical efficacy of the mechanisms described. In summary, although some progress has been observed, such as the existing platforms and sectoral registers, it remains insufficient to meet the required standards of comprehensiveness, continuous updating, interoperability, and accessibility. Consequently, the level of compliance is considered **partial**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

195. To overcome the gaps identified, the operational protocols shall be formalized and submitted to ensure the identification and location from apprehension, including temporary facilities, with minimum fields specified in para. 273 of the Country Report and traceability rules. In addition, interoperability among PNC, FGR, DGCP/SIPE and CONAPINA, integrating real-time updating, a unique identifier, and a comprehensive registration of transfers or any change in legal situation, shall be substantiated. Finally, accessibility for family members and defense must be ensured via both in-person and remote channels, with a maximum response time established, in addition to the publication of disaggregated statistics on a regular basis.

Recommendation No. 14. Regarding the use of pretrial detention as a measure of last resort and justified by the procedural purposes of each specific case:

a. Modify the legislation by incorporating more alternative measures to pretrial detention;

b. Adopt a protocol or guidelines addressed to judicial authorities on pretrial detention that:
(i) prioritize the application of less burdensome measures than pretrial detention;
(ii) address the gender perspective; the best interests of children and the impact on persons belonging to groups at special risk when deciding on precautionary measures in criminal investigations or proceedings.

[156] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.
[157] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

c. Adopt a system of periodic review of both the validity of the circumstances that led to the initial application of pretrial detention in each case and compliance with the maximum periods of detention, allowing for the immediate release of persons held in pretrial detention when such circumstances are no longer in force, the maximum periods established have been met, or the reasonable period of time that allows a person to be held under this precautionary measure has expired.

196. In the Country Report, the IACHR recalled that, in accordance with Inter-American standards, pretrial detention is an exceptional procedural measure that must be maintained for a reasonable period of time and shall not be extended beyond the period for which the State can provide adequate justification for its necessity and shall therefore be subject to periodic review. In this context, it stated that, according to public information, among the 65,795 persons arrested up to March 2023 in El Salvador, approximately 90% were held in pre-trial detention. The Commission reiterated the need to consider the precautionary and exceptional nature of this measure in this context, urging the State to ensure its rational application and to give priority to the use of less burdensome alternative measures[158].

Information on compliance

197. In April 2025, the State clarified that the legally used term to refer to pretrial detention is "provisional detention," and that it is based on Article 13 of the Constitution of the Republic. In addition, it explained that its imposition is exclusively within the competence of the courts, provided that the procedural conditions established in articles 329 and 330 of the Code of Criminal Procedure are met. The State pointed out that the duration of the measure is limited to the "time strictly required to serve this need [to ensure the conduct and results of the trial]" and that the mechanism includes the review of the measure by the judge, with the primary objective of preventing these measures from being disproportionate or arbitrary. Furthermore, the State failed to address the legal amendments intended to incorporate alternative measures to pretrial detention, to adopt a protocol or guidelines for judicial authorities concerning pretrial detention and establish a mechanism for periodic review. Finally, it should be noted that the State, in its response, expressed categorical rejection of any attempt by the Commission to assume legislative functions[159]. In its comments on the draft report, the State did not report recent legal reforms to expand the catalogue of alternative measures, nor the adoption of a specific protocol for judicial authorities, nor operational parameters for periodic review with public indicators[160] .

198. Then, in September of the same year, with respect to subparagraph (A), the State indicated that the "Crecer Juntos" Act provides for the application, in the case of adolescents, of socio-educational measures promoted and supported by the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA), with a view to ensuring the protection of rights, comprehensive development and social reintegration. However, it did not report any recent modifications aimed at expanding the range of alternative measures to pretrial detention in relation to adults[161].

199. With respect to subparagraph (b), the State noted that it has not adopted a new protocol or specific guidelines for judicial authorities concerning the use of pretrial detention as a measure of last resort, as it considers that the existing criminal procedure rules already contain adequate principles and provisions. It highlighted that the Code of Criminal Procedure (CPP) establishes that pretrial detention is not automatic and must be exceptional and subsidiary, subject to judicial evaluation as to its suitability, necessity, and adequacy. It explained that Article 329 of the CPP sets out the conditions for its imposition, including the existence of evidentiary elements regarding the act and the individual's participation, as well as the applicable

[158] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 7, 121, 122, 123, 218, 219.
[159] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[160] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[161] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025, and El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report, November 28, 2025.

penalty threshold, and that Article 331 further allows for the application of less burdensome measures when there is no reasonable risk of flight, even in cases involving offenses punishable by more than three years of imprisonment. It added that the authorities should assess personal circumstances (e.g. pregnancy, serious illness or other vulnerable conditions) when deciding on precautionary measures, which, in their view, incorporate a gender perspective, the best interests of the child and assistance to groups at special risk[162].

200. With respect to subparagraph (c), the State reported that the system for the periodic review of precautionary measures is already regulated under Articles 343 and 344 of the CCP in the form of a review of precautionary measures, which may be requested at any stage of the proceedings. It explained that any request must establish both a legal basis (the cessation or unreasonableness of the budgets that gave rise to the measure) and a factual basis (change in circumstances), and that the judge is required to provide reasons for the continuation, modification or termination of the measure. According to the State, this mechanism seeks to avoid unjustified prolongations and ensures immediate release or replacement by less burdensome measures when detention is no longer justified, keeping preventive detention as exceptional, proportional and necessary[163].

201. On the matter, the IACHR has expressed concern regarding the use of provisional detention in cases involving human rights defenders. In his Press Release No. 115/25 (June 6, 2025), it stated that, according to information received, detained defenders were placed in pre-trial detention without regard to their particular circumstances, being held incommunicado and subject to confidential proceedings[164]. Similarly, in Press Release No. 162/25 (August 14, 2025) reiterated its concern about the excessive prolongation and improper application of the emergency regime, with direct effects on the guarantee of procedural rights[165].

202. For its part, civil society has pointed out that, because of the reforms to the Special Act on Organized Crime (LECO) issued on August 15 by the ruling party in the Legislative Assembly, persons detained under the suspension-of-rights regime may remain in detention for more than five years without being formally charged. It also indicated that this deadline is unjustified and unreasonable, and it is inconsistent with the Political Constitution of El Salvador and relevant international human rights standards[166].

203. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) noted that, as of August 2025, the State had not amended its legislation to include alternative measures to pretrial detention, nor had it adopted protocols to guide judges in applying detention as measure a last resort. It noted that pretrial detention was applied extensively and for prolonged periods without periodic review or individual hearing having been conducted. It stressed that detainees were released under alternative measures, mainly through review hearings (33.3%) or, in many cases, without knowing the reason (30.6%) or after passing a polygraph test (22.2%). In addition, it condemned the release process as being marked by ill-treatment, humiliation, and psychological coercion, and noted that some individuals were re-arrested upon their release from prison and subjected to further prosecutions[167].

204. In turn, the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) affirmed that no alternative measures or guidelines had been adopted to restrict pretrial detention and emphasized that no system of periodic review would be established. On the contrary, on August 15, 2025, it reported that the Legislative Assembly had approved Decree 383, which permits the extension of provisional detention for up to an additional 24 months for persons tried under the state of emergency, allowing the precautionary measure to be maintained for up to five years in the absence of a judge's final decision[168]. Cristosal and CEJIL added that

[162] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[163] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[164] IACHR, Press Release No. 115/25, El Salvador: IACHR expresses grave concern over measures that restrict the defense of human rights and civic space, June 6, 2025.
[165] IACHR, Press Release No. 162/25, El Salvador: IACHR reiterates concern over prolonged and improper use of state of emergency in El Salvador, August 14, 2025.
[166] Cristosal, Regime Legalizes Early Penalties in El Salvador, August 18, 2025.
[167] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.
[168] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

none of the provisions consolidating pretrial detention as a standard practice had been repealed and that the State still failed to comply with the recommendation[169].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

205. The State described the current framework on "provisional detention" (Constitution and CPP) and, for adolescents, the socio-educational measures of the "Crecer Juntos" Act. However, it did not report on reforms incorporating new alternatives for adults (subparagraph A); it has not adopted a new protocol or specific guidelines for judicial authorities with a focus on exceptionality, subsidiarity and differentiated perspectives (subparagraph b). Instead, it merely stated that the revisions are already reflected in the CPP (arts. 343 and 344) without proving criteria of periodicity, operational deadlines, or verifiable results to ensure immediate release upon cessation of precautionary measures or when limits are exceeded (subparagraph c).

206. For its part, civil society reported regressive measures (among them, reforms to the LECO and Decree 383 of August 15, 2025) that allow for the extension of provisional detention for up to five years in the absence of a judge's final decision and the extension of the measure for an additional 24 months under the state of emergency, as well as the extensive and prolonged application of pretrial detention without periodic review or individual hearing having been conducted. Overall, it indicated that no measures have been taken to comply with Inter-American standards and, on the contrary, practices and norms incompatible with the principles of exceptionality, subsidiarity, and periodic review of the measure have become entrenched.

207. In turn, these concerns have also been reflected by the IACHR itself in its Press Releases from June and August 2025, in which it warned about the use of provisional detention in respect of human rights defenders and the excessive prolongation associated with the state of emergency.

208. On the other hand, the IACHR notes that the State has "categorically rejected any attempt by the IACHR to assume legislative functions." In this regard, as previously clarified in the present Report, the IACHR recalls that its recommendations fall within the scope of the powers conferred under Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights, pursuant to which it is authorized to make observations and recommendations to promote the full observance of human rights. When such recommendations call for the adoption or reform of regulatory provisions, this reflects the identification of areas requiring adjustments to ensure the compatibility of the domestic legal framework with Inter-American standards. These recommendations therefore constitute a tool for cooperation aimed at supporting States in the fulfillment of their international obligations, without entailing the exercise of legislative functions.

209. Lastly, the actions described on the part of the State run counter to the purpose of the recommendation, as they extend and prolong pretrial detention without ensuring its exceptional and subsidiary nature or providing for periodic oversight. The State itself has expressed its refusal to introduce the necessary legal reforms to incorporate a broader range of alternative measures. Pursuant to the Commission's General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations, the State's indication that it will not implement the recommendation constitutes grounds for determining that the recommendation **has not been complied with**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

210. In response to the determination of non-compliance, the Commission concludes the specific follow-up pertaining to this recommendation in the present Report. However, the IACHR reserves the right to resume its assessment at a future stage should the State modify its position or adopt verifiable actions that would allow for a renewed examination, including the public presentation of a draft reform incorporating an operational catalog of alternative measures; the adoption o judicial protocols or guidelines that prioritize less burdensome measures and incorporate a gender perspective, the best interests of the child and differentiated approaches; and the establishment of a periodic review system with defined intervals, maximum deadlines,

[169] Cristosal Foundation and Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

automatic triggers for hearings, and release when the precautionary need ceases or limits are exceeded, with results duly documented.

Recommendation No. 15. Immediately remedy any overcrowding situation. To this end, issue an order from the justice sector and the penitentiary system prohibiting the entry of new detainees into facilities already occupied beyond their official capacity.

211. In the Country Report, the Commission recalled that, since 2021, it identified alarming levels of overcrowding in the prison system in El Salvador, the excessive use and duration of pretrial detention being a contributing factor, as well as the lack of alternative measures to deprivation of liberty. Furthermore, in the context of the state of emergency, the Commission noted that it continued to receive worrisome information about high levels of overcrowding, considering that the number of persons deprived of liberty has tripled in recent years[170].

Information on compliance

212. In its first report submitted to the IACHR in April 2025, the State indicated that it had adopted measures to ensure that persons deprived of liberty are accommodated in decent and safe conditions, free from critical overcrowding, and stated that "this recommendation has been fully implemented, reflecting a comprehensive and sustainable approach in prison administration."[171]

213. First, the State noted the expansion of prison capacity, including the construction of new facilities and the enlargement of existing infrastructure at centers such as the Terrorism Confinement Centre (CECOT) and the Tonacatepeque Social Inclusion Centre, the latter of which currently operates at 15.6% of its designed capacity. On the other hand, the State explained that it has implemented a strategy to monitor and reallocate the prison population, including transfers and releases, to ensure that the centers operate within their authorized capacity[172].

214. Regarding the prohibition on admitting new prisoners to facilities at maximum capacity, the State affirmed that it has effectively implemented this measure and has planned the relocation of persons deprived of liberty to facilities with greater capacity, in order to prevent overcrowding[173]. In addition, it added that it has prioritized improving living conditions in prisons, ensuring compliance with the Nelson Mandela Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, including the provision of quality food, access to safe drinking water for personal hygiene and consumption, and comprehensive healthcare services[174].

215. In September and November 2025, the State indicated that no provision or order had been issued by the judicial sector or the prison system prohibiting the admission of new detainees to facilities exceeding their official capacity, as the prison population was deemed not to surpass the installed capacity[175].

216. Furthermore, with respect to capacity and population beyond the CECOT and the Tonacatepeque Social Inclusion Centre, the State reported that, since 2024, the Social Integration Centers (CIS), under the administration of the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA), has classified the population by age and type of detention, ensured gender separation within designated modules (Ilobasco, Tonacatepeque, El Espino and female-only CIS), and organized subsections according to

[170] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 238, 244, 245, 250, 253 and 255.
[171] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[172] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[173] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[174] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[175] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025. El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.

both age and level of adaptation of adolescents, in accordance with the objectives of detention and the guarantee of rights. No additional consolidated figures were provided on capacity and occupancy of all detention centers[176].

217. Finally, in its observations dated November 2025, the State held that there was no "critical overcrowding" necessitating a formal order to prohibit admissions. It also stated that its structural strategy, encompassing the expansion of infrastructure, technical redistribution, releases as per legal requirements, and the improvement of conditions, would have ensured that occupancy levels remain "within reasonable operational limits"[177].

218. Moreover, according to data reported by civil society, the latest population census carried out in El Salvador would indicate that 3 out of 100 men are in prison, and that this "has generated a crisis of extreme overcrowding in most prisons, whose capacity, in some cases, exceeds 300% since the beginning of the state of emergency".[178.]

219. In the same vein, recent news reports indicate that El Salvador would have the highest rate of detainees globally, and that, three years after the state of emergency, CECOT remains the only prison free from overcrowding, while other centers continue to face persistent capacity challenges[179].

220. In turn, the Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) reported to the IACHR that no measures had been taken to alleviate overcrowding and described inhumane conditions in the detention centers: cells intended for 30 individuals but accommodating more than 100, overcrowding up to five times the capacity, lack of ventilation and water, and people being forced to sleep while seated or standing. It indicated that, pursuant to the latest extension of the state of emergency in force since August 4, 2025, more than 88,000 detainees prosecuted for affiliation with gangs had been recorded. It also estimated that the prison system was overcrowded by 380.5%, while the CECOT is operating at only 36.4% of its full capacity. It estimated that El Salvador has a ratio of 1,867 persons deprived of liberty per 100,000 inhabitants, the highest in the world, and that almost 2.6% of the adult population is in prison. Finally, it was indicated that, as of August 2025, there was no judicial or prison order prohibiting the admission of new persons in centers exceeding their capacity[180].

221. IDHUCA agreed that the authorities have not taken measures to alleviate overcrowding and estimated that, by August 2025, 324% pre-CECOT prisons were overcrowded, accommodating 110,095 persons, while CECOT holds 14,538 prisoners (36% of its capacity). It added that the reform of the Juvenile Criminal Justice Act, which allows children under 18 to be transferred to adult prisons, would increase the prison population, and that El Salvador had even received individuals transferred from prisons in the United States. It also noted that no orders had been issued prohibiting the admission of new detainees to overcrowded centers, insofar as they extended pretrial detention, have hindered efforts to reduce overcrowding[181].

222. Finally, press releases have reported recent deaths linked to extreme heat conditions and alleged lack of water within specific centers, reinforcing concerns about risks associated with overcrowding and material conditions of detention[182].

[176] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[177] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[178] Amnesty International, El Salvador: A thousand days into the state of emergency. "Security" at the expense of human rights.. December 20, 2024.
[179] Swissinfo.ch, El Salvador tiene la tasa de presos más alta en el mundo, alertan organizaciones, March 26, 2025 (in Spanish).
[180] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.
[181] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[182] La Prensa Gráfica, CECOT es el único reclusorio en El Salvador sin hacinamiento, a tres años del régimen de excepción, March 26, 2025 (in Spanish).

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

223. The IACHR takes note of the information provided by the State and the contributions made by civil society. However, it acknowledges that some substantial gaps persist, preventing the implementation of the recommendation's operational provisions: (i) the State itself confirmed that it has not issued an order prohibiting admission to centers beyond its capacity, even though the recommendation expressly requires it; (ii) it failed to provide public, updated and consolidated information by center (beyond specific references to CECOT and Tonacatepeque), which would enable verification of official capacity and actual population, or assessment of the outcomes of the announced measures (extensions, transfers, releases); and (iii) the information corroborated by civil society organizations indicates widespread overcrowding and the absence of admission ban orders, reinforcing the view that the reported measures do not constitute an immediate or verifiable remedy.

224. In this context, the measures invoked by the State (expansion of capacity, reallocation and improvement of conditions) are merely instrumental and, in the absence of a specific prohibition order and verifiable center-level data, they fail to meet the requirement to promptly address overcrowding or to prevent admissions to facilities that exceed capacity. Accordingly, the Commission considers that the level of compliance with the recommendation is **pending**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

225. To assess objective progress regarding this recommendation, the State shall provide publicly verifiable documentation demonstrating that no establishment exceeds its capacity or, if it does, the immediate remedial actions taken. To do so, it should submit a consolidated inventory per center with official capacity and actual population, the methodology for calculating capacity and the actual ratio of occupation, in accordance with the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Principles and Best Practices on the Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas, in particular Principle XVII, which mandates publicity, accessibility and regular updating of these data. This statistical component shall be public, accessible, and regularly updated, to allow independent verification by the competent supervisory bodies.

226. In addition, the State shall demonstrate the existence and effective enforcement of a provision prohibiting the admission of additional individuals to any center that exceeds its official capacity, specifying the issuing authority, date of issuance, scope, notification procedures, and certification of implementation. In cases where an establishment has exceeded 100% occupancy at any time during the period, it is appropriate to specify the immediate remedial measures adopted (e.g., transfers, expenses, infrastructure adaptations), with measurable results reflected both in the ratio of occupation and in material conditions, including living space, ventilation, access to water and sanitation, and time out of cell, as well as the implementation schedule and the responsible authorities. The implementation of a continuous monitoring mechanism, with regular updates disaggregated by center and external verification, will allow the Commission to assess objectively any progress in the level of compliance with the recommendation.

Recommendation No. 16. Design and establish a plan of action to remedy the deficiencies identified in this report with respect to the minimum conditions of detention of persons deprived of liberty, especially in the areas of shelter, hygiene conditions, food, drinking water, and access to medical treatment, taking into account the gender perspective and the special risk situation of specific groups.

227. In the Country Report, the IACHR expressed its concern over information received indicating the worsening of the inhumane conditions of detention of persons deprived of liberty in the country, as a result of situations such as total confinement in cells with no air circulation or with humidity and filtration problems; restrictions on access to toilets and water for personal hygiene, consumption, and cleaning; critical and poor sanitation and food conditions, as well as serious impacts of these factors on the health and physical, mental

and emotional integrity of detainees. Considering the above, the Commission reiterated its call to ensure minimum conditions of detention compatible with human dignity and respect for fundamental rights[183].

Information on compliance

228. In its first report to the IACHR, in April 2025, the State affirmed that it had implemented this recommendation by ensuring that all prisons across the country have dignified conditions in infrastructure, food, drinking water, medical care and differentiated services for vulnerable groups, as well as for their families, noting that OHCHR Reports "support and verify these developments"[184]. The State also referred to various aspects of the conditions of detention:

- It stated that it has undertaken substantial improvements to the prison infrastructure, expanding the capacity of the centers and modernizing the facilities to ensure decent conditions for persons deprived of liberty. As an example, it presented the cases of the Tonacatepeque Social Integration Centre and the Zacatecoluca Penal Centre, places where OHCHR had verified that the designed capacity was "kept under control"[185].
- It assured that a continuous supply of drinking water is maintained in all prisons, ensuring adequate access for both daily consumption and personal hygiene. According to the State, prisoners even receive personal hygiene kits that include soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, and deodorant. As examples, it again presented the centers of Zacatecoluca and Tonacatepeque.
- It stated that food has been provided in all prisons, with access to three meals per day and menus designed to meet the nutritional needs of the prison population.
- Regarding medical care, the State affirmed that the Salvadoran prison system is staffed with qualified medical personnel 24/7, including general practitioners, dentists, psychiatrists, and access to specialized consultations through telemedicine. It also indicated that protocols have been adopted for immediate transfer to public hospitals in cases of medical emergencies.

229. About the gender perspective and consideration of the situation of special risk of specific groups, the State explained that it has implemented differentiated assistance mechanisms for women deprived of their liberty, ensuring adequate conditions in women's centers. In addition, it stressed that specific areas have been established in all prisons for groups in vulnerable conditions, guaranteeing their physical integrity and access to specialized services[186].

230. In its second report to the IACHR, dated September 2025, the State noted that it has designed and implemented a comprehensive plan of action to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Commission in relation to minimum conditions of detention. This plan includes measures in the areas of shelter, hygiene, food, access to safe drinking water and medical care, and incorporates a differentiated, gender-responsive approach as well as consideration of the specific risks faced by vulnerable groups[187].

231. In particular, it indicated that actions have been carried out in all prisons through the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA) and the General Directorate of Prisons. With regard to infrastructure, it reported adaptations to dormitories, clinics, schools and psychological and social care facilities, as well as the establishment of dedicated areas for adolescent and pregnant mothers. With respect to hygiene and nutrition, it reported permanent access to drinking water, the distribution of hygiene kits, the organization of periodic cleaning and fumigation days, and the provision of balanced meal plans, including specialized menus for early childhood and for individuals with specific needs. Finally, in relation to

[183] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 244, 256, 258, 259, 264 and 265.
[184] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[185] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[186] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[187] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.

medical care, it stated that it maintains specialized personnel, established transfer emergency protocols, and multidisciplinary technical teams dedicated to the physical and mental health of persons deprived of liberty[188].

232. Finally, in November 2025, the State held that the failure to adopt certain documentary formats for recording the measures taken does not imply the absence of action and stated that prison modernization has been verified by accredited bodies, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In this regard, it stated that the failure to adopt specific measures identified by the IACHR to comply with the recommendation does not indicate that the State is not taking action to comply with the recommendation[189].

233. On the other hand, the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) emphasized that no measures are known to have been taken by the State to remedy the deficiencies in the minimum conditions of detention indicated by the Commission. It noted that, according to Socorro Jurídico Humanitario (SJH), as of August 2025, at least 433 people had died in state custody, and the institutions do not indicate whether any improvements have been implemented across all prisons[190].

234. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) added that, as of August 2025, no actions had been taken to remedy the deficiencies, and that the testimonies collected by civil organizations reflect the continued existence of inhumane conditions. It cited cells intended for 30 individuals but crowding more than 100 together, lack of ventilation and access to clean water, people sleeping while seated or standing, proliferation of skin diseases due to unsanitary conditions and lack of adequate medical care or medicines. It further noted that 86.5% of the interviewees reported receiving insufficient food, with a single ration being shared among several inmates, and that water shortages necessitated the use of improvised buckets for basic physiological needs, including, in some cases, the consumption of urine. Only 53.8% of those with pre-existing conditions were able to obtain their treatment; the rest saw their health deteriorate seriously. It mentioned that the only documented health campaign treated 75 people only and concluded that there was no indication of improvements or of measure taken by the State to ensure decent conditions in detention centers[191].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

235. The IACHR notes that the State claims to have "designed and implemented" a comprehensive plan of action and of the measures described (adaptation of infrastructure, water supply, hygiene kits, meal plans and medical care, with a differentiated approach). In the opinion of the State, the Commission would be rejecting effective actions on the grounds that they do not conform to a specific format or do not align with the measures suggested in an indicative manner. The IACHR recalls that the General Guidelines do not impose a unique way of implementing a recommendation, but rather verifiability criteria and outcomes in accordance with Inter-American standards. Therefore, any alternative proposed by the State may be considered in order to raise the level of compliance, provided that it is consistent with the fundamental objective of the recommendation and is accompanied by publicly available, clear, updated, and verifiable information on the formal measures adopted, their coverage and scope, outcome indicators, timelines, independent monitoring mechanisms, and any other relevant information. In the absence of such substantive information, it is not possible to amend the assessment of compliance with this recommendation.

236. Reports from civil society organizations confirm that the conditions motivating the recommendation persist (severe overcrowding, water use restrictions, insufficient food, barriers to access to health and reports of deaths in custody). This suggests that, without verifiable support, the actions cited by the State do not allow the identified deficiencies to be considered remedied. In these conditions, no material progress is observed in ensuring the minimum standards in accommodation, hygiene, food, water and medical

[188] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[189] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[190] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[191] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

care with a differentiated approach. Consequently, the Commission considers that the level of compliance with this recommendation is **pending**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

237. The Commission observes that, pursuant to its recommendation, the State is requested to "design and implement an action plan to remedy the deficiencies identified in this Report." To assess compliance with this recommendation, the State is invited to submit updated, verifiable, and comprehensive information concerning the content of the action plan, including, but not limited to, its scope, responsible persons, budget, timeline, and indicators. The Commission further suggests that the State provide any additional information concerning the action plan that it deems relevant for the purpose of fulfilling the core elements of the recommendation.

238. In this context, the consent to a working visit of the IACHR with full, confidential and unrestricted access to all detention facilities, including maximum security areas and juvenile modules, to registers and private interviews with persons deprived of liberty, would be a fundamental step in verifying in situ the implementation and results of the plan and, where appropriate, guiding immediate corrective actions.

Recommendation No. 17. Guarantee regular visits by family members, representatives, and competent authorities in all penal centers and repeal all provisions prohibiting family visits contained in Article 79-A of Decree 93 - Reforms to the Penitentiary Law.

239. In the Country Report, the IACHR observed information on the prolonged incommunicado detention of persons deprived of liberty, including the suspension of visits during the pandemic (at least from April 2020 to December 2021), and its continuation under the state of emergency, as well as a lack of effective communication mechanisms with families and legal representatives, as corroborated by received testimonies. The Commission recalled the obligation to guarantee regular visits in all prison facilities and to review the prohibition contained in Article 79-A of Decree 93 (Amendments to the Prison Act), emphasizing that incommunicado detention must be strictly exceptional and that prolonged isolation and coercive incommunicado detention constitute cruel and inhuman treatment and, in certain circumstances, would amount to acts of torture. In addition, the absence of contact with the outside world undermines the exercise of other rights and places detainees in particularly vulnerable situations[192] .

Information on compliance

240. In its first communication of 2025, the State noted that, prior to the execution of the Territorial Control Plan, El Salvador's prisons served not merely as facilities for detention, but as hubs for the operation of organized criminal activities. According to the State, the state of emergency made it possible to restore prison control by dismantling criminal networks operating from within and reestablishing order, discipline and security in the prison system. Based on the provided statements, the State reported a decrease in reoffending, a contribution to society through prison labor, and an improvement in order and discipline within the prison system[193].

241. Regarding the prohibition of family visits, the State noted that no instrument of the Inter-American System or international treaties expressly prohibit imposing restrictions on visits in situations of extreme security. Therefore, according to the State, access to visits may be restored only under conditions that ensure national security and the protection of citizens, preventing them from serving as channels of communication for organized crime. In addition, the State considered that the Commission has no authority to

[192] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 270, 272 - 274.

[193] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.

order the repeal of domestic regulations, noting that the recommendations must respect the sovereignty and ability of each State to administer its own security and judicial system[194].

242. However, subsequently, the State reported that, in order to guarantee regular visits by relatives, legal representatives and competent authorities, family visits are arranged upon direct request submitted to the Director-General of Prisons. In addition, it reported initiatives designed to promote communication, with an emphasis on children and adolescents. These include a virtual program for minors (currently in the launch phase) that enables contact with their relatives through verified links, and a Family Outreach Plan, implemented as of July 24, 2025, which integrates video calls and prior face-to-face meetings to foster emotional connections, in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child[195].

243. According to the State, these measures are intended to preserve the connection of persons deprived of liberty with their families and to support their psychosocial well-being, ensuring that physical separation does not impede the development of healthy family relationships and emotional support, without prejudice to the prison security protocols[196].

244. With respect to the regulatory component, the State indicated that the provisions of Article 79-A of Decree No. 93 (Amendments to the Prison Act) have not been repealed or revised, noting that they constitute an essential instrument for the proper functioning of the prison system and public security. It stated that their application has enabled the establishment of control mechanisms permitting to reduce crimes orchestrated from within prisons, while upholding, as stipulated, the dignity and fundamental rights of persons deprived of liberty[197].

245. The Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) stated that no measures had been implemented to reinstate regular visits from relatives, legal representatives and competent authorities in prisons. It explained that, since the implementation of extraordinary measures by prior governments, intensified during the state of emergency, there is no communication whatsoever between detainees and their families and lawyers. This has resulted in the emergence of corrupt networks, within which lawyers and public officials demand payment for facilitating visits, correspondence, or calls[198].

246. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) agreed that, as of August 2025, the provisions restricting family visits had not been repealed. It noted that since the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, families have been unable to see or talk to their loved ones in prison for five years now and that widespread uncertainty exists regarding their health and survival. It reported that lawyers have condemned arbitrary restrictions on contact with their clients, noting that the General Directorate of Prisons centralizes the authorization of visits and frequently obstructs court-ordered medical inspections, thereby infringing upon the right to health of detainees. It also identified an illicit system where intermediaries charge between 100 and 1,500 dollars for facilitating visits or communications, which indicates a correlation between non-compliance by the State and the emergence of corrupt practices, particularly impacting women and families of persons deprived of liberty[199]. Cristosal and CEJIL argued that the State has implemented neither measures to ensure the occurrence of visits nor amended the provisions prohibiting them, and for this reason, they concluded that the recommendation had not been fulfilled[200].

247. The Commission was able to verify recent news reports describing the obstacles referred to by civil society organizations and identified in the Country Report concerning visits and communication between detainees and their families. In this regard, several relatives reported that, when they sought

[194] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[195] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[196] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[197] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[198] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[199] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.
[200] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.

information at certain detention centers, they were subjected to intimidation and warnings associated with the state of emergency, as well as refusals to provide basic information regarding the condition of their detained relatives[201]. Similarly, the existence of an illicit system of fees charged to individuals for managing visits or communications with persons deprived of liberty has been substantiated, thus underscoring the continued prevalence of discretionary practices and material obstacles impeding family contact[202].

248. In 2025, the IACHR granted four precautionary measures to persons in El Salvador who were alleged to be incommunicado and at serious risk, reinforcing concerns about the persistence of barriers to contact with family members and defense, as well as the lack of early traceability. These decisions, available in the IACHR's public repository of precautionary measures, are considered additional input for the analysis of compliance with this recommendation, insofar as they reflect current risks and the need to adopt effective guarantees for communication and general visits throughout the prison system[203].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

249. The recommendation requires, concurrently: (i) ensuring the occurrence of regular visits from relatives, legal representatives and competent authorities in all prisons; and (ii) repealing the provisions prohibiting them (art. 79-A of Decree 93). The State reported a series of requests addressed to the Director-General of Prisons, the existence of a virtual program for minors in the launch phase, and the establishment of the Family Outreach Plan since July 24, 2025, which integrates video calls and prior face-to-face meetings. However, it failed to demonstrate the widespread resumption and occurrence of regular visits to all facilities. Furthermore, independent sources and media outlets have described instances of intimidation, refusal to provide basic information, and illegal fees, which hinder effective family contact.

250. On the other hand, the State confirmed that Article 79-A remains in force and expressly defended it as an "essential tool" for public security, adding that the IACHR would not be authorized to "order the repeal of domestic regulations". This constitutes a clear declaration that the prohibition established by law, which forms an explicit component of this recommendation, will not be repealed. In this regard, the IACHR reiterates that, in accordance with Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights, it is authorized to make recommendations, including those of a normative character, with a view to ensuring that States align their legislation and practices with Inter-American human rights standards.

251. In turn, civil society reported prolonged incommunicado detentions, centralization and denial of visitor access, limitations on defense attorney's access, and the illegal fee-charging for managing communications. These elements were also reflected in recent media coverage and international statements, reinforcing the lack of material compliance with the recommendation.

252. The IACHR recalls that, in accordance with its Resolution 2/25 on Inter-American Standards Applicable to Persons with Affective Ties of Persons Deprived of Liberty, all incommunicado measures must be strictly exceptional, temporary, and proportionate. In the cited Resolution, the Commission reiterated that widespread restrictions on family or legal representatives visits violate the right to personal integrity and may constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment It also urged States to ensure that communication and arrangements for visits are regular, transparent, and accessible, and to review any domestic regulations that impose absolute or indefinite restrictions on contact with the outside world.

253. Given that the recommendation includes a specific mandate to repeal, and the State has communicated its refusal to adopt it, the General Guidelines support the conclusion that the recommendation **has not been complied with**.

[201] ElSalvador.com, Uno llega a pedir información y le dicen que nos van a aplicar el régimen': familiares de reos del penal de Izalco, January 14, 2025 (in Spanish).
[202] Swissinfo, Denuncian corrupción en cárceles salvadoreñas, como el pago a particulares para las visitas, September 2, 2025 (in Spanish).
[203] IACHR, Precautionary Measures granted in 2025 in El Salvador.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

254. In response to the determination of non-compliance, the Commission concludes the specific follow-up to this recommendation in the framework of this report. However, the IACHR reserves the right to resume its assessment at a future stage should the State modify its position or adopt verifiable actions that would allow for a renewed examination, including the repeal of Article 79-A of Decree 93, or an equivalent regulatory amendment that removes the general prohibition of visits, and the public and verifiable accreditation of the regular visits of relatives, representatives and competent authorities in all prisons, in accordance with Inter-American standards.

Recommendation No. 18. Design and implement an accessible, available and safe complaint system for all persons deprived of liberty where they can receive free assistance and file the corresponding legal actions to stop the violation of their rights.

255. In the Country Report, the IACHR acknowledged becoming aware of troubling information since the application of the state of emergency in El Salvador. This information pertained, among other cases, to deficiencies or omissions within the mechanisms for reporting instances of torture and ill-treatment involving persons deprived of liberty[204].

Information on compliance

256. In 2025, the State affirmed that it fully complied with the recommendation issued, ensuring that all persons deprived of liberty have accessible, available and safe mechanisms for filing complaints. Firstly, it noted the existence of direct access to complaints mechanisms for persons deprived of liberty, who may present individual complaints to prison authorities, judicial bodies or to the Office of the Attorney General (PGR), as well as to the Office of the Attorney for the Defense of Human Rights (PDDH). It also stated that the relatives of persons deprived of liberty can file complaints and requests directly with the Directorate-General of Prisons, the PGR, the Office of the General Prosecutor (FGR) and the PDDH. In addition, it emphasized that the platform "CAVAL 24/7" (Virtual Attention Center) allows users to channel complaints and requests for information. Finally, it stated that, in every judicial hearing, inmates are guaranteed to have the opportunity to maintain free and direct communication with their defense attorneys[205].

257. In its second communication to the IACHR, the State reported that it has adopted specific measures to establish and operate an accessible, available, and secure complaints system, with particular emphasis on providing comprehensive attention to children and adolescents in the Comprehensive Security Centers (CIS) and in the Prison Farm, through the support of the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA). Among these measures cited, it emphasized the implementation of secure exit routes to ensure safe departures, swift response mechanisms to address threats or violations of rights involving mothers deprived of liberty, regular inspections of collective conditions in the Farm Prison and in the CIS, and the establishment of a specific notification or complaint mechanism at the CIS, accessible to adolescents and providing an institutional response[206].

258. With regard to free and secure access to assistance and the filing of legal proceedings, the State indicated that persons deprived of liberty can file a complaint directly with the prison authorities, judicial bodies or the PGR, and that the PDDH intervenes pursuant to its mandate to investigate alleged violations. It added that family members and legal representatives have access to channels through the General Directorate of Prisons (DGCP), the PGR, the Office of the Attorney General (FGR) and the PDDH, as well as CAVAL 24/7, to submit complaints and requests for information online, which, according to the State, enhances transparency

[204] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, 28 June 2024, para. 291.
[205] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[206] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.

and expedites responses. It also emphasized that, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Public Defender Service, sufficient mechanisms are in place to enable most citizens to locate their detained relatives[207].

259. The State further affirmed that the right to communicate with technical defense is guaranteed: at each court hearing, persons deprived of liberty may meet with their defense attorneys, and both public defenders and private counsels would have unrestricted access to their represented clients, which, in its view, enables the filing of complaints without limitations. Finally, it emphasized that the participating inmate count exceeding 21,000 in the "Zero Leisure Time" plan, which encompasses supervised, off-premises activities, would corroborate the absence of limitations on communication with the outside world. It further added that such a set up allows for the reporting of any irregularities in a free and timely manner and affirmed that these mechanisms offer protection against reprisals and ensure prompt resolution of complaints[208].

260. In November 2025, the State reiterated that its channels are in place and fully operational, including the Office of the Attorney for the Defense of Human Rights, the Office of the General Prosecutor, Office of the General Attorney, the judicial system, the CAVAL 24/7 platform and mechanisms specifically established for adolescents in CONAPINA custody. It pointed out that they constitute a functional framework that provides both direct reporting and access to judicial and administrative avenues for the protection of rights. In addition, it emphasized that the guaranteed access to both private and public defense confirms the diversity of operational channels within the system[209].

261. On the other hand, organizations noted that the State has not established an accessible and secure complaints system for persons deprived of liberty. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) reported that no State institution has implemented a dedicated mechanism. Instead, entities such as the Movement for Regime Victims and the Human Rights Defense Unit recorded 175 cases and referred them to the Presidential Commissioner, who did not respond; following his resignation, the initiative was left in a state of uncertainty. In addition, SSPAS emphasized that the Office of the Attorney for the Defense of Human Rights (PDDH) encounters restrictions in gaining access to penal facilities. Consequently, there is a lack of publicly available information or official plans to enhance reporting mechanisms, leading family members to perceive that current procedures rely on external institutions, such as Legal Medicine, which may reflect an institutional weakening[210].

262. For its part, the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) indicated that the government had not adopted measures to establish a complaints system. On the contrary, it denounced the arrest of human rights defenders such as Fidel Zavala in February 2025, who lodged complaints of torture against the prison authorities and was subsequently transferred to the same prison. It also denounced the absence of a dedicated mechanism for the investigation of complaints of sexual violence against women deprived of liberty. IDHUCA emphasized that, given the restrictions on access to prisons under the state of emergency, the PDDH employed alternative strategies, including calls, requests for reports, guidance, and support. Although these methods allowed for 1,243 complaints of arbitrary detention and 9,108 consultations to be filed between May 2023 and April 2024, they are deemed insufficient to ensure secure filing of complaints by detainees and the achievement of justice without fear of reprisal[211].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

263. The recommendation calls for the development and execution of a complaints system that is accessible, available, and secure for all persons deprived of liberty, at no cost, which enables them to receive assistance and initiate legal action to address violations, with effective safeguards against retaliation. The State

[207] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[208] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[209] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[210] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.
[211] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

reported the existence of general channels, including prison authorities, the judicial system, the PGR and the PDDH, as well as the CAVAL platform 24/7. It further reported the availability of opportunities to communicate with the defense during hearings and the implementation of specific measures for adolescents in CIS and the Prison Farm through CONAPINA, including secure exit routes, notification and complaint mechanisms, and supervisions. State information is supported by existing regular channels and targeted measures for adolescents.

264. For their part, the organizations underlined the absence of a dedicated mechanism, the restrictions on access to prisons imposed upon the PDDH, incommunicado detention, and well-founded fears of retaliation, as exemplified by the denunciation of the arrest of a human rights defender following complaints of torture. They further noted the absence of a dedicated channel for complaints of sexual violence against women deprived of liberty. In this regard, civil society organizations are of the view that these elements call into question the actual availability, security and effectiveness of the channels described by the State for seeking to activate legal assistance and pursuing legal actions, without exposing complainants to risk.

265. Based on the information provided, the Commission identifies that the State has reported some relevant measures seeking to implement complaints mechanisms for persons deprived of liberty. However, according to the information received, the Commission lacks information on structural aspects of the implementation of the recommendation. Considering the context in which this recommendation was made, the avenues proposed, by their nature, do not necessarily ensure effective accessibility from within the centers or continuous availability. Moreover, the measures provided for adolescents, while valuable, do not obviate the need for a unified, specialized and operational mechanism within the relevant institutions. In conclusion, the information submitted by the State fails to evidence the existence of a self-structured and operational system capable of safeguarding the right to report human rights violations in an effective manner in contexts involving deprivation of liberty. Such a system should also enable these mechanisms to effectively facilitate access to legal aid and initiate judicial proceedings aimed at halting the violation of rights. Based on the above, the level of compliance is considered **partial**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

266. To demonstrate in advance in compliance with this recommendation, the Commission invites the State to provide information on how the compliance measures previously mentioned allow for a complaints system that is accessible, operational and secure for all persons deprived of liberty. According to the recommendation, the State shall report that this system operates free of charge, that assistance is available, and legal actions may be initiated through it. It further invites the State to submit any additional information it deems appropriate.

Recommendation No. 19. Ensure the socio-educational purpose of the juvenile justice system, developing educational, professional training, and recreational programs for children and adolescents in the custody of the State authorities; likewise, that the educational programs comply with the same content and time requirements established by the educational authorities for children who are not deprived of their liberty.

267. In the Country Report, the IACHR addressed the situation of the administration of juvenile justice and the treatment received by children and adolescents involved in criminal proceedings during the state of emergency. Although the Commission observed that it had received little information, it emphasized that it had acknowledged information regarding the disproportionate impact on children and adolescents of the measures adopted during the state of emergency. In this regard, the IACHR recalled that juvenile criminal justice systems ought to ensure to children and adolescents every right and legal principle acknowledged for

individuals accused of criminal offenses, as well as those stemming from the special protection afforded to their age and stage of development[212].

Information on compliance

268. In April 2025, the State affirmed that it had complied with this recommendation, ensuring that the juvenile justice system is geared toward the social reintegration, education and comprehensive development of children and adolescents in State custody. This indicates that juvenile detention centers provide educational, technical and recreational programs[213].

269. According to the State, formal education in youth centers has been guaranteed, providing basic, secondary and technical education programs, alongside the implementation of vocational training programs in areas such as carpentry, gastronomy and sewing. On the other hand, the State affirmed that all inmates have access to recreational and sports facilities, including spaces for artistic, cultural and training activities. In addition, access to psychological and social care has been guaranteed, with specialized technical teams addressing the comprehensive rehabilitation of prisoners. In support of these allegations, the State cited the report of the visit to the Tonacatepeque Social Inclusion Centre by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on December 11, 2024, which is said to corroborate these allegations[214].

270. On the other hand, the State argued that El Salvador participates in the "Promotion and Strengthening of Restorative Juvenile Justice Across the Member Countries of SICA" project, which seeks to strengthen juvenile justice in Central America through restorative justice, with a focus on conflict resolution and social reintegration of young people "in conflict with the law". This project, promoted by the General Secretariat of SICA and financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation focuses on strengthening institutions, changing the paradigm in the approach of adolescents deprived of liberty, promoting conflict resolution through dialogue and negotiation, and articulating social reintegration and prevention of reoffending[215].

271. Later, in September that same year, the State also reported that the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA) had devised a juvenile justice system incorporating a socio-educational approach, aimed at facilitating the reintegration of adolescents in conflict with the law. Among the measures implemented, it mentioned the adoption of the Protocol on Respect for Dignity, which seeks to guarantee decent and discrimination-free treatment, providing regular training on gender and human rights to personnel. It also emphasized that, within detention centers, there are schools approved by the Ministry of Education that operate under regular, flexible and accelerated modalities. In addition, vocational workshops, including carpentry, electricity, mechanics and cooking, as well as agricultural workshops, covering agriculture, poultry, beekeeping and fish farming, are provided, with their production marketed to support the sustainability of the program. The State added that musical, sports and cultural activities, as well as board games and participation in external social projects, are promoted to foster social integration and the comprehensive development of adolescents[216].

272. In its communication dated November 2025, the State referred to the measures outlined in its previous reports, affirming that it had complied with the recommendation by ensuring that the juvenile justice system has a socio-educational purpose and is oriented toward reinsertion. It reiterated that the youth centers provide formal education at basic and middle levels, technical training and vocational workshops, with their production marketed to support the sustainability of the program, as well as recreational, sports, artistic and cultural spaces and activities, and the provision of psychological and social attention, with protocols for transfers to hospitals when necessary. It referred again to its involvement in the "Promotion and Strengthening

[212] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, 28 June 2024, para. 229.
[213] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[214] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[215] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[216] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.

of Restorative Juvenile Justice Across the Member Countries of SICA" project, and to the visit of OHCHR to the Tonacatepeque Social Inclusion Centre[217].

273. The organizations agreed that the State does not guarantee the socio-educational purpose of the juvenile justice system. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) noted that, in February 2025, the Legislative Assembly approved a reform that allows for the accommodation of adolescents convicted of crimes linked to organized crime in prisons for adults, although in separate areas. This constitutes a regression from the differential treatment mandated by the American Convention and which, according to Human Rights Watch, endangers the health and reintegration of children[218].

274. For its part, the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) reported that CONAPINA had addressed cases involving 700 juvenile offenders in 2024 by providing education and vocational workshops at four Social Integration Centers, with international support. It outlined initiatives such as the "Success Academy", which conferred 76 qualifications in English and computer science to young people, as well as tailoring, bakery or carpentry workshops. However, it emphasized that the legal reforms permitting the transfer of minors to adult prisons increase their vulnerability and impede access to information regarding their situation, thereby indicating continued non-compliance with the recommendation[219].

275. In addition, UN agencies, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), UNICEF, OHCHR and UNFPA issued a joint statement concerning the February 2025 reforms to the Juvenile Criminal Justice Act and the Prison Act. The statement expressed concern about provisions allowing the transfer of adolescents to adult prisons and called for a review of those provisions on the grounds that they contravene international standards on comprehensive protection and juvenile justice based on a socio-educational approach[220].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

276. The Commission considers that, although the State reports the existence of educational and technical training programs in specialized youth centers, the adoption, in February 2025, of legislative reforms permitting the transfer of adolescents to adult prisons fundamentally contradicts the socio-educational purpose of the juvenile justice system, which the recommendation seeks to guarantee. In particular, the reported actions lack sufficient capacity to ensure the socio-educational purpose of juvenile justice, as they coexist with legal and practical arrangements that create environments incompatible with education, comprehensive development, and the special protection that the recommendation seeks to guarantee. These regressive measures violate Inter-American standards for the special protection of children and directly undermine the objectives of social reintegration and comprehensive development that define a juvenile justice system guided by a socio-educational approach. This concern has been reiterated by United Nations agencies (CRC, UNICEF, OHCHR and UNFPA), which have called for a review of the reforms due to their incompatibility with international standards applicable to the juvenile justice system.

277. Civil society organizations agree that these reforms constitute a setback, exposing children to greater vulnerability and hindering the effective implementation of the recommendation. The implementation of measures treating adolescents as adults within the prison system constitutes an irreconcilable contradiction of the mandate to ensure the socio-educational purpose of the juvenile justice system. In the absence of public documentation demonstrating equivalence, comprehensive coverage and results, and considering the validity of legal measures that impede the purpose of the recommendation, the Commission concludes that there has been no substantive progress and that the recommendation remains **pending compliance**.

[217] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.
[218] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.
[219] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[220] UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean, Joint Statement by CRC, OHCHR, UNICEF and UNFPA on reforms to the Juvenile Penal Law and Penitentiary Law in El Salvador, February 13, 2025.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

278. To advance compliance with this recommendation, the Commission notes that the State must prioritize the repeal or amendment of the legislative reforms adopted in February 2025 that permit the transfer of adolescents to adult prisons. The implementation of these measures constitutes a fundamental obstacle to ensuring the socio-educational purpose of the juvenile justice system, and it is essential that all adolescents remain within the specialized system without exception. In addition, the State must provide information on the curriculum equivalence of educational programs implemented in juvenile detention centers, ensuring that they meet the same content and time-load requirements established for children who are not deprived of liberty. This includes official certification of programs and specialized training of teaching staff.

Recommendation No. 20. Guarantee compliance with the principle of maximum disclosure of public information held by the State and ensure that the classification of information as confidential is carried out in accordance with Inter-American standards on the subject and is subject to periodic review to assess the relevance of the restriction.

279. In the Country Report, the IACHR emphasized that access to information is central to the right to freedom of expression and that, in the context of a state of emergency, access to information promotes accountability and transparency in public administration, in addition to fostering the active participation of citizens. In the case of El Salvador, the Commission and the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (SRFOE) received information regarding alleged restrictions on the right of access to information, which has been a cause for concern even prior to the installation of the regime in March 2022. Among other matters, the IACHR and its Rapporteurship identified a concern, based on information from civil society, indicating a drastic increase in the withholding of public information by State institutions, without adherence to applicable international norms and standards. In this context, the IACHR called for the adoption of measures that ensure compliance with international standards applicable to the principle of maximum disclosure of information[221].

Information on compliance

280. In April 2025, the State indicated the existence of the Access to Public Information Act (LAIP, which establishes the principle of maximum disclosure and unrestricted access to information held by the State, except in duly justified exceptional circumstances. It also stated that in El Salvador, the Institute for Access to Public Information, an autonomous entity, is responsible for ensuring that the classification of confidential information is reviewed in accordance with established procedures. Finally, it explained that the information classified as "reserved" is not permanent and is subject to periodic review in accordance with current regulations. Furthermore, the State argued that the classification of, and access to, public information falls within its exclusive competence, exercised in accordance with its constitutional framework and principles of transparency, and that it does not allow external interference in this matter[222].

281. In September, the State reported that LAIP and its regulations enshrine the principle of publicity as a general rule and establish that any limitation must be exceptional, temporary, and duly justified. The State affirmed that the LAIP recognizes the maximum disclosure of information held by public institutions and that exceptions are justified only for reasons of national security, due process, or protection of third-party rights. It indicated that the Office of the General Prosecutor (FGR) upholds this principle when handling information requests, responding in a reasonable manner and restricting access only in exceptional cases provided for by law. Similarly, the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescence (CONAPINA)

[221] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28, 2024, paras. 345, 346, 347, 355-364.

[222] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.

ensures that the information it safeguards is accessible to the public and applies periodic review mechanisms to information classified as "reserved"[223].

282. The State also explained that the classification and withholding of information are based on the principles of legality, reasonableness, proportionality and temporality. In accordance with Article 35 of the LAIP Regulations, the classification is subject to periodic review, and confidential information must be declassified when the reservation period expires, when the causes that justified the restricted status no longer exist, or as provided by the IAIP, the autonomous body responsible for implementing the LAIP Act. Furthermore, it pointed out that citizens may seek administrative and judicial remedies, including the contentious-administrative procedure, to challenge any restrictions, thereby reinforcing accountability. Finally, it emphasized that the determination and application of the rules on access to information falls within the exclusive competence of Salvadoran institutions, in line with the domestic constitutional and legal framework[224] .

283. In turn, civil society organizations agreed that the State had not taken measures to ensure the maximum dissemination of public information and that significant restrictions remain regarding security statistics and government plans. The Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) indicated that official information is provided at the discretion of public officials and is limited to aggregate data published at events or shared with allied journalists. It emphasized that the Ministry of Justice and Public Security is withholding the Territorial Control Plan and information related to the Rewards Act, and further noted that the FGR keeps databases derived from court files under restriction for seven years, while the National Civil Police (PNC) similarly withholds its statistics on crimes, victims and detainees for the same period, in contradiction of the principle of full access to public data[225].

284. In addition, extensive restrictions on information were reported in criminal cases of high public interest, including those brought against human rights defenders in 2025, which restricted public scrutiny and access to procedural information by legitimate third parties. The IACHR highlighted this situation in its press releases 115/25 (June 6, 2025) and 162/25 (August 14, 2025), emphasizing that the general rule should be the publicity of criminal proceedings, in accordance with Article 8.5 of the American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR), and that any restriction must be exceptional, justified, and temporary[226].

285. In its November 2025 report, the State noted that it maintains a regulatory and organic framework that guarantees the principle of maximum disclosure, in particular the LAIP Act and its regulations, as well as the Institute for Access to Public Information, an autonomous entity responsible for implementing the above-mentioned Act and reviewing the classification of information. It stated that publicity is the general rule and that restrictions on disclosure are exceptional, temporary, justified, and subject to periodic review, with declassification when the term expires or the underlying causes no longer exist. It also indicated that institutions such as the Office of the General Prosecutor and CONAPINA apply these standards when processing applications, and that classification is governed by legality, reasonableness, proportionality and temporality. It also argued that administrative and judicial remedies are available to challenge restrictions, including the contentious-administrative procedure, and emphasized that the determination and management of access to information fall within the exclusive competence of the Salvadoran authorities, exercised in accordance with the constitutional framework and the principles of transparency[227].

286. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) added that the IAIP resolved only 35% of the requests in 2024, and that only 11% of the resolutions were favorable to citizens, demonstrating the lack of institutional

[223] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[224] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[225] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[226] IACHR, Press Release 115/25, El Salvador: IACHR expresses grave concern over measures that restrict the defense of human rights and civic space, June 6, 2025. IACHR, Press Release 162/25, El Salvador: IACHR reiterates concern over prolonged and improper use of state of emergency in El Salvador, August 14, 2025.
[227] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report (in Spanish), November 28, 2025.

will to ensure transparency of information. The SSPAS also noted that security forces publish homicide figures on social networks without a verifiable methodology, and that the PNC's transparency portals lack disaggregated data, demonstrating the absence of state action to comply with the recommendation[228].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

287. The State merely describes the existing regulatory framework (LAIP, Regulations, and IAIP) and states, in abstract terms, that reservations are exceptional, temporary and subject to review; it does not provide evidence of new and verifiable measures after 2024 to guarantee the principle of maximum disclosure, nor of specific actions to review and reduce existing restrictions in sensitive areas (public safety, criminal statistics, government plans). Furthermore, it insists that the matter falls within its internal "exclusive competence", without explaining how this position is harmonized with the applicable Inter-American standards.

288. Information from civil society organizations corroborates the lack of material progress. They note that extensive and long-term restrictions on access to information persist (e.g.: Territorial Control Plan; databases of FGR and PNC for seven years), along with opacity in key statistics and weak institutional performance of the IAIP, reflected in a low resolution rate and a low proportion favorable to applicants. These elements call into question the effective periodic review and the observance of the principle of maximum disclosure in practice. Added to this is the widespread use of "judicial secrecy" in relevant criminal proceedings, including cases involving human rights defenders, which limits public access to essential proceedings and information and is at odds with the principle of publicity of criminal proceedings provided for in Art. 8.5 of the ACHR. The lack of strict controls on necessity, proportionality and periodic review of these restrictions undermines the effectiveness of the principle of maximum disclosure required by this recommendation.

289. In short, the State's submissions do not demonstrate the adoption of new substantive measures, following the publication of the Country Report, aimed at implementing the recommendation, while the findings of civil society reinforce evidence of the continued practice of excessive secrecy in the absence of effective controls and proactive transparency. Lacking new, verifiable measures and public results demonstrating review and declassification, the recommendation remains **pending compliance**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

290. To advance compliance, the IACHR requests that the State provide information on updated measures implemented since the publication of the Country Report. These measures should clarify how existing mechanisms have been used to guarantee the principle of maximum disclosure of public information and to ensure that the classification of information as "reserved" is carried out in accordance with Inter-American standards and is subject to periodic review.

Recommendation No. 21. Within the framework of the ongoing training provided by the State, ensure the implementation of programs aimed at:

a. security forces on human rights and Inter-American standards on deprivation of liberty, use of force, gender perspective, and differentiated approaches.

b. justice officials on Inter-American standards on access to justice, pretrial detention, juvenile justice, gender perspective, differentiated approaches.

c. prosecutors, penitentiary agents, and personnel of the Forensic Medical Service on the application of the Istanbul Protocol, as well as the Minnesota Protocol for the case of extrajudicial executions or suspicious deaths in detention.

[228] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.

291. In the Country Report, the IACHR noted the importance of the State taking effective action to address and eradicate organized crime, tailored to the scope and severity of the country's particular situation. It emphasized that these measures must be in line with the legal and international obligations that must govern state action. It further argued that, in all cases, the guarantee and protection of human rights must remain at the center of any effort undertaken in the field of citizen security. Following the concerns expressed by the IACHR in its report regarding the use of force, the imposition of deprivation of liberty, and the application of criminal law under the state of emergency, this recommendation calls on the State to ensure that its civil servants possess the skills and knowledge necessary to apply the relevant Inter-American standards, as well as the international obligations for which they are responsible[229].

Information on compliance

292. The State emphasized that human rights training is not a standalone measure, but a transversal and mandatory component of both the initial and ongoing training of the National Civil Police, the Armed Forces, justice officials, the Office of the General Prosecutor, prison staff and forensic medical specialists. It indicated that this national training system permanently incorporates content on Inter-American standards applicable to deprivation of liberty, use of force, access to justice, pretrial detention, juvenile justice, gender perspective and differentiated approaches, as well as on the implementation of the Istanbul Protocol and the Minnesota Protocol when investigating deaths in custody. According to the State, the model meets the required structural elements, namely mandatory and permanent incorporation, technical relevance, a human rights approach, and specialization by institutional role; therefore, its evaluation should consider both institutional results and the current legal framework, rather than relying solely on the methodological metrics suggested by the Commission. It further added that certain verification requirements, such as submitting instructor profiles, would exceed the minimum standards requested by the Inter-American Court regarding training[230].

293. In addition, the State noted that this institutional human rights training for security forces and justice officials is provided in response to recommendations from the IACHR and decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (including *El Mozote, Rochac Hernández, Ruano Torres*), which mandate permanent and compulsory programs with differentiated approaches, including gender perspective, children, enforced disappearance, conventions oversight, among others[231].

294. In relation to subparagraph (a), the State reported that permanent programs on human rights and proportional use of force exist in the National Civil Police (PNC) and the Armed Forces of El Salvador (FAES), delivered through the National Academy of Public Security (ANSP)[232]. Subsequently, the State detailed the course "Rights and fundamental guarantees of the person in the police function"; periodic performance evaluations; a new curriculum at the ANSP, covering a police service model, the Territorial Control Plan, the use of ONI/CIR technologies, emotional intelligence, and English; as well as self-training courses on human rights and lawful and legitimate use of force, and diplomas in data intelligence and AI applied to public safety[233].

295. Regarding subparagraph (b), it highlighted continuous training for justice officials, covering updates on access to justice, pretrial detention, and juvenile justice; as well as specialized training for criminal enforcement judges and juvenile court judges on alternative measures and reintegration[234]. The State then detailed trainings conducted by the National Council for Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence (CONAPINA) ("Crecer Juntos" Act, human rights, and gender and differentiated approaches for Comprehensive Security Centers (CIS) and prison farm staff); a national plan from the "Dr. Arturo Zeledón Castrillo" Judicial

[229] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, 28 June 2024, para. 396.
[230] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report, November 28, 2025.
[231] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[232] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[233] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[234] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.

Training School of the National Council of Justice (CNJ) in juvenile criminal justice, including restorative and socio-educational models, social law and gender, criminal law and criminal procedure, family, children and adolescent law; and twenty-four training procedures carried out by the Central Technical Unit[235].

296. With respect to subparagraph (c), it reported programs relating to the Istanbul Protocol and Minnesota Protocol: The Training School for Prosecutors (ECF) of the FGR is reported to have incorporated specific modules into their annual programs. The Institute of Legal Medicine (IML) "Dr. Roberto Masferrer" reported that it had conducted training activities using manuals and technical guides, with an emphasis on independence and impartiality, and had promoted the international accreditation of laboratories, in addition to providing complementary training in bodily injury and forensic traumatology, DNA analysis and forensic anthropology[236]. In general, the State had already reported that prison staff were trained in accordance with the Nelson Mandela Rules, and that IML staff received training in assistance protocols and expert procedures with a human rights approach[237].

297. Finally, as further initiatives, it mentioned the Training of Trainers course on the judicial reasoning and evidence evaluation, with a focus on the rights of women and children, conducted with the International Justice Mission (IJM), and the II Regional Congress for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women (9–10 December 2024), aimed at facilitating the exchange of good practices in justice with a gender perspective[238].

298. In turn, both the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) and Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) agreed that the State had not promoted training programs in human rights, gender perspective or differentiated approaches required by this recommendation. IDHUCA noted that, under the state of emergency, policies focused on militarizing public security and strengthening criminal legislation. However, no training was provided for security forces, justice officials, or prison personnel to ensure respect for due process and Inter-American standards[239]. For its part, Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) did not record any state initiatives addressing law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges or medical personnel with respect to the Istanbul Protocol, the Minnesota Protocol, or other applicable standards. It also stressed that the authorities maintain a repressive approach, demonstrating a failure to comply with the recommendation[240].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

299. The recommendation calls for permanent, mandatory programs with differentiated approaches for: (A) security forces (deprivation of liberty, use of force, gender perspective and differentiated approaches); (b) justice officials (access to justice, pretrial detention, juvenile justice, gender and differentiated approaches); and (c) prosecutors, prison officers and medico-legal personnel (Istanbul and Minnesota Protocols). The State reported the formal establishment of training within state bodies and described the various programs and courses offered, including the PNC course, the new ANSP curriculum, activities of the Judicial School/CNJ and CONAPINA, and modules offered by FGR/ECF and IML).

300. However, in accordance with the General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations, the information presented lacks verifiable accreditation on key elements, including the mandatory nature and scope of the training (i.e., the target population and participation rates per institution), frequency and duration, curricular content aligned with Inter-American standards (including a gender perspective and differentiated approaches), training methodologies and assessment of learning, budgeting, and measurable outcomes or

[235] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[236] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[237] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to the IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.
[238] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[239] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.
[240] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

changes in practice (i.e., indicators on the use of force and documentation of torture or deaths in custody under the Istanbul and Minnesota Protocols).

301. In turn, civil society organizations (IDHUCA and SSPAS) noted the absence of training programs that comply with the recommendation, particularly with respect to the Istanbul and Minnesota protocols, and highlighted a punitive approach under the state of emergency, which contrasts with the claims of the State. In the absence of public and verifiable documentation that demonstrates comprehensive and effective implementation of the core elements of each subparagraph of the recommendation, the Commission notes unverified progress and significant gaps in relation to the required standards. Based on the above, the level of compliance is considered to be **pending**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

302. To advance with the implementation of the recommendation, the IACHR considers it appropriate for the State to submit public and verifiable documentation demonstrating the effective, mandatory, and permanent implementation of the programs referred to in the subparagraphs of the recommendation. In particular, it is suggested to include the regulations establishing mandatory training, minimum frequency and duration, curriculum plans with a gender focus and differentiated approaches aligned with Inter-American standards, the target population by institution, coverage and attendance rates, instructor profiles, the allocated budget, and the assessment mechanism.

Recommendation No. 22. Ratify:

a. the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons;
b. the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;
c. the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity;
d. the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and establish the National Mechanism to Prevent Torture.

303. In the Country Report, the IACHR expressed concern regarding the information it received indicating a set of alleged situations under the state of emergency, which include ill-treatment, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and torture, among others, in the context of the implementation of citizen security measures. In this context, the Commission has called on the State to adopt international instruments as a concrete measure to fulfill its commitment to preventing, investigating, and punishing these actions[241].

Information on compliance

304. In April 2025, the State affirmed its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and reiterated its adherence to existing international treaties. However, it argued that the ratification of new instruments should follow a rigorous internal analysis, taking into account their compatibility with the constitutional framework. It emphasized that progress in investigating serious human rights violations, such as enforced disappearance, has been significant and is independent of external accessions. It further noted that the recommendations of the Inter-American Human Rights System (IAHRS) are not binding and that any decision regarding new ratifications will be taken sovereignly, in consultation with relevant State organs[242].

305. In September 2025, the State reaffirmed its commitment to human rights and acknowledged the importance of treaties on enforced disappearance, crimes against humanity, and torture. Without prejudice to this, it reiterated that the decision to ratify and implement these instruments is a sovereign prerogative,

[241] IACHR, Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 97/24, June 28,2024.
[242] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-030/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, April 23, 2025.

subject to a thorough analysis of legal feasibility and compatibility with the Constitution. It added that the absence of ratification does not result in a protection gap, since concrete measures have been implemented and the judicial system strengthened, as reflected in follow-up reports submitted to the IACHR[243].

306. In its observations presented in November 2025, the State reiterated that, while it recognizes the importance of treaties relating to enforced disappearance, crimes against humanity and torture, the recommendations of the ISHR serve as guidance and do not impose any obligation to ratify them. It indicated that any potential accession to the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, as well as the establishment of a National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, is a sovereign decision subject to an internal procedure involving the Legislative Assembly, the Executive Branch and the Judicial Branch, including an analysis of legal feasibility, constitutional compatibility, and consideration of national needs. Finally, it reiterated that the absence of ratification does not result in a protection gap, as domestic measures have been adopted and the judicial system strengthened to investigate, punish and redress serious human rights violations[244].

307. Civil society organizations agreed that the State had made no progress in ratifying international treaties relating to enforced disappearances, war crimes and torture, nor in establishing a National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture. Cristosal and CEJIL remarked that the Salvadoran government did not promote initiatives to accede to these treaties and continued to maintain a confrontational discourse toward international human rights organizations[245].

308. The Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) confirmed that no bills or administrative actions were introduced to ratify these instruments and that the Legislative Assembly did not address these matters during the reference period[246]. In turn, the Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) observed that no steps were taken to establish a National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture and that the hostile environment toward human rights advocates hindered any space for dialogue, thereby demonstrating a failure to comply with the recommendation[247].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

309. The recommendation calls for specific policy and administrative actions: promoting the ratification of four international instruments (subparagraphs a–d) and establishing a National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (NPM). The State reiterated its overall commitment to human rights and stated that any potential accession will be decided sovereignly, following an analysis of feasibility and constitutional compatibility, emphasizing that the recommendations of the ISHR are not binding. However, it did not report any verifiable steps toward ratification, nor did it provide information on preparatory measures for the NPM, such as institutional design, establishing legislation, budget, mandate, or operating protocol. The reference to internal "progress" in investigating serious violations does not substitute for the specific purpose of the recommendation, which is adherence to the listed treaties and the establishment of the NPM.

310. For their part, civil society organizations reported the absence of legislative or administrative initiatives to ratify the above-mentioned instruments and create the NPM. Moreover, these matters were reportedly not discussed in the Assembly during the reference period, and a climate of hostility toward human rights defenders was described as hampering dialogue. In the light of the General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations, the Commission notes that no substantive measures were taken to ensure compliance;

[243] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[244] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-155-2025, Observations to the Draft Report, November 28, 2025.
[245] Cristosal Foundation and Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[246] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.
[247] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.

however, nor was there any express and unequivocal refusal by the State to ratify the relevant instruments or to establish the NPM. Accordingly, the level of compliance is considered **pending**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

311. The Commission warns that, to assess objective progress, the State should submit public and verifiable documentation demonstrating concrete internal steps toward the ratification of the four instruments. At the same time, with regard to the establishment of the NPM, it would be appropriate to submit the draft bill or establishing act, including its proposed institutional design, ensuring functional and budgetary independence, a pluralistic composition and suitability criteria, as well as powers to conduct unannounced visits to any detention facility, access to information and persons, guarantees of confidentiality, protection against retaliation.

Recommendation No. 23. Agree to a working visit by the IACHR.

Information on compliance

312. In 2025, the State expressed its willingness to maintain channels of communication with the IACHR to address issues of interest, stating that a productive dialogue should not be conditional upon a working visit. The State indicated that, on July 2, 2025, it held a high-level meeting with the Commission, led by the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and composed of senior officials, during which it reiterated its commitment to human rights and highlighted its ongoing communication with the IACHR and other international organizations[248].

313. Following the State's oral statement at the July 2 meeting indicating that the possibility of conducting a working visit remained open, the Commission reiterated its interest in undertaking such a visit specifically and requested the State's consent to that end. It indicated that the main objective of the visit would be to observe the situation of persons deprived of liberty and that it hoped to examine cross-cutting issues such as access to justice and citizen security, as well as differentiated impacts on historically marginalized groups such as women, children and adolescents. On that occasion, the focal point of the Commission for the organization of the visit was also noted[249].

314. Subsequently, through Note Verbale MPOEA-OEA-076/2025 of August 1, 2025, the State expressed its willingness to consider a visit, provided that a methodology is defined and that the terms and agenda are jointly agreed. It requested, prior to granting consent, that the specific objectives of the visit, its participants, the locations to be visited, and meetings to be held be provided, proposing that the planning be carried out through a private and constructive dialogue, culminating in a detailed work plan. However, it reiterated that any visit must be conducted in an atmosphere of objectivity and mutual respect and expressed its willingness to agree on a subsequent date to continue the process of jointly developing the agenda for a possible visit[250].

315. Civil society organizations emphasized that the State has not authorized a working visit by the IACHR. Cristosal and CEJIL recalled that, despite the importance of *on-site* monitoring, the Salvadoran Government has not granted its consent for the Commission to directly verify the human rights situation. They noted that this refusal contravenes the recommendation and hinders international monitoring[251]. The Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS) added that the authorities have not only blocked the IACHR's visit but also denied it

[248] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[249] IACHR, Letter 312-25/IACHR/SE/MPCT-VT, Ref.: Working Visit to El Salvador, July 10, 2025, IACHR Archive.
[250] El Salvador, Note MPOEA-OAS-103/2025, Response to IACHR Questionnaire, September 5, 2025.
[251] Cristosal Foundation and Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

access to information, further exacerbating the lack of transparency[252]. For its part, the Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA) agreed that the State has maintained a confrontational stance toward international human rights organizations and has not undertaken diplomatic efforts to facilitate the visit, demonstrating a failure to comply with the recommendation[253].

Analysis and level of compliance with the recommendation

316. The Commission values the opportunities for dialogue held in 2025, in particular the High-Level Meeting on July 2, as well as Note Verbale MPOEA-OAS-076/2025 of August 1, through which the State proposed continuing the exchange to clarify the scope and objectives of a possible visit, including methodological and planning aspects. However, to date, formal consent has not yet been granted. In accordance with the General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations, these preparatory steps represent progress in coordination, although they do not substitute for the specific action recommended, namely, granting consent. In this regard, and pending the completion of such a formal act, the level of compliance is considered **pending**.

Measures and information to advance compliance with the recommendation

317. To consolidate the progress of dialogue, it would be appropriate for the State to provide formal written consent for the working visit, specifying a timeframe and high-level focal points for operational coordination. On the basis of such consent, a work plan could be agreed with the IACHR detailing objectives and methodology, acknowledging the scope proposed by the Commission and ensuring: (i) access to locations of interest as determined by the IACHR (including maximum security prisons, police cells, and juvenile and women's centers); (ii) private interviews with persons deprived of liberty, their family members, and officials; and (iii) access to relevant files and information. This approach would facilitate an orderly and collaborative progression toward the effective implementation of the visit and full compliance with the recommendation.

III. SUMMARY TABLE OF THE LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

318. The following table shows the level of compliance by the State of El Salvador with respect to the 23 recommendations of the Report on State of Emergency and Human Rights that were analyzed in this follow-up report:

Recommendation number	2025 Level of compliance
1	Not implemented
2	Partial
3	Pending
4	Pending
5	Pending
6	Pending
7	Pending
8	Pending

[252] Servicio Social Pasionista (SSPAS), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 28, 2025.
[253] Institute of Human Rights of the Central American University (IDHUCA), Response to the Request for Information Questionnaire, August 26, 2025.

9	Not implemented
10	Pending
11	Pending
12	Pending
13	Partial
14	Not implemented
15	Pending
16	Pending
17	Not implemented
18	Partial
19	Pending
20	Pending
21	Pending
22	Pending
23	Pending

IV. CONCLUSIONS

319. Full compliance with the IACHR's recommendations by OAS Member States is essential to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights in the region and to strengthen the effectiveness of the Inter-American Human Rights System. In the exercise of its mandate to follow up on these decisions, the Commission prepares reports in which it identifies the progress, challenges and setbacks in the adoption of the compliance measures it has requested from States through its various working mechanisms.

320. This follow-up report analyzes the implementation of the recommendations that the Commission issued in its Country Report "State of Emergency and Human Rights in El Salvador," approved on June 28, 2024. In the aforementioned Country Report, the IACHR included 23 recommendations.

321. A consistent pattern emerges from the comprehensive analysis of the information submitted by the State, the contributions of civil society organizations, and the IACHR's own monitoring: pre-existing regulatory frameworks, policy guidelines, and ongoing actions are reported, but in most cases, they are not accompanied by verifiable public documentation, demonstrating effective implementation, national coverage, results, and measurable impacts. This lacks of evidence spans critical areas during the state of emergency (due process, precautionary measures, registration and traceability of detainees, conditions of detention, transparency and access to information, juvenile justice, training of civil servants and international cooperation) and coincides with recent policy decisions that, in several respects, run counter to the recommendations formulated in the Country Report.

322. In terms of quantitative balance, of the 23 recommendations analyzed, none were considered fully or substantially implemented, three partially implemented (13%), 16 remained pending (70%), and four

were deemed not implemented (17%). This result indicates that, although specific or preparatory actions exist, there is insufficient evidence of implementation or tangible outcomes to justify higher levels of compliance.

323. Regarding due process, the State describes tools and protocols that, in principle, could strengthen immediate notification, access to legal defense, and private communication; however, it does not provide disaggregated data or performance indicators (coverage, response times, usage rates, and results) that would allow verification of systematic improvements. The IACHR notes with concern that human rights defenders have been arrested without access to legal counsel and transferred to unknown locations, in violation of fundamental guarantees of due process and effective judicial protection.

324. Regarding precautionary measures, gaps remain between the domestic legal framework and Inter-American standards. There is no evidence of the development of alternatives to pretrial detention, the adoption of specific judicial guidelines incorporating a gender perspective and differentiated approaches, or the establishment of a periodic review system with defined parameters, timelines, and public indicators. Recent reforms also extend pretrial detention as a rule under the state of emergency, which conflicts with the principle of exceptionality and the periodic monitoring that should govern its application.

325. Regarding the prison system, the authorities report expansions of infrastructure, population redistribution, and service improvements; however, they do not provide evidence of an operational order prohibiting new admissions to facilities exceeding capacity, nor do they present consolidated inventories for each facility that would allow verification of capacities, actual occupancy, and results. The available information indicates severe overcrowding pressures and repeated alerts regarding material conditions that are inconsistent with Mandela Rules and the applicable international human rights standards.

326. This is compounded by the continued restrictions on contact with family members and access to legal representation. Although mechanisms for requesting visits, online initiatives, and family communication schemes are mentioned, there is no evidence that they have been consistently and widely reinstated, nor that they have been adequately regulated to remove broad prohibitions, despite their central role in mitigating incommunicado detention and vulnerability of persons deprived of liberty.

327. Traceability of detentions remains a critical point. Although platforms, service desks, and coordination mechanisms (including those for the youth) are presented, there is no evidence of a unified, interoperable, and up-to-date register established from the moment of arrest, with timely access for authorities, defense and family members. The lack of publicly available protocols, standardized minimum data fields, and periodic statistical reporting makes it impossible to verify real-time location and the effective follow-up of each case.

328. About transparency and access to public information, the State invokes the existing legal framework and the supervisory authority but does not demonstrate the adoption of new measures to review and reduce restrictions in sensitive areas, such as criminal statistics, security plans, and databases, nor does it present a declassification schedule with defined goals and timelines. This opacity weakens accountability, especially in a prolonged state of emergency. In addition, although the implementation and results of the Citizen Security Plan and the Territorial Control Plan have been made public, there are significant shortcomings in compliance with the principle of accessibility and transparency regarding this public information.

329. Regarding juvenile justice, educational and vocational programs are reported to be held in specialized centers; however, reforms persist that allow adolescents to be transferred to adult prisons, which undermines the socio-educational purpose and compromises the standards of enhanced protection and the observance of the best interests of children and adolescents. In addition, legislative changes were observed that contravene this principle by subjecting adolescents to the ordinary justice system instead of the specialized system.

330. With regard to the training of security, justice, prison system, and medico-legal officials, courses and initiatives are listed, but no documentation is provided regarding their mandatory nature,

coverage, duration, content alignment with Inter-American standards (including a gender perspective and differentiated approaches), or measurable results. In particular, there is no evidence of effective training under the Istanbul and Minnesota Protocols that ensure case traceability and professional development of experts.

331. Regarding international cooperation, there are no verifiable steps toward the ratification of pending instruments or the establishment of a National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture with adequate independence, mandate and budget.

332. Furthermore, the continued extension of the state of emergency, with cumulatively high numbers of detainees, not only directly contradicts the recommendations issued in this regard but also undermines the institutional capacity to ensure timely judicial oversight, review precautionary measures, maintain conditions compatible with human dignity, and guarantee transparency of essential information. In this context, the vulnerability of human rights defenders is a matter of concern.

333. Considering this scenario, and in accordance with the General Guidelines on the Follow-up of Recommendations, the Commission concludes that the overall level of compliance with this report is pending. Most components lack concrete and verifiable results; several steps that were initiated have not produced material effects; in some areas, the State has indicated it will not adopt the requested legislative changes; and there remain areas for which insufficient information was received to support a different conclusion.

334. The Commission reiterates that compliance with recommendations requires a transition from general statements and administrative instruments to substantive, verifiable and results-based measures. This involves adopting specific regulatory and administrative acts, including the necessary legal adjustments and clear operational guidelines, establishing interoperable registers and disaggregated statistics for public and regular access, enabling independent monitoring in all places of deprivation of liberty, and publishing timetables for the review and declassification of information with defined objectives, deadlines, and indicators.

335. The Commission stresses that these steps are fully compatible with the international commitments assumed by the Salvadoran State as a party to the American Convention on Human Rights and the Inter-American System of Human Rights, and reiterates its willingness to provide technical assistance in developing road maps that will allow, within a reasonable timeframe, to objectively increase the level of compliance with all recommendations.

336. Finally, the Commission is grateful for the information provided by both the State and civil society organizations for the preparation of this follow-up report.

VI.

Institutional Development

CHAPTER VI INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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CHAPTER VI
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I. IACHR STRUCTURE AND STAFF

1. As of December 31, 2025, the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR is made up of 142 people (77 staff members, 59 consultants and six associate staff members). In addition, the ES/IACHR has four fellows.

2. The following table shows the distribution of the workforce by source of funding, as of this same cut-off date.

Workforce by Source of Funding						
Category	**Regular Fund**	**Specific Funds**	**ICR Fund**	**No Cost to the IACHR**	**Specific Funds Trust**	**Total**
Executive Secretary	1					1
Assistant Executive Secretaries	2					2
Special Rapporteurs		2				2
Professionals	35	21				56
Administrative personnel	11	4	1			16
Subtotal Personnel	**49**	**27**	**1**			**77**
Human Rights Consultants	20	15			1	36
Administrative Consultants	9	6				15
Consulting in Other Professions	6	2				8
Subtotal Consultants	**35**	**23**			**1**	**59**
Associate Staff				**6**		**6**
Subtotal	**84**	**50**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**142**
Fellows		**4**				**4**
Grand Total	**84**	**54**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**146**

3. In terms of geographical representation and diversity, the 142 people mentioned in paragraph 1 (staff members, consultants, and associated personnel) come from 21 different countries, 69% of the staff members are women and 31% are men. The following table shows the distribution of staff by nationality and type of contract.

Type of contract	Country	Nationality upon joining the OAS	Current Nationality
Staff	Argentina	5	4
	Barbados	1	1
	Bolivia	2	1
	Brazil	9	8
	Canada	1	1
	Chile	3	3
	Colombia	16	14
	Costa Rica	2	2
	El Salvador	2	1
	United States of America	10	20
	Guatemala	1	1
	Mexico	7	7
	Panama	1	0
	Paraguay	1	1
	Peru	9	7
	Dominican Republic	1	1
	Uruguay	1	1
	Venezuela	5	4
Total Staff		**77**	**77**
CPR	Argentina	6	6
	Bolivia	4	3
	Brazil	6	6
	Colombia	12	12
	Costa Rica	2	2
	Ecuador	1	1
	El Salvador	2	2
	Spain	2	2
	United States of America	1	3
	Mexico	8	8
	Panama	3	3
	Peru	3	3
	Trinidad and Tobago	1	1
	Uruguay	3	3

	Venezuela	5	4
CPR Total		**59**	**59**
Associate Staff	Argentina	2	2
	Brazil	4	4
Associate Staff Total		**6**	**6**
Grand Total		**142**	**142**

4. During 2025, the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (ES/IACHR) carried out strategic actions in the areas of institutional leadership, personnel management, and response to a complex financial situation.

5. Tania Reneaum Panszi's term as Executive Secretary of the IACHR was renewed until May 31, 2029. This decision, adopted by an absolute majority of the Commissioners and formalized by the Secretary General of the OAS in accordance with the Statute of the IACHR, was preceded by a performance evaluation that supported the continuity of her administration. The second term began on June 1, 2025.

6. Twenty-four positions corresponding to competitions held in 2023 and 2024 were filled, strengthening the organizational structure of the ES/IACHR. Likewise, the selection processes for three additional positions were completed, closing a critical phase of staff recruitment.

7. During the year, the ES/IACHR faced a significant financial crisis due to the temporary suspension of funds from PADF and the United States Government between February and March. This situation created operational and contractual instability, affecting approximately 40% of the staff. As contingency measures, 33 consulting contracts were terminated and the implementation of leave without pay for permanent staff was considered, a measure that was ultimately not applied. In addition, there were seven additional resignations (two staff members and five consultants). The areas most affected were Precautionary Measures, Follow-up of Recommendations and Impact, Monitoring of Human Rights, and Technology and Systems. In March, after the suspension was lifted, 26 consultants were rehired.

8. Subsequently, as part of efforts to keep the institutional structure operational, two competitions were opened for P02 positions of Human Rights Specialist, both resulting from the resignations of officials who held those positions. One of these vacancies, in the Follow-up of Recommendations and Impact Section, received 491 applications, a record number. The selected candidate was appointed on December 16, 2025. The open competition for the second vacancy, assigned to the Assistant Executive Secretariat for Monitoring, Promotion, and Technical Cooperation, was canceled because the donor decided to focus its funding primarily on the petitions and cases system.

9. A P04 level position as Senior Officer was opened for competition, whose main functions will be to advise Caribbean Member States. The appointment is expected to take place in the second quarter of 2026.

10. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights, Javier Palummo, was renewed until August 31, 2026. This decision, adopted by an absolute majority of the Commission and formalized by the Secretary General of the OAS in accordance with the Statute of the IACHR, was preceded by a performance evaluation that supported the continuity of his tenure.

11. The processes for conducting audits of two positions in the Office of Administration and Institutional Affairs, carried out by a United Nations expert classifier, were completed.

12. On October 1, ES/IACHR workforce resumed in-person work three days a week at the Washington, D.C., office. Starting on January 1, 2026, workforce will work in person four days a week at that office.

A. Consultants, interns, Trainees, Scholarship Holders and Associate Personnel

13. During the year, three processes were completed to call for resumes for the selection of consultants in various areas, contributing to the strengthening of capacities and services within the ES/IACHR.

14. As part of strategic efforts to strengthen the organizational structure, the external consultancy responsible for conducting an assessment to review and define a basic workforce structure that would enable the mandate to be fulfilled with efficiency, excellence in performance, and financial sustainability was completed. The resulting report offers proposals and scenarios for adjusting the staffing structure to current and future needs, based on criteria of operational rationality and responsiveness. The documentation derived from the study is being analyzed by the management team to define concrete actions.

15. The policy of hiring consultants from their countries continued, optimizing resources and providing services to the different sections of the ES/IACHR. As of December 31, 2025, the ES/IACHR had 59 consultants. 71% of consultants work outside headquarters.

16. Three remote internship sessions were held, coordinated by the Department of Human Resources of the GS/OAS, in which a total of 81 interns joined the ES/IACHR.

17. With the support of various institutions, the ES/IACHR welcomed 13 fellows recipients who worked remotely or at headquarters during the year:

No.	Nationality	Fellowship	Assignment
1	Mexico	University of Coahuila	Monitoring Section I
2	Brazil	Caribbean - CARICOM	Monitoring Section II
3	Trinidad and Tobago	LGTBI - ARCUS	Monitoring Section II
4	El Salvador	Canada Project - Women and Girls	Monitoring Section II
5	Costa Rica	Both Ends Believing	Monitoring Section III
6	Barbados	Caribbean - CARICOM	Monitoring Section III
7	Germany	UCLA School of Law	Monitoring Section III
8	Colombia	Orlando Sierra Fellowship	Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression
9	Brazil	Orlando Sierra Scholarship	Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression
10	Brazil	Orlando Sierra Scholarship	Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression
11	Mexico	UNAM	Assistant Executive Secretariat for Petitions and Cases
12	Mexico	UNAM	Cases Section I

13	Chile	Elizabeth Abi-Mershed Scholarship	Follow-up on Recommendations and Impact Section

18. During 2025, thanks to the support of various institutions, the ES/IACHR hired nine people as Associate Staff:

No.	Institution	Assignment
1	Public Prosecutor's Office of the State of Sao Paulo (Brazil)	Monitoring Section II
2	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)	Monitoring Section II
3	National Council of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Brazil (Brazil)	Monitoring Section III
4	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Monitoring Section III
5	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Monitoring Section III
6	Public Defender's Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)	Precautionary and Provisional Measures Section
7	Federal Public Defender's Office (Brazil)	Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights (REDESCA)
8	Brazilian Public Ministry of Labor (Brazil)	Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights (REDESCA)
9	Federal Public Defender's Office (Brazil)	Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights (REDESCA)

B. Work environment plan collectively developed and in the process of implementation

19. In response to the financial crisis, measures were implemented to ensure continuity of service and minimize disruption to essential functions. These included:

20. Reinstatement of four additional consultants working remotely from their countries of origin as of July 1, optimizing the available budget and offering greater contractual stability.

21. Temporary reassignment of a CPR3 level consultant to the Precautionary Measures Section to reinforce response to the sustained increase in requests.

22. These decisions posed challenges in terms of team morale, operational coordination, and technical supervision. During this period, priority was given to maintaining direct, constant, and transparent communication with all staff, both permanent and consultant, to ensure access to clear information about

events and decisions taken. This strategy was key to mitigating uncertainty and preserving an environment of respect, support, and collective commitment to institutional continuity.

23. Due to the temporary suspension of funding for US government grants, the activities scheduled for the first half of 2025 under the Co-Labora Program were postponed. Actions resumed between July and October, coinciding with the third anniversary of its implementation.

24. During this phase of the Co-Labora Program, actions were developed to accompany staff on their return to the office, scheduled for October 1. Priority was given to strengthening key competencies such as productive resilience, adaptability, and cognitive flexibility, necessary to cope with organizational changes and contexts of instability. Coaching sessions were also held for the leadership team to reinforce management skills in scenarios of uncertainty and consolidate a collaborative, empathetic, and results-oriented style.

25. Highlights included:

- "Back to the Office" session: Open webinar to reflect on expectations and experiences of returning to work.

- Individual coaching: Third cycle of professional development focused on emotional management, decision-making under pressure, and adaptive leadership.

- Leadership team workshop: Training in adaptability and key competencies for managing change processes.

26. Two strategic alignment sessions were held:

- Second coordination team session: A space to review agreements and strengthen cohesion.

- Third session of the extended management team: Aimed at anticipating complex scenarios, encouraging collective and disruptive thinking, and developing skills to quantitatively prioritize essential functions in each area, consolidating a comprehensive and collaborative vision in decision-making.

27. Finally, two training modules were conducted for staff: the first on Productive Resilience: Resilient Communication, Managing Difficult Conversations, and Positive Feedback. The second on Cognitive Flexibility: Creative Thinking, Innovation, and Tools for Effective Priority Management.

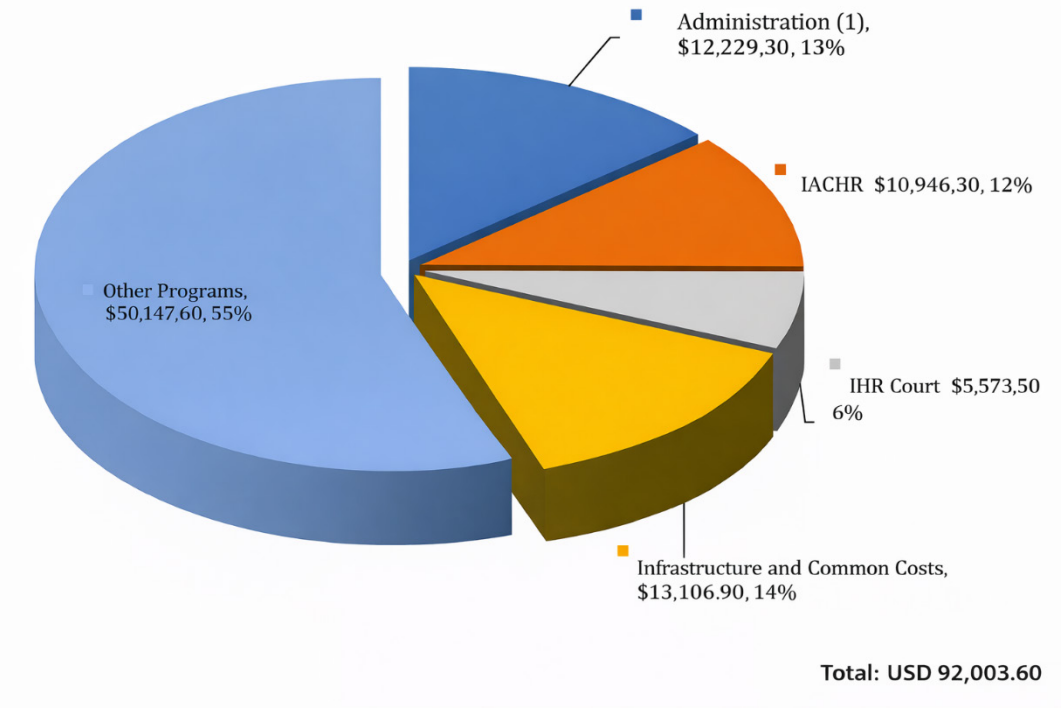
II. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

28. On November 1, 2024, during its 55th special session, the General Assembly approved a regular fund budget for the IACHR of $10,946,300 for 2025, of which $7,849,800 is for personnel expenses and $3,096,500 is for operational expenses.

29. The General Assembly also approved a budget of $141,800 for the IACHR's Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) fund for 2025, of which $82,400 corresponds to personnel expenses and $59,400 to operational expenses.

30. The following figure shows the distribution of the approved budget for the regular fund within the OAS for 2025. The IACHR was approved 12% of the annual amount.

Figure 1. Distribution of the approved budget of the OAS regular fund for 2025 (Amounts in thousands USD) [1]



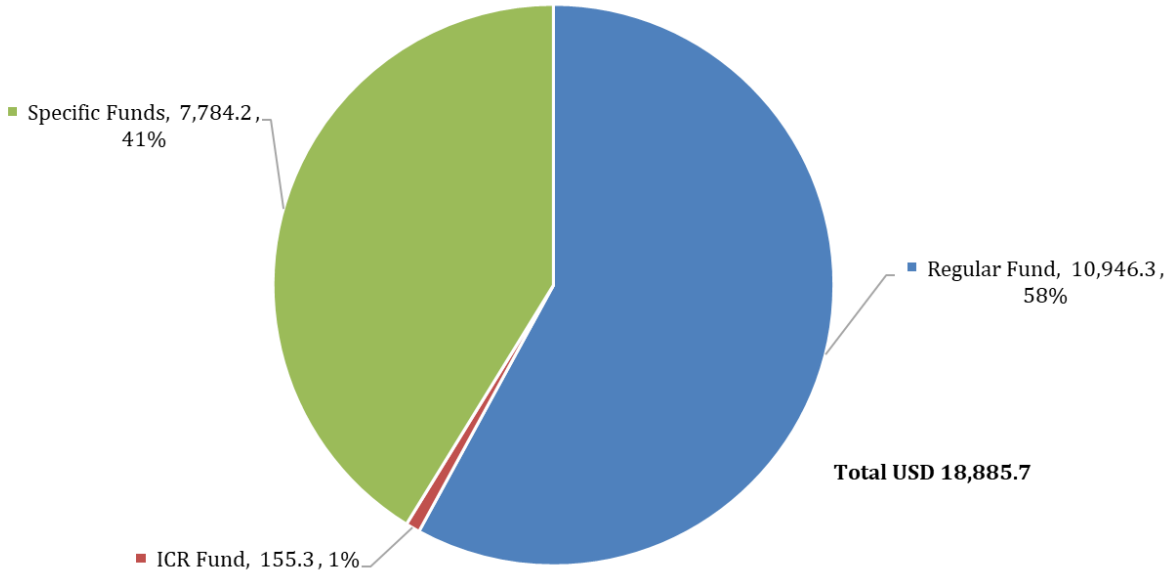
31. By December 31, 2025, the modified appropriation of the original regular fund budget was $10,946,300, distributed as follows: $7,683,300 for personnel expenses and $3,263,000 for non-personnel expenses. The portion corresponding to personnel expenses appears to be under-executed because, during 2025, the ES/IACHR had various vacant positions which are still in the process of being filled. In turn, the portion corresponding to operating expenses appears to be higher than the approved amount because the General Secretariat approved transfers (known as reinforcements) from the budget item for personnel expenses to the item for operating expenses due to the vacant positions.

32. On the same date, the modified appropriation for the indirect cost recovery (ICR) fund was $155,254, of which $95,854 was allocated to personnel expenses and $59,400 to non-personnel expenses.

33. With regard to the raising of specific funds, as a result of the resource mobilization strategy and thanks to the trust placed in the IACHR, contributions totaling $7,784,157 had been received by December 31, 2025. The following chart shows the distribution of funds received by source of financing.

[1] The distribution of the program budget for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2025, was approved by the General Assembly at its 55th special session in November 2024 through AG/RES 1 (LV-E-24). The amount indicated under Administration corresponds to the Secretariat of Administration and Finance (Chapter 11).

Figure 2. Funds received by the IACHR as of December 31, 2025, distributed by source of funding
(Amounts in thousands of USD, preliminary and unaudited)



34. The following table shows the contributions of funds received by the IACHR by source of funding.

Table 1. Contributions received by the IACHR as of December 31, 2025
By funding source and special topic
(Amounts in USD, preliminary and unaudited) [2] [3] [4] [5]

Source of Funding	ES/IACHR	RELE	REDESCA	Total	%
Regular Fund	10,946,300.0	-	-	**10,946,300.0**	**58.0%**
ICR Fund	155,253.7	-	-	**155,253.7**	**0.8%**
Specific Funds					
Member States					
Canada	566,211.3	-	-	566,211.3	3.0%
Costa Rica	9,852.7	3,071.3	-	12,924.0	0.1%
Chile	16,000.0	2,000.0	2,000.0	20,000.0	0.1%
Guatemala	349,722.0	-	-	349,722.0	1.9%
Honduras	300,000.0	-	-	300,000.0	1.6%
Mexico	335,000.0	-	15,000.0	350,000.0	1.9%
Panama	20,000.0	-	-	20,000.0	0.1%
United States	3,832,724.1	1,787.0	-	3,834,511.1	20.3%
	5,429,510.1	**6,858.3**	**17,000.0**	**5,453,368.4**	**28.9%**
Permanent Observers					
European Union	509,322.9	-	-	509,322.9	2.7%
France	107,222.5	-	230,520.1	337,742.6	1.8%
Monaco	10,000.0	-	-	10,000.0	0.1%
Netherlands	299,980.0	-	-	299,980.0	1.6%
Spain	138,748.7	-	170,170.0	308,918.7	1.6%
Sweden	-	266,050.7	-	266,050.7	1.4%
Switzerland	-	59,975.0	-	59,975.0	0.3%
	1,065,274.1	**326,025.7**	**400,690.1**	**1,791,989.9**	**9.5%**
Institutions and Others					
Arcus Foundation	55,000.00	-	-	55,000.0	0.3%
Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF)	-	25,197.0	-	25,197.0	0.1%
Ford Foundtaion	250,000.00	-	-	250,000.0	1.3%
New Venture Fund	-	75,000.0	-	75,000.0	0.4%
Pan American Development Foundation (PADF	107,394.96	-	-	107,395.0	0.6%
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	26,207.2	-	-	26,207.2	0.1%
	438,602.1	**100,197.0**	**-**	**538,799.1**	**2.9%**
Total Specific Funds	**6,933,386.3**	**433,081.0**	**417,690.1**	**7,784,157.4**	**41.2%**
Grand Total	**18,034,940.0**	**433,081.0**	**417,690.1**	**18,885,711.1**	**100.0%**

[2] It includes an assistance agreement with the United States worth USD 26.1 million for the period 2021-2027. This agreement is implemented through disbursements against the financial implementation of the project. The Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression has an allocation of USD 2 million (direct costs) within this agreement.

[3] It includes an assistance agreement with Norway for NOK 10.2 million for the period 2024-2027, of which REDESCA has an allocation of NOK 6,197,550.8 (60.76%), the Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression has an allocation of NOK 3,422,585.6 (33.55%), and the IACHR has an allocation of NOK 579,863.6 (5.69%).

[4] This report is organized by funding source and by Special Rapporteurship/sections within the IACHR.

[5] The information reported corresponds to preliminary and unaudited financial information for 2025.

35. The following table shows the change in the balance of funds for projects financed by specific IACHR funds as of December 31, 2025.

Table 2. Report on Changes in the Balance of Specific Funds by Project. Information as of December 31, 2025 [6] [7] [8] [9]
(Value in USD, preliminary and unaudited)

Project Name	Beginning Balance	Contributions.	Transfers.	Interest.	Returns & Other Income.	Expenditures.	Net Change.	End of Cash Balance.	Obligations.	Fund Balance
Enhan.Inst.Cap.IACHR.Ind.Pow	1,400,000.00	-	(45,200.00)	-	-	368,073.21	(413,273.21)	986,726.79	179,232.00	807,494.79
Fort.Prom. J.S. Envment.DESCA	14,544.51	-	(9,911.01)	-	899.00	5,532.50	(14,544.51)	-	-	-
Freedom of Expression 2018-2021	8,228.72	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,228.72	6,021.18	2,207.54
Freedom of Expression 23-26	396,366.05	433,080.95	(1,664.29)	3,069.38	(11,307.10)	515,609.64	(92,430.70)	303,935.35	65,552.80	238,382.55
HR Def./Just. Operators	128,489.00	-	66,300.00	-	-	106,332.00	(40,032.00)	88,457.00	9,450.00	79,007.00
Human Rights Women Girls LAC	860,424.00	566,211.34	-	15,280.53	28,865.74	704,852.39	(94,494.78)	765,929.22	254,747.69	511,181.53
Inc. Prom. Def. IACHR 2021-2023	(3,104,612.96)	3,832,724.07	-	-	2,390.44	3,925,704.76	(90,590.25)	(3,195,203.21)	894,603.11	(4,089,806.32)
Inc. Prot/Def. HR in Americas	461,307.89	509,322.86	-	-	-	1,084,705.67	(575,382.81)	(114,074.92)	24,942.32	(139,017.24)
Increasing protection of HR	127,958.34	299,980.00	-	4,827.48	(2.60)	373,121.52	(68,316.64)	59,641.70	37,620.00	22,021.70
Legal Assistance Fund I-A Humam Rights System	134.69	-	-	-	-	-	-	134.69	-	134.69
Mec. Seg. Rec. GIEI Bolivia	150,166.86	-	-	-	-	128,972.67	(128,972.67)	21,194.19	-	21,194.19
MESENI Monitoring 2023-2025	109,324.17	-	-	-	-	63,817.37	(63,817.37)	45,506.80	9,945.30	35,561.50
Obj 1. Promote justice	(272.26)	-	-	-	272.26	-	272.26	-	-	-
Obj 2. Monitoring Capacity	10,135.52	-	(21,481.37)	-	-	-	(21,481.37)	(11,345.85)	-	(11,345.85)
Obj 4. Strenghten Coop. ISHR	(17,022.42)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(17,022.42)	-	(17,022.42)
Obj 5. Inst. Mngt. IACHR	2,334.90	-	(554.09)	-	(272.26)	8.48	(834.83)	1,500.07	-	1,500.07
Obj 6 - Recommendations IACHR	32,904.97	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,904.97	-	32,904.97
Optimize GAIA System Phase II	-	-	31,236.00	-	-	4,060.68	27,175.32	27,175.32	-	27,175.32
Pillar 1 SP 2023-2027	832,821.57	380,602.68	43,133.82	-	7,851.00	926,124.97	(494,537.47)	338,284.10	212,558.49	125,725.61
Pillar 2 SP 2023-2027	793,411.75	621,094.76	59,684.79	7,669.08	(68,634.90)	817,192.45	(197,378.72)	596,033.03	181,698.54	414,334.49
Pillar 3 SP 2023-2027	75,438.27	434,322.00	(1,921.10)	-	(899.00)	82,138.77	349,363.13	424,801.40	23,486.20	401,315.20
Special Mecanism MC-409-14	1,150.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,150.02	-	1,150.02
Strategic Plan - General Funds	-	397,900.00	(51,080.19)	-	-	52,455.00	294,364.81	294,364.81	-	294,364.81
Stre. Cap. of IACHR in region	453,888.80	-	-	-	-	403,821.50	(403,821.50)	50,067.30	3,944.00	46,123.30
Stren.Prom.Fisc.Pol.	-	-	170,170.00	-	-	62,762.10	107,407.90	107,407.90	59,133.73	48,274.17
Strength. Environ. Protec.	220,000.00	-	(119,340.93)	-	-	100,659.07	(220,000.00)	-	-	-
Grand Total	**2,957,122.39**	**7,475,238.66**	**119,371.63**	**30,846.47**	**(40,837.42)**	**9,725,944.75**	**(2,141,325.41)**	**815,796.98**	**1,962,935.36**	**(1,147,138.38)**

36. The following figure shows the distribution of IACHR expenses by source of funding as of December 31, 2025. Expenses financed through the regular fund account for 51%, those from specific funds account for 48%, and those from ICR account for 1%.

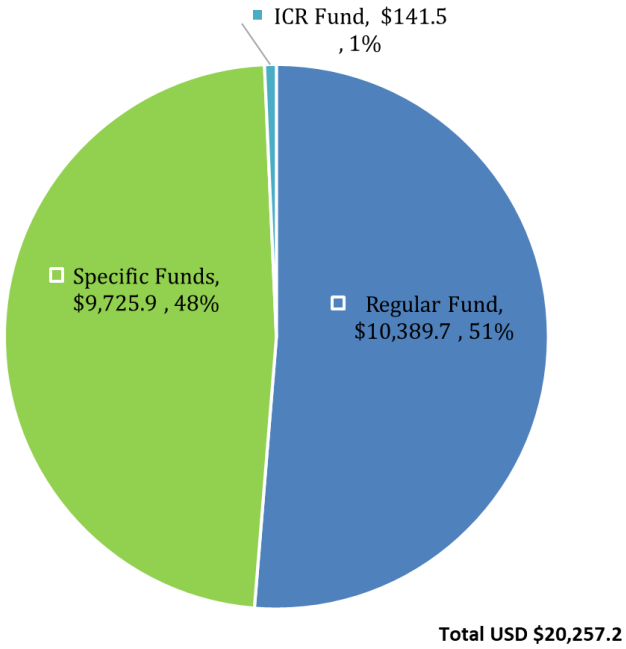
[6] This table summarizes the report "Statements of Changes in Fund Balances" by activity and donor, published by the Department of Financial Services of the GS/OAS until December 31, 2025.

[7] The final negative balances are due to the fact that donors' disbursements are made against implementation.

[8] This table shows the Oliver Jackman Fund.

[9] The information reported corresponds to preliminary and unaudited financial information published by the Department of Financial Services of the OAS General Secretariat.

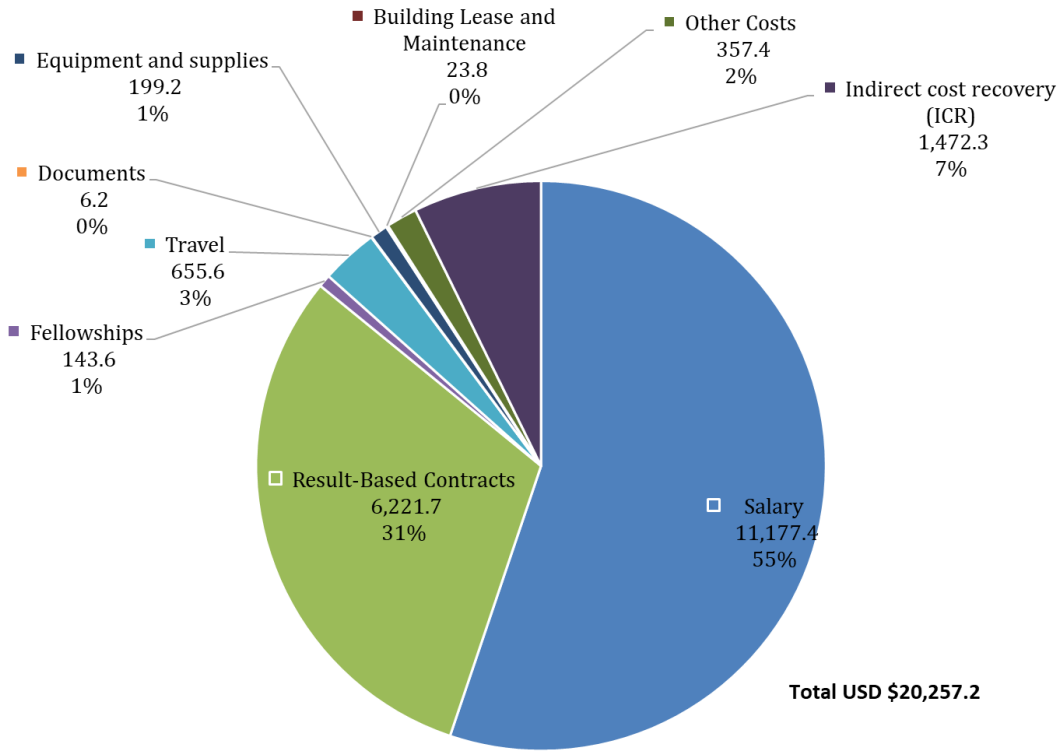
Figure 3. Breakdown of IACHR expenditures by funding source as of December 31, 2025 (Amounts in thousands of USD)



37. The following table and graph show the distribution of IACHR expenses by source of funding and item of expenditure.

Item of Expenditure	Regular Fund	Specific Funds	ICR Fund	Total (thousands)
Salaries	7,415.2	3,679.8	82.5	11,177.4
Non-recurring salary costs	-	-	-	-
Result-Based Contracts	2,436.4	3,763.7	21.6	6,221.7
Fellowships	-	143.6	-	143.6
Travel	233.2	422.4	-	655.6
Documents	2.3	3.9	-	6.2
Equipment and supplies	124.8	63.5	10.9	199.2
Building Lease and Maintenance	14.7	9.1	-	23.8
Other Costs	163.2	167.7	26.5	357.4
Indirect cost recovery (ICR)	-	1,472.3	-	1,472.3
Total	**10,389.7**	**9,725.9**	**141.5**	**20,257.2**

Figure 4. Total Distribution of IACHR Expenditures by Expenditure Item as of December 31, 2025 (Amounts in thousands of USD)



III. PLANNING, FUND MOBILIZATION, AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

A. Projects implemented in 2025

38. The Executive Secretariat prepared and submitted a total of 37 narrative reports on the implementation of 29 projects in progress during 2025, consisting of 10 final reports, 7 annual reports, 6 semi-annual reports, 9 quarterly reports, and 5 progress reports. In addition, 4 annual work plans were submitted to the respective donors. Five other projects have reports scheduled for submission in 2026, in accordance with their contractual timetable.

39. Below is a list of projects completed and in progress during 2025, with their respective donors and prepared reports:

Table. Projects implemented in 2025

Donor	Project name	Project's final amount USD /EU	Status	Number of
ACNUR	Support for the Rapporteurship on Human Mobility (2024).	$65,517USD	Implemented	1 Final report
ARCUS	Protection and promotion of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons (2021–2024)	$150,000 USD	Implemented	1 Final report
ARCUS	Protection and promotion of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons (2024-2027)	$160,000	Ongoing	1 Annual report
United States	Increasing the protection and defense of human rights in the Americas for the period 2021-2026 (CDH2101)	$19,745,000 USD	Ongoing	4 Quarterly reports
European Commission	Increasing the protection and defense of human rights in the Americas (2023-2025)	1,75 million Euros (approx. 1,76 million USD)	Implemented	1 Annual report
Spain	Monitoring the Human Rights Situation in Nicaragua II (2023-2025)	$206,308 ($97,174 + addition $109.134) USD	Ongoing	2 semiannual reports
Spain	CDH2201 Support for follow-up on the recommendations of the GIEI Bolivia (2023-2024)	$234,100 + addition 108,992 USD	Implemented	1 Progress report, 1 Final report
The Netherlands	Increase the protection and guarantee of human rights for human rights defenders and other vulnerable groups (2022-2026)	$1,200,000 USD	Ongoing	1 Annual report, 1 Annual Work Plan
Italy	Strengthening governance and human rights in Central America.	240,000 Euros	Implemented	Final report to be submitted in 2026
Ford Foundation	Strengthening the IACHR's capabilities to address the human rights situation in the region	$1,000,000 USD	Ongoing	1 Annual report
Canada	Enhancing the protection and defense of the human rights of women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean (2023-2027).	$5 million CAD (approx. 3,6 million USD)	Ongoing	1 Annual report, 1 Annual Work Plan
Norway	Climate justice and economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights in Latin America and the Caribbean.	$156,029 USD	Implemented	1 Final report
PADF	Central America Regional Program	$177,000 USD	Early Termination	1 Quarterly reports, 1 Final report, 1 Work Plan
PADF	Training on the Inter-American System of Human Rights, investigations, and documentation of testimonies in Nicaragua and Venezuela	$100,000 USD	Implemented	1 Final report
PADF	Labor rights of Cuban medical personnel	$410,000 USD	Ongoing	4 Quarterly reports, 1 Work Plan

Donor	Project name	Project's final amount USD /EU	Status	Number of
Spanish Fund for the OAS (SFO)	CDH2205 - Strengthening and promoting Inter-American legal standards on the environment, with a focus on climate change, the human right to water, and other DESCA rights in the Americas.	$234,278 USD	Implemented	1 Final report, 1 semiannual report
Spain (Basque Agency for Development Cooperation)	Increased protection for individuals at risk of irreparable violations of their rights, expansion of precautionary measures, and development of training in protection mechanisms.	110,000 Euros	Implemented	Final report to be submitted in 2026
Norway	Protecting freedom of expression and environmental rights in Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the climate emergency and threats to democratic governance.	$978,886 USD	Ongoing	1 Annual report 1 Work Plan (2025)
Foundation for the Americas	Support for the work of the IACHR Rapporteurship on the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Persons Phase IV.	450,000 USD	Ongoing	1 Annual report
Spanish Fund for the OAS (SFO)	CDH2308 Protection and defense of human rights defenders and justice operators in the Americas.	$221,000 USD	Ongoing	1 Progress report
Spanish Fund for the OAS (SFO)	CDH2309 Strengthening and promoting Inter-American human rights standards in the context of fiscal policies to guarantee and improve access to DESCA.	$243,100 USD	Ongoing	1 Progress report
Spain	Voluntary contribution (policy window) for follow-up on recommendations to the Guatemala report.	$41,212 USD	Ongoing	1 Progress report
France	Voluntary contribution report for the preparation of a report on enforced disappearances in Mexico.	$64,068 USD	Ongoing	Final report to be submitted in 2026
France	Strengthening the capacity of State agents and civil society organizations to promote, respect, and ensure the rights of LGBTI persons.	$100,000 Euros	Implemented	Final report to be submitted in 2026
Ireland	Expanding the use of friendly settlements as an alternative mechanism for redressing human rights violations.	$100,000 Euros	Implemented	Final report to be submitted in 2026
Sweden	Freedom of Expression and Media Independence in Venezuela (Component VI – IACHR/Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression).	$50,000 USD	Implemented	1 Progress report 1 Final report
Switzerland	Increasing the observance, protection, and defense of human	$244,500 USD	Ongoing	1 Progress report

Donor	Project name	Project's final amount USD /EU	Status	Number of
	rights defenders and justice operators in Central American countries.			
United States	Improving the IACHR's institutional capacity for timely and efficient analysis of threats to the independence of powers and the rule of law.	$1,400,000 USD	Ongoing	1 Progress report
United States	Strengthening access to IACHR mechanisms for the protection of the environment and environmental defenders, especially those belonging to historically marginalized groups in the context of the climate emergency.	$ 100,659 USD	Early Termination	2 semiannual reports 1 Final report

B. Proposals submitted

40. The Executive Secretariat of the IACHR prepared and submitted 16 funding proposals to donors for the development of strategic projects aligned with the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, of which a total of six proposals were approved. Four proposals are under review toward the end of December 2025.

a) Strengthening the protection and defense of human rights in the Americas – proposal SE/CIDH-RELE-REDESCA submitted to the European Commission (1,750,000 EUR / 1,955,000 USD). (Approved)
b) Strengthening the capacity of state actors and civil society organizations in OAS member states in the Caribbean – Caribbean Development Bank (USD 1,207,230).
c) Strengthening the capacity of State actors and civil society organizations to promote, respect, and guarantee the rights of LGBT persons – France (USD 100,000). (Approved and implemented).
d) Broadening the capacity of the IACHR to effectively monitor and raise international awareness of the human rights situation in Haiti – France (USD 500,000).
e) Enhancing the protection and defense of human rights defenders and justice operators in the Americas – Italy (USD 250,000).
f) Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights through the optimization of the GAIA System (additional funding) – Spanish Fund for the OAS (SFO). (Approved)
g) Promotion of respect for and protection of ESCR and the rights of the most vulnerable communities in Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the energy transition – submitted to AECID/SFO (US$290,300). (Approved)
h) Strengthening of the capability of state agents and civil society organizations to promote, respect, and guarantee the rights of LGBTI persons – submitted to the Government of France (USD 164,578).
i) Fighting illegal mining in the Guiana Shield and promoting environmental, social, economic, and cultural rights – submitted to the Government of France (€100,000). (Approved)

j) Addressing the structural factors underlying discrimination and violence against children, adolescents, persons with disabilities, and LGBTI persons – submitted to the Government of France (USD 117,250).
k) Support for the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in the areas of access to justice, protection of persons at serious, imminent, and irreparable risk, and monitoring of human rights in the Americas – submitted to the Ford Foundation (US$1,000,000). (Approved)
l) Proposal to extend and add funds to the project "Increasing the protection and defense of human rights in the Americas, 2021-2027 USA (CDH2101), funded by the USA.
m) Public policies to guarantee human rights in the context of renewable energy projects—including green hydrogen supply chains—in Colombia and Peru—submitted to the Ford Foundation ($200,000). (Under review)
n) Promotion of Inter-American standards on equality, non-discrimination, and intersectionality – submitted through the Foundation for the Americas (USD 150,000). (Under review)
o) Project: Strengthening mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders in Central America for the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (€300,000). (Under review)
p) Project to strengthen Inter-American child protection standards to prevent recruitment in contexts of territorial violence and mobility in Central America. (EUR 100,000). (Under review)

C. Suspension of projects

41. At the end of January 2025, the IACHR was severely affected by the suspension of three projects caused by the government's executive order on US foreign aid. One of these projects received direct funding from the US Congress. This directly affected the financing of 28 staff members and 33 consultants, representing approximately 32% of the IACHR's workforce.

42. In order to reduce the impact of staff losses and the suspension of activities, the ES/IACHR conducted an intensive review, rescheduled other available project sources, and reassigned staff to other projects. However, given the size of the financial impact and the effect on morale, it was not possible to retain all of the affected staff. Some contracts were left without a source of funding, and others (two staff members and five consultants) chose to resign. Although two of the projects were reinstated after a little over a month, the Commission suffered a major impact on all its mechanisms, which weakened its ability to fulfill its mandate during the period of suspension and afterwards, due to the consequences of the aforementioned staff reduction. In March, after the suspension was lifted, 26 consultants were rehired.

IV. TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

43. Over the past year, the Commission has consolidated more technological transformation processes that digitally modernize, increasingly strengthen its operations, and ensure and enhance institutional responsiveness. Each initiative implemented contributed to creating a more robust and resilient digital ecosystem, aligning technology management standards, which reinforced the Commission's commitment to implementing modern solutions that promote accessibility, transparency, and sustainability at the IACHR.

44. Significant progress was made in the maintenance and support of the GAIA central system, aimed at optimizing its performance, ensuring information security, and facilitating its institutional use. During this period, 15 functional and technical improvements were implemented, along with an optimization of the programming logic, which prepared the platform for more robust exception management while maintaining

its operability. Likewise, the first architectural adjustments planned for a future code update were made. This process seeks to prevent obsolescence, improve the user experience, and ensure long-term technical sustainability. Additionally, in line with the commitment of the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR (ES/IACHR) to promote the efficient use of its technological tools, several training and resource-building activities were conducted, such as the creation of a training model combining self-learning materials (e-learning), live practical sessions, and the production of bilingual institutional videos highlighting the technological advantages implemented in GAIA, facilitating its understanding and promoting technical cooperation with other institutions. The system's official technical documentation was also updated, incorporating innovations derived from new tools and technologies. In addition, GAIA's access controls were strengthened and updated in order to reinforce data protection, in full alignment with institutional information security policies. During the year, 55,972documents were successfully notified through GAIA, using fully automated processes.

45. Progress was made in formalizing GAIA Phase II, which will expand the IACHR's central system with new modules, enhancing its scope, automation, and institutional performance in a second phase of development. The functional requirements of the modules were consolidated, and criteria were harmonized with the relevant technical bodies, paving the way for the software development procurement process. The preparation incorporated key inputs such as evaluation criteria and operational guidelines, with a focus on scalability, security, and sustainability, raising the technical quality of the file. This work integrated planning, methodological review, and risk management, maintaining consistency between objectives and deliverables. The result is a project with solid foundations, a focus on service, and institutional traceability for its next phase, prepared for orderly implementation, with robust standards and an architecture aligned with the strategic needs of the OAS, laying the groundwork for the progressive implementation of this Phase II and its future technological sustainability.

46. eVote, an electronic system for consultations with the Commission, positioned itself as a permanent institutional technology platform by replacing a licensing component with a more efficient alternative, reducing costs while maintaining quality and stability. This strategic decision liberated resources and reaffirmed a pragmatic approach to innovation, where each adjustment is aimed at optimizing results and protecting technological autonomy. Specialized technical support ensured continuous operation in sensitive processes, eliminating the risk of interruption and strengthening confidence in the tool. eVote was consolidated as a robust, reliable system capable of sustaining critical demands.

47. The Early Warning project advanced steadily, strengthening its technical, methodological, and organizational dimensions and establishing a solid technological foundation focused on preventing risks to democratic institutions in the Americas. In order to develop the system, a dedicated infrastructure with a virtual environment and integration services was promoted, in coordination with the OAS Department of Information Technology and Services, preserving compatibility with the organization's guidelines and information security. The system definition document was also validated, detailing technologies for *machine learning.* Likewise, the conceptualization of ARGOS was presented, specifying its architecture, operation, and strategic goals. At the same time, the project incorporated the evaluation of language models with API availability for state-of-the-art synthesis and *deep research*, accelerating analysis and reducing response times. In addition, progress was made in the development of the ARGOS Knowledge Portal, with a focus on *e-learning*, centralizing content and promoting the autonomous adoption of tools by the ES/IACHR teams. With this set of milestones, the project establishes a robust, scalable foundation that is aligned with institutional goals and ready for operational implementation. To sustain its value, it is essential to ensure the continuity of the system and the constant learning of the models, guaranteeing their updating and adaptability to new contexts and challenges.

48. The Commission used high-performance technological strategies during the 192nd, 193rd, and 194th session periods, integrating end-to-end digital planning, administration, and logistics. The deployment

included audiovisuals, online streaming, real-time platform monitoring, and compliance with accessibility standards, expanding reach and public participation and providing stable sessions with wide visibility. During the 192nd session, the simultaneous operation of rooms enabled 33 public hearings, setting a benchmark for efficiency for subsequent cycles and guiding the operational maturity applied to the 193rd session and the preparation of the 194th session, with a total of 70 hearings broadcast live. The combination of state-of-the-art technological infrastructure and multidisciplinary coordination standardized flows and reinforced transparency for diverse audiences, creating the necessary synergies and positioning the Commission as a referent in the management of technology-supported multilateral events.

49. Through the collaborative digital tool used in the secretariat, the system developed for intelligent management was consolidated, centralizing key processes, automating procedures, and strengthening institutional traceability. Its growth continued with configurable views, precision filters, and integrated notifications that streamlined coordination between areas and increased transparency in decision-making. Within this framework, in order to maintain continuous technological renewal, the use and implementation of artificial intelligence applied to the platform is being analyzed, identifying priority use cases and a roadmap for AI-assisted integrations aimed at simplifying manual tasks, improving information classification, and anticipating needs. All of this is executed with the responsible adoption of emerging technologies and adherence to security and governance standards, a strategy that keeps the organization at the forefront, with faster and more consistent processes.

50. Broadening its impact by offering users of the ES/IACHR the possibility of modifying the urgency level of requests already sent and adding new categories of procedures that facilitated previously fragmented processes, the tool developed to manage the requirements of the central systems marked a new cycle of growth, allowing for more precise and flexible management, capable of adapting to institutional priorities in real time. Likewise, the functionality of announcements to users of the IACHR's central system was automated, enabling institutional communications with full reach in a single flow. The improvement expands coverage and communication opportunities, reduces manual workloads, standardizes content, and improves traceability, providing consistent and timely information for all users. A total of 479 requests were handled in nine areas of the ES/IACHR. In turn, the system for logistics and administration of technological resources expanded its capacity to handle a high volume of requests, reflecting not only the maturity achieved in terms of process standardization, but also its strategic importance in responding immediately to the needs of the Secretariat. A total of 528 requests were handled for the entire Secretariat. Both tools were strengthened as fundamental channels for digital resource management and as an indispensable part of the Secretariat's technological ecosystem.

51. The technological modernization process resulted in the updating, redistribution, and incorporation of additional computer equipment and devices, strengthening the institutional infrastructure of the ES/IACHR with state-of-the-art tools. This strategic investment not only optimized processing times and operational efficiency but also ensured the continuity of digital services in line with the organization's high standards. In addition, storage solutions were implemented which significantly expanded the ability to back up and protect critical information, providing greater security amid growing data demands. These actions helped ensure that staff had modern, robust, and secure tools at their disposal to perform their duties.

52. From the Individual Petition System Portal, with a focus on user service, more than 8,519 queries about the use of the platform were answered; the ecosystem grew with 4,710 new user registrations and four activations by states; 76,995 additional information documents were processed automatically through the system.

53. With the aim of expanding access to information and speeding up the operational response times of the SE/IACHR, in line with the standardization and automation of processes, the digital publication of

public calls for applications in multiple languages was enabled. These include: requests for hearings and meetings for the 192nd, 193rd, and 194th Period of Sessions (in the four official languages); the prioritization of cases for the development of inter-American public policy (four languages); the Caribbean Dialogue Network; public consultation questionnaires for the development of a practical guide on human rights and borders (two languages) and on access to justice with a gender perspective (four languages); as well as calls for a Human Rights Consultant, a Fellowship from the Rapporteurship on the Rights of LGBTI Persons, and an Applications Systems Developer. This process strengthened transparency, standardized the publication experience, and expanded the reach of the various calls for applications.