

CHAPTER I
ACTIVITIES OF THE IACHR IN 2013

A. Inter-American Commission's Periods of Sessions held in 2013

1. In the period covered by this report, the Inter-American Commission met on three occasions: March 7 to 22, at its 147th regular session; July 8 to 19, at its 148th regular session; and October 24 to November 8, at its 149th regular session.¹ In the course of 2013, the Inter-American Commission adopted a total of 44 admissibility reports, 9 inadmissibility reports, 6 friendly settlements, 38 archiving decisions, and 16 reports on merits, one of which it published. It also held 114 hearings and 36 working meetings.

1. 147th Regular Session

2. The Inter-American Commission held its 147th regular session March 7-22, 2013, on which occasion it elected its presiding officers. The board was comprised as follows: José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez, Chair; Tracy Robinson, First Vice-Chair; and Rosa María Ortiz, Second Vice-Chair. The IACHR is also comprised of the following Commissioners: Felipe González, Dinah Shelton, Rodrigo Escobar Gil, and Rose-Marie Belle Antoine. The Executive Secretary is Emilio Álvarez Icaza Longoria and the Assistant Executive Secretary is Elizabeth Abi-Mershed.

3. In the course of its sessions, the IACHR held 62 hearings and 18 working meetings. It also adopted 30 reports on individual cases and petitions: 12 on admissibility, 3 on inadmissibility, 2 on friendly settlements, 10 archiving reports, and 3 reports on merits.

4. For the first time in its history, the IACHR held a hearing requested by a group of States. Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and the Dominican Republic called on those States in the region that have not yet abolished the death penalty to consider doing so, or to declare a moratorium as a step prior to abolishing it, as suggested by the Commission in its report *The Death Penalty in the Inter-American Human Rights System: From Restrictions to Abolition*. The States participating in the hearing also urged States to comply with the precautionary measures granted by the IACHR with regard to individuals sentenced to death. The Inter-American Commission welcomes this initiative, which serves as an example of the States and the IACHR working together in the defense of human rights.

5. The Commission is deeply concerned over information it received indicating that the phenomenon of forced disappearances continues to exist today in the region and that the situation remains invisible. It indicated that is of particular concern the failure to investigate cases of disappearances, the ineffectiveness of efforts to find individuals who have disappeared, and the impunity in which the majority of the cases remain. In this regard, the Commission identified impunity as an ongoing problem in the region, one that seriously impairs victims' right to justice and to reparation, and paves the way for these crimes to be repeated.

¹ See the following press releases issued by the IACHR the sessions: [Nos. 23/13](#) and [83/13](#).

6. The Commission received troubling information indicating that human rights defenders continue to be targets of murders, threats, and harassment, along with acts of violence at protest demonstrations and the criminalization of their activities. The IACHR is particularly concerned about States' failure to adopt effective measures to protect human rights defenders who are at serious risk.

7. The Commission also received information that the rights to equality and non-discrimination of persons of African descent in Brazil and in Colombia continue to be unprotected, including their economic, social and cultural rights. Furthermore, the intersectionality of race and gender worsen discrimination against women of African descent.

8. On another matter, the Commission was deeply concerned about the continuing violation and disregard of the territorial rights of indigenous peoples in several countries of the region; the ongoing, serious violations of the right to life and to the physical and cultural integrity of indigenous peoples, communities, and persons; the repression of protests and public demonstrations carried out by leaders, authorities, and members of indigenous peoples in the defense of their rights; and the retaliatory actions or threats carried out against indigenous leaders.

9. With regard to persons deprived of liberty, the Commission received information of utmost concern on the excessive use of pretrial detention and the use of solitary confinement, as well as on detention conditions in Cuba and at the Guantánamo Naval Base, United States. In particular, the IACHR expressed its deep concern over the practice in the United States of incarcerating children under 18 years of age in prisons for adults, without any effective separation between the two. It is also cause of concern to the Commission the abuses, sexual rape and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, such as solitary confinement.

10. In several hearings, the Commission received troubling information about the right to freedom of expression in several countries. Attacks on journalists, laws that violate the right to freedom of expression, the lack of regulatory frameworks that recognize community radio stations, and the closure of media outlets through administrative or judicial processes are some of the problems the Commission heard about during its sessions.

11. With regard to the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex (LGBTI) persons, the Commission is concerned about the existence of centers for "curing" homosexuality, in which young and adult lesbian women are coerced or forced into these centers and subjected to all forms of violence, including physical and sexual violence. The Commission also heard with concern information about medical interventions to which intersex children are subjected because their bodies are different from the standard male or female body, without waiting for them to be of age to be able to consent.

12. Disturbing information was also received about the situation of women's rights, in particular the fact that violence against women continues in the Americas, and these crimes continue to go unpunished. In the hearings, the Commission heard troubling information about the legal and practical obstacles that continue to exist for women to be able to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights; obstacles in access to justice for women victims of violence; the growing problem of human trafficking; and the overlapping discrimination against women of African descent, indigenous women, poor women, and lesbian women, who are invisible when it comes to formulating laws and public policies and programs.

13. In several thematic hearings, the Commission received deeply troubling information about economic, social, and cultural rights. These include the lack of proper treatment for LGBTI indigenous persons living with HIV; the link between discrimination against communities in vulnerable situations and their exercise of the rights to work, to health and to land; and the overlap between the right to live free of discrimination and the exercise of economic and social rights for various groups, including women, indigenous persons, and Afro-descendants, among others. The Commission also received troubling information indicating that a high percentage of cases involving women and girls who have illegal abortions or are accused of violating laws that criminalize abortion are the result of poverty and lack of access to the right to health.

14. The IACHR held hearings on countries, and it noted its deep concern over the information it received on the serious challenges faced by the National Compensation Program for victims of the internal armed conflict in Guatemala, as well as the continuing lack of a resolution in the Dominican Republic concerning the situation faced by Dominicans of Haitian origin and the human rights violations they suffer, especially against their right to nationality, which leads to situations of statelessness.

2. 148th Regular Session

15. The Inter-American Commission held its 148th regular session from July 8 to 19, 2013. Owing to the internal nature of this session, the IACHR held no public hearings or working meetings in the course of it. The Commission adopted 48 reports on individual cases and petitions: 23 on admissibility, 1 on inadmissibility, 3 on friendly settlement, 14 on archiving, 4 on the merits and 3 to be published.

3. 149th Regular Session

16. The Inter-American Commission held its 149th regular session from October 24 to November 8, 2012. In the course of this session 52 hearings were held, along with 18 working meetings, with the Commission adopting 38 reports on individual cases and petitions: 9 on admissibility, 5 on inadmissibility, 1 on friendly settlement, 14 archiving reports, and 9 reports on the merits.

17. During this session, the Inter-American Commission was pleased to accept the invitation by the State of the Dominican Republic to carry out a visit to that country.

18. The hearings and reports reflected some of the structural human rights problems that persist in the region. These have to do with respect for the right to life and humane treatment; guarantees of due process and judicial protection; the exercise of economic, social, and cultural rights and the right to freedom of expression; and the situation concerning the rights of children, migrants, human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, women, persons deprived of liberty, persons with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, trans, bisexual, and intersex persons, among other issues.

19. During that session, the Commission held hearings that touched on new issues that are widely relevant for the region. Examples include the hearings on the use of unmanned drones in the region, and on communications surveillance carried out through the use of new technologies. The impact of transnational corporations and extractive industries on the enjoyment of human rights was also addressed, in particular the potential negative impact of industrial agriculture on land use, peasant farmers' access to land, and subsistence agriculture. Another new issue was addressed in the hearing on

the human rights effects of mining and the responsibility of the States, not only of the countries where the mines are located but also the countries in which the transnational companies are based. These and other issues addressed in the hearings reflect the IACHR's attention to the entire range of issues that make up the human rights agenda in the region, to which new challenges are constantly being added.

20. For the first time in the history of the IACHR, a hearing provided simultaneous interpretation into sign language for the hearing-impaired and easy-to-read texts for persons with intellectual disabilities. The Commission is committed to strive to ensure that in the future, all of its hearings will be accessible to persons with disabilities.

21. On another matter, the Inter-American Commission once again expressed its concern over the United States' failure to comply with the precautionary measure for detainees at Guantanamo. The IACHR urged the authorities to take the necessary urgent steps to comply with these precautionary measures, which have been in effect since 2002 and were expanded on July 23, 2013, to include closure of the detention center. In addition, the Commission again urged the State to give its consent so the IACHR can visit that detention center without preconditions, that is, with direct and private access to all detainees and all facilities.

B. Visits

Dominican Republic²

22. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) conducted an on-site visit to the Dominican Republic on December 2-5, 2013, in response to an invitation by the State. The purpose of the visit was to observe the situation related to the rights to nationality, identity, and equal protection without discrimination, along with other related rights and issues. The Commission carried out this visit to oversee compliance with the international commitments made freely by the State of the Dominican Republic in exercise of its sovereignty.

23. The delegation was composed of IACHR Chairman José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez; First Vice-Chair Tracy Robinson; Second Vice-Chair Rosa María Ortiz; Commissioners Felipe González, Dinah Shelton, and Rose Marie Antoine; Executive Secretary Emilio Álvarez Icaza L.; Assistant Executive Secretary Elizabeth Abi-Mershed; Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Catalina Botero; and other staff members of the Executive Secretariat. During the visit, various IACHR delegations visited the provinces of Bahoruco, Dabajón, Jimaní, La Romana, San Pedro de Macorís, Santo Domingo, and Valverde. The IACHR held meetings with State authorities, civil society organizations, victims of human rights violations, and representatives of international agencies.

24. Through this visit, the IACHR was able to appreciate various advances in the development of democratic institutions and the protection of human rights. The Commission particularly valued the fact that, through the 2010 reform of the Constitution, international human rights law and all international human rights commitments adopted by the State are incorporated directly into domestic law, with constitutional ranking.

² See IACHR, Press Release No. 97/13

25. During the visit, the Inter-American Commission received troubling informing concerning grave violations of the right to nationality, to identity, and to equal protection without discrimination. The violations of the right to nationality that the Commission observed during its last on-site visit, in 1997, continue, and the situation has been exacerbated as a result of Judgment TC 0168/2013 of the Constitutional Court. As a result of that ruling, an undetermined but very significant number of Dominicans, have been arbitrarily deprived of their nationality. This situation disproportionately affects persons of Haitian descent, who are also Afro-descendants and are often identified based on the color of their skin, which constitutes a violation of the right to equal protection without discrimination.

26. The IACHR visited several bateyes (communities of sugar workers) in various parts of the country and took note of the conditions of poverty, exclusion, and discrimination in which its inhabitants live. Poverty disproportionately affects persons of Haitian descent, and this is related to the obstacles they face in terms of access to their identity documents.

27. On another matter, the Inter-American Commission received deeply troubling information concerning statements made against journalists, intellectuals, lawyers, politicians, legislators, human rights defenders, public figures, and even high-level public servants who have criticized the ruling of the Constitutional Court.

28. The IACHR's preliminary observations on the situation observed in the course of this onsite visit can be found in the annex to press release No. 97/13, which was issued at the end of its activities. Likewise, with the information received during the visit and other inputs, the IACHR shall draft a Country Report whereby it shall make recommendations aimed at supporting the State in its efforts to fulfill its obligations under the American Convention on Human Rights.

Suriname³

29. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights undertook a working visit to the Republic of Suriname between January 23-25, 2013 in order to examine the situation of the rights of women and indigenous peoples. The delegation was composed of Commissioner Dinah Shelton, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Commissioner Tracy Robinson, First Vice-President and Rapporteur on the Rights of Women; and staff from the Executive Secretariat.

30. During the visit, the delegation held meetings with the highest authorities of the Suriname State, and representatives from civil society organizations dedicated to the defense of the rights of indigenous peoples, women and LGBTI persons in the country. Several members of the delegation also traveled to the district of Brokopondo and the village of Brownsweg to visit a Maroon village composed of 8,000 persons. The delegation offered a workshop attended by approximately fifty government officials on the Inter-American System of Human Rights and an academic event at the Anton de Kom University, with the participation of law professors and students.

31. The Rapporteurs made some initial observations which can be found in Press Release No. 9/13, issued at the end of their visit

³ See IACHR, Press Release [No. 9/13](#).

Argentina

32. A delegation of the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR made a visit to Argentina from May 9 to 13, 2013. The goal was to prepare a diagnostic on the compliance with the recommendations that the IACHR included in Merits Report 2/12 on the case of the Indigenous Communities members of the Association Lhaka Honhat of Argentina, approved on January 26, 2012. The delegation held meetings in the city of Salta with representatives of the Government of the Salta Province. It also visited the municipality of Santa Victoria del Este, to meet with indigenous leaders of the Lhaka Honhat Association, and to visit the indigenous territory. It also held meetings in Buenos Aires with authorities of the National Government. The parties expressed that the visit enabled an opportunity to open a dialogue and incentivate the compliance of the recommendation by the Argentine State.

Honduras

33. Between May 14 and 18, 2013, the Rapporteur for Honduras, Commissioner Tracy Robinson, and the Commission's Executive Secretary, Emilio Álvarez Icaza Longoria, visited Honduras in the framework of their participation as speakers at the Third Assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (LAC Network). The delegation met with state authorities, representatives of civil society organizations, and representatives of international and regional organizations. In addition, they met with indigenous women leaders from various parts of the country. They also organized two meetings of friendly settlement cases and three meetings of precautionary measure monitoring.

Canada

34. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights carried out a working visit to Canada on August 6-9, 2013, to look into the disappearances and murders of indigenous women in British Columbia. The delegation was made up of Commissioner Dinah Shelton, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Commissioner Tracy Robinson, First Vice Chair of the IACHR and Rapporteur on the Rights of Women; and staff of the Executive Secretariat. The visit began in Ottawa and continued in British Columbia, specifically in Vancouver and Prince George. The delegation received information and testimony from relatives of indigenous girls and women who have disappeared or have been killed. In Ottawa, the delegation met with federal government authorities and civil society organizations and representatives, including tribal organizations and leaders. In British Columbia, the delegation met with provincial government authorities, representatives of the legislative branch, and civil society organizations and representatives, including tribal organizations, authorities, and leaders.

Guatemala⁴

35. The Office of the Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the IACHR carried out a working visit to Guatemala on August 21-30, 2013. The visit aimed to gather information on the situation of indigenous peoples in Guatemala, with special emphasis on the discrimination and exclusion experienced by indigenous peoples, as well as the situation involving their lands, territories, and natural

⁴ See IACHR, Press Release No. 66/13.

resources and their right to prior, free, and informed consultation. The delegation was led by the IACHR Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Commissioner Dinah Shelton.

36. The delegation met with State authorities; international organizations, authorities, indigenous leaders and communities; human rights ombudsmen, civil society organizations, and members of the academic community. The delegation visited Guatemala City, Cobán, el Valle del Polochic, Nebaj, Huehuetenango, Totonicapán, San Marcos and Chichicastenango. The information obtained during the visit shall be used as one of the inputs to draft a report on the human rights situation of Guatemala's indigenous peoples.

37. Commissioner Shelton commended the Government's acknowledgment of the need to amend legislation, especially laws on mining, water and the environment, in order to fulfill the State's international commitments. She also underscored its deep concern for the killings, sexual violations, threats and harassment targeting authorities, indigenous leaders, and human rights ombudsmen, including judges and prosecutors, in the country.

38. The Commissioner highlighted the breakthroughs made in investigating severe crimes against humanity perpetrated during the armed conflict in Guatemala and stated her expectation that State institutions, especially the Ministry of Defense, would guarantee full accessibility to all files and documents on human rights in connection with the conflict.

C. Activities of the IACHR in relation to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

39. In 2013 the Commission continued to carry out its treaty-based and statutory mandates before the Inter-American Court. The following is a detailed description of the Commission's activities before the Court in the following order: (1) referral of contentious cases; (2) requests for provisional measures; (3) appearance and participation in public and private hearings; (4) presentation of written observations on State reports in cases of supervision of compliance with judgments; and (5) presentation of written observations on State reports on the implementation of provisional measures.

1. Referral of contentious cases

40. In 2013, the Commission referred 11 cases to the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court pursuant to Article 51 of the American Convention and Article 45 of its Rules of Procedure.

a. Case of Garífuna Community of "Triunfo de la Cruz" and its members v. Honduras (Submitted on February 21, 2013)

41. The instant case involves several violations of the American Convention against the Garifuna Community Triunfo de la Cruz and its members.

42. This community constitutes a distinct ethnic group whose members share social, cultural and economic relationships, especially its important connection with the land they have historically occupied and the collective construction of ancestral property. The Garifuna Community Triunfo de la Cruz and its members have asserted their rights in Honduras as an indigenous people and that characteristic has not been put into discussion to the Commission. The violations committed in this case include several components of the right to property of the Garifuna Community Triunfo de la Cruz

and its members, of their right to participate in issues that concern them, and their rights to a fair trial and judicial protection.

43. The Garifuna Community Triunfo de la Cruz has not had a property title to their ancestral territory that is both appropriate and culturally adequate. Specifically, the Commission found that the acknowledgement of part of the ancestral territory was late and that up to date the State continues to deny a unique title of the totality of the land based on the historical occupation and customary use by the Garifuna Community Triunfo de la Cruz and its members. In addition, the Commission found that this situation has generated obstacles in maintaining their traditional way of life.

b. Case Indigenous Peoples Kuna de Madungandí and Emberá de Bayano and its members v. Panama (Submitted on February, 2013)

44. This case refers to a continued violation of the right to collective property of the indigenous peoples Kuna de Madungandí and Emberá de Bayano and their members, as a consequence of the breach of the obligation by the State of Panama to pay economic compensations derived from the dispossession and flooding of ancestral territories of the victims.

45. The case also relates to the lack of recognition, titling and demarcation, during a long period of time comprised within the temporal jurisdiction of the Court, of the lands adjudicated to the indigenous people Kuna de Madungandí, as well as the lack of recognition, demarcation and titling of the lands adjudicated to the indigenous people Emberá de Bayano until today. The breach of the State's obligations with regards to collective property of the indigenous people was also followed by a systematic breach of numerous legal commitments assumed by the State until 2010.

46. Additionally, in this case the State of Panama did not comply with its obligations of prevention with respect to the invasion of colonists and the illegal logging of the wood as a corollary of its obligation of effective protection of the territory and natural resources of the indigenous peoples Kuna de Madungandí y Emberá de Bayano and its members. This situation worsened during the decade of the 1990.

47. The Commission also concluded that the State of Panama did not comply with its obligation to provide an adequate and effective procedure to access territorial property for the indigenous peoples Kuna de Madungandí and Emberá de Bayano and its members, as well as a procedure to obtain a response before the numerous complaints concerning interferences of private individuals with their territories and natural resources. Finally, the case was analyzed by the Commission from the right to equal protection of the law and to non-discrimination perspectives, taking in to consideration the sequence of the violations committed to their detriment as a form of discrimination against two indigenous peoples. Additionally, such discrimination is reflected in the application of a legislative framework that observes a policy of assimilationism that contributes to the violation of the right to property over the ancestral territories and natural resources of the indigenous peoples.

c. Case of Granier and others – RCTV v. Venezuela (submitted on February 28, 2013)

48. This case refers to the decision of the State of Venezuela of not to renew the authorization to the radio frequency Caracas Television (RCTV). As a consequence of this decision dated May 28 of 2007, RCTV stopped the transmissions as an open television station, causing an impact to the freedom of expression of its stockholders, directors and journalists. The Commission concluded that the

State of Venezuela did not comply with its obligations related to the assignment and renovation of authorizations.

49. With respect to the procedural aspects, the Commission found that the controversy related to the non-renovation of RCTV's authorization occurred in a context of legal uncertainty for the station that did not have clarity regarding the applicable legal framework to its authorization. This situation turned to be incompatible with the State's obligation to establish a procedure for the renovation of the authorizations that is strictly regulated by law. Moreover, the decision of not to renew the authorization of RCTV and further grant it to a new channel, was not the result of an open and transparent process through public and impartial criteria. RCTV did not have the opportunity to offer evidence and present a defense from the alleged legal infraction attributed to some of its employees.

50. Regarding the substantive aspects, the Commission concluded that although the formal objective declared by the State to support the diversity and pluralism was indeed a legitimate public interest, the evidence of the case strongly suggests that the decision not to renovate the authorization to RCTV was based on the editorial line of the station. Within this evidence, the Commission underlined the declarations of high level state agents and the context in which the facts occurred.

51. In this way, the Commission concluded that the decision not to renovate the authorization was a clear act of deviation of power and an indirect restriction incompatible with articles 13.1 and 13.3 of the Convention.

52. Moreover, the Commission considered that the motive of the decision not to renovate the authorization was the political opinion of the station; this situation was reinforced by a distinct treatment given to RCTV in comparison with another channel that was in the same situation in relation to the authorization. The IACHR submitted the difference of treatment based on political reasons to strict scrutiny and concluded that the State could not justify its acts and, therefore, it also incurred in a violation of the rights to equal protection of the law and non-discrimination.

53. Finally, the administrative and judicial procedures related to this case did not comply with the parameters established in articles 8 and 25 of the Convention. In this sense, the Commission concluded that the process by which it was decided not to renew the authorization violated the administrative due process; due to the fact that the amparo and unnamed precautionary amparo remedies were not decided with due celerity and, consequently, they were not an effective remedy to address the violation of the right to freedom of expression. Moreover, the Commission found that the administrative contentious action of nullity was not resolved within a reasonable period; and in the confiscation procedures, the State violated the right to legal defense. Additionally, the IACHR found that the delay to decide the opposition of RCTV to a precautionary measure of confiscation of properties violated the right to judicial protection and, in summary, in aforementioned measures the Supreme Tribunal of Justice (Tribunal Supremo de Justicia) used formally valid procedures to accomplish the objectives of the Executive Power, which constitute a violation of the guarantee of impartiality.

d. Case of García Cruz and Sánchez Silvestre v. México (submitted on March 17, 2013)

54. This case concerns the illegal detention and torture of Juan Garcia Cruz and Santiago Sanchez Silvestre, which occurred in June of 1997, as well as their subsequent convictions for three years and 40 years in prison, following two criminal trials where no due process was observed, in

particular, the use of confessions obtained under torture and the lack of investigation and the failure to punish the allegations of torture.

55. From the beginning of the investigation on June 1997, and during the proceedings against them, Mr. Garcia Cruz and Sanchez Silvestre complained to the relevant judicial authorities that state agents had repeatedly tortured them during their interrogation in order to extract confessions of culpability for the events for which Mr. Garcia and Sanchez were being accused. However, ministerial or judicial authorities failed to initiate an investigation based on the medical certificates and reports received. The State did not initiate a preliminary investigation regarding the alleged injuries until 2002. Such investigation ended because Juan Garcia Cruz and Santiago Silvestre Sanchez did not file a criminal complaint.

56. The victims were investigated and prosecuted in two criminal cases on the basis of their ministerial statements. Subsequently, the victims refuted those statements because the arrest was not made in the place indicated by the police, and that they had been injured and tortured by the police officers. The judiciary considered these statements in the light of the victims' alleged guilt and placed the burden of proof on Mr. Garcia and Mr. Sanchez, contrary to the principle of presumption of innocence. Also, within the initial stages of these processes Messrs. Silvestre Garcia Cruz and Sanchez were not properly assisted for by the public defender, resulting in violations of their right of defense.

e. Case of Rochac Hernández and others v. El Salvador (submitted on March 21, 2013)

57. This case refers to the forced disappearance of the boys Jose Adrian Rochac Hernandez, Santos Ernesto Salinas, Manuel Antonio Bonilla Osorio y Ricardo Ayala Abarca, and the girl Emelinda Lorena Hernandez between 1980 and 1982 in circumstances with similar characteristics: within the context of an armed conflicts, after the execution from military operatives to the called "counter-insurgency", in which their relatives were either killed or managed to escape, and who were last seen with members of the armed forces, who abducted them and decided over their destiny.

58. More than 30 years have passed since the disappearance of the five victims in this case, but their fate and whereabouts have never been established. These crimes remain in impunity, given that the State did not conduct a serious and diligent investigation, within a reasonable period, on the forced disappearance of the victims, as a mechanism to guarantee their rights and to ensure the family members' rights to truth, justice, and reparation. The Commission also concluded that El Salvador violated the right to family and special protection of the boys and the girl, because it was the State that, through the actions of its Armed Forces, separated the victims from their families by their forced disappearance.

f. Case of Tarazona Arrieta and others v. Peru (submitted on June 3, 2013)

59. The present case related to the murder of Zulema Tarazona Arrieta and Norma Teresa Perez Chavez, and the injuries suffered by Mr. Luis Alberto Bejarano Laura, by members of the Peruvian Army in an incident on August 9, 1994 as a result of the shooting by a member of the Army against a public transport vehicle in which the victims were travelling. These events occurred in the context of an action by members of the Armed Forces to intercept the transport vehicle. After the shooting, the security officials left the scene without rendering assistance to the victims and without informing their superior about what happened. The Commission found that these facts constituted an arbitrary

deprivation of life of the two victims who were killed, and a violation of the right to humane treatment to the detriment of the person injured.

60. Due to the fact that before the merits report was made it was noted the existence of a firm conviction by the judicial authorities in which it was established the relevant responsibilities and the payment of compensation for the families of Zulema Tarazona Arrieta, Norma Teresa Pérez Chávez, and Luis Alberto Bejarano Laura, the Commission stated that the violation was partially repaired.

61. Also, the case involves violations of the judicial guarantees and judicial protection in the criminal investigation and process for the facts of the case, and the situation of impunity in which the facts were kept for an unreasonable time due, among other things, the lack of due diligence in the initial stages of the military criminal jurisdiction, the effectiveness of Law 26,479 (Amnesty Law) and the delay in the reopening of the investigation. These aspects of the case were not object of any reparation by the State.

g. Caso Comunidad Campesina de Santa Bárbara vs. Perú (submitted el 8 de julio de 2013)

62. The facts refer to the July 4, 1991 forced disappearances of fifteen people by members of the Peruvian army on at the Santa Barbara community, province of Huancavelica. The majority of the disappeared individuals belonged to two families and seven of them were children whose ages ranged from 8 months to seven years old.

63. During the judicial investigation, the criminal responsibility of the accused soldiers was duly established, and even the military tribunal concluded that six soldiers were responsible for the facts, nevertheless, the Supreme Court applied Amnesty Law No. 26479 in January 14, 1997. Consequently, the perpetrators went unpunished. At the time the Commission approved the Article 50 report, and despite the reopening of criminal proceedings in 2005, no final sentence against the responsible soldiers has been rendered. Consequently, the facts remain unpunished.

h. Case of Garifuna Community of “Punta Piedra” and its members v. Honduras (submitted on October 1, 2013)

64. The instant case involves Honduras’ international responsibility for the violation of the right to property against the Garifuna Community “Punta Piedra” and its members. This resulted from the breach of the duty to guarantee their right to property over their land against the invasion by non-indigenous people that were subsequently recognized by the State through the granting of a freehold title. The granting of the title was made without an adequate titling process; despite the knowledge of the occupation by a group of villagers in various parts of the Community’s land, especially in “Rio Miel” and the forest area. This situation has led the Garifuna Community of “Punta Piedra” to only exercise the tenure of half of State-titled land, with the negative effects on their way of life, livelihoods, culture and traditional customs. Furthermore, the continued occupation by non-indigenous people has created a situation of conflict that has resulted in threats, harassment, or even the death of a member of the Garifuna Community of “Punta Piedra”.

65. The State of Honduras has not given an effective response to this situation. So far, the initiatives have failed and the same State has reneged on the agreements made in order to achieve and effective sanitation of the lands and territories of the Garifuna Community of “Punta Piedra”. This

situation has deepened and exacerbated the conflict situation in the area. The Community has not had an effective remedy to achieve a peaceful possession of their lands and territories.

i. Case of Wong Ho Wing v. Peru (submitted on October 30, 2013)

66. This case involves a series of rights violations against Mr. Wong Ho Wing, a national of the People's Republic of China, from his arrest on October 27, 2008, and throughout the extradition process that remains ongoing to date. In its merits report the Commission found that Mr. Wong Ho Wing was and continues to be subjected to an arbitrary and excessive denial of his freedom that is not justified by procedural requirements and that has continued for more than five years under "provisional arrest" with no final ruling on his legal situation.

67. The Commission also concluded that in the different stages of the extradition proceedings, the domestic authorities were responsible for a series of omissions and irregularities in processing the case, and in receiving and assessing the alleged guarantees extended by the People's Republic of China. The Commission found that in addition to violations of several aspects of due process, those omissions and irregularities constituted a failure to uphold Mr. Wong Ho Wing's right to life and right to humane treatment.

68. The Commission also found that since May 24, 2011, the date on which Peru's Constitutional Court ordered the executive branch to refrain from extraditing Mr. Wong Ho Wing, the country's authorities have been in a state of noncompliance with a court order that is incompatible with the right to judicial protection.

j. Case of Garcia Ibarra v. Ecuador (submitted on November 23, 2013)

69. The instant case is related to the extrajudicial execution of the child Jose Luis Garcia Ibarra on September 15, 1992, at the age of 16, by a member of the National Police, who was in charge of the Provincial Command of the National Police No. 14 of the city of Esmeraldas. The child Garcia Ibarra was in a public place with a group of friends when the member of the police approached and had a fight with a teenager that was in the site. During that fight, the member of the police shot the gun to the detriment of Jose Luis Garcia Ibarra, who died immediately. The Commission concluded that this fact constituted an arbitrary deprivation of life, especially aggravated by being a teenager.

70. Despite the severity of the facts, after nine years of the event, the investigation and the criminal proceeding ended with a condemnatory judgment for non-intentional homicide, with 18 months of prison. The process that ended with these results failed to comply with the minimum standards that the jurisprudence of the Inter-American system has established in matter of justice in this type of facts. For example, the initial stage of the investigations focuses on resolving a conflict of competence between the police courts and the ordinary courts. The delay of more than nine months did not obey to the practice of diligences but to the negligence and inactivity of the domestic authorities. At no time during the investigation, not at the initial stage or subsequently, the minimum diligences were done which are considered by the international standards in matter of extrajudicial executions as fundamental elements to clarify an "accidental homicide" or of "encounter". Specifically, the investigation authorities omitted to practice the testing of the ballistic trajectory and other technique expertise that could clarified the facts. Even the Supreme Court of Justice recognized the existence of certain irregularities; despite that did not adopted any measure to correct them. Summarizing, the

execution of Jose Luis Garcia Ibarra is on partial impunity and his family does not count the judicial clarification of the event.

k. Canales Huapaya and others vs. Peru (submitted on December 5, 2013)

71. The present case is related to the violations to the judicial guarantees and judicial protection in detriment of Carlos Alberto Canales Huapaya, José Castro Ballena and María Gracia Barriga Oré, as well as the lack of adequate and effective judicial response regarding the dismissal of their posts as permanent Congressional employees. With respect to Mr. Carlos Alberto Canales Huapaya, on August 6, 1998, the Constitutional Court ruled that his complaint was inadmissible because it considered that his claim could not be heard on the basis of an appeal on constitutional grounds. As for José Castro Ballena and María Gracia Barriga Oré, on September 25, 1998, the Constitutional Court declared that their appeal was without merits, because they felt that the dismissal was in strict compliance with the legal framework and the Constitution. The facts of the present case share the essential characteristics of the *Case of the Dismissed Congressional Employees v. Peru* at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, where the Court concluded that those facts occurred in the context of a legal framework that prevented the victims to be clear about the way to which they were able to challenge their dismissals.

2. Request for provisional measures

a. "B" regarding El Salvador

72. On May 27, 2013 the Inter-American Commission requested the Court to grant provisional measures for the benefit of B., in order to protect her life, personal integrity and health. This request for provisional measures was based on the situation of extreme risk that B. was facing because of the El Salvadoran State's refusal to provide treatment in connection with her pregnancy as recommended by the Medical Committee of the Dr. Raúl Arguello Escalón National Specialized Maternity Hospital. B. suffers from systemic lupus erythematosus aggravated by lupus nephritis and, at the time of the request for provisional measures, she was in her 25th week of a high-risk pregnancy with an anencephalic fetus. In this regard, since precautionary measures were not implemented, the Commission deemed it necessary to immediately activate the Inter-American Court's mechanism of provisional measures.

73. On May 29, 2013, the Inter-American Court granted provisional measures, which were lifted by the resolution of August 19, 2013, after confirmation was received that Ms. B. had been provided with the treatment she required in her situation.

3. Appearance and participation in public and private hearings

74. From February 4 to 16, 2013, the Commission participated in the hearings that were held during the Court's 98th regular period of sessions in the city of San José, Costa Rica. During that period of sessions, public hearings were held for the following active cases: Quintana Coello and others (Judges of the Supreme Court of Justice) (Ecuador); Alibux (Suriname); Luna López and others (Honduras); Memoli (Argentina); Suárez Peralta and others (Ecuador); and Lopez and others (Operation Genesis) (Colombia).

75. Furthermore, the Commission participated in three hearings to monitor compliance with the judgments in the cases of Five Pensioners (Peru), Acevedo Jaramillo and others (Peru), and Gelman (Uruguay).

76. From March 18 to 22, 2013, the Commission participated in the hearings that were held during the Court's 47th special period of sessions in the city of Medellín, Colombia. During that period of sessions, public hearings were held for the following active cases: Camba Campos and others (Members of the Constitutional Court) (Ecuador); Family Pacheco Tineo (Bolivia); and García Lucero (Chile).

77. From May 13 to 31, 2013, the Commission participated in the hearings that were held during the Court's 99th regular period of sessions in the city of San José, Costa Rica. During that period of sessions, public hearings were held for the following active cases: Véliz Franco (Guatemala); "J." (Peru); Gutiérrez and family (Argentina); and Norín Catrimán and others (Lonkos, leaders and activists of the Mapuche indigenous people) (Chile).

78. Furthermore, the Commission participated in a public hearing on the implementation of provisional measures in the case of the Barrios Family (Venezuela); and in eight private hearings to monitor compliance with the judgments in the following cases: López Álvarez (Honduras); Juan Humberto Sánchez (Honduras); Acevedo Buendía and others (Peru); Anzualdo Castro (Peru); Yean and Bosico (Dominican Republic); Yatama (Nicaragua); Saramaka (Suriname); and Pueblo Bello (Colombia).

79. From August 19 to September 6, 2013, the Commission participated in the hearings that were held during the Court's 100th period of sessions in San José, Costa Rica. During this period of sessions, public hearings were held for the following active cases: Osorio Rivera (Peru); and Brewer Carías (Venezuela). On August 19, 2013, the Executive Secretariat participated in the private hearing to monitor compliance with the judgment in the case of Penal Castro Castro (Peru).

80. From October 7 to 11, 2013, the Commission participated in the hearings that were held during the Court's 48th special period of sessions in Mexico City. During that period of sessions, a public hearing was held in the following active case: Tide Méndez and others (Dominican Republic). The hearing on Advisory Opinion 21 on Migrant Children was also held.

81. From November 11 to 15, 2013, the Commission participated in the Inter-American Court's 49th special period of sessions in Brasília, Brazil. In that period of sessions, two public hearings were held in the case of Rodríguez Vera and others (Palace of Justice) v. Colombia. One hearing was on preliminary objections and the other on merits, reparations and costs.

4. Submission of written observations to state reports in those cases being monitored for compliance with the judgments

82. Pursuant to the mandate set forth in Article 57 of the American Convention, as well as the provisions of Article 69 of the Court's Rules of Procedure, in exercising its function to defend inter-American public law and order, in 2013 the Commission continued to submit information and draft observations about state reports on compliance with judgments. In exercising this function, the Commission submitted 124 written observations to the Inter-American Court.

5. Submission of written observations to state reports about the implementation of provisional measures

83. Pursuant to the mandate set forth in Article 63.2 of the American Convention, as well as the provisions of Article 27.7 of the Court's Rules of Procedure, in exercising its function to defend inter-American law and order, in 2013 the Commission continued to submit information and draft observations about state reports on implementing provisional measures currently in force. In exercising this function, the Commission submitted 95 written observations to the Inter-American Court.

D. Forty-third regular session of the OAS General Assembly

84. At the forty-third regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, held in La Antigua, Guatemala from June 4 to 6, 2013, the Commission was represented by its President, Commissioner José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez. During this session, James L. Cavallaro, from the United States, and Paulo de Tarso Vannuchi, from Brazil, were elected as Commissioners, both for a period of four years, from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017. The President of IACHR addressed the General Assembly on the situation of human rights in OAS member States and officially presented the 2012 Annual Report of the IACHR.⁵

85. The General Assembly adopted several resolutions regarding human rights; those are available on the OAS website at: <http://www.oas.org/consejo/GENERAL%20ASSEMBLY/Resoluciones-Declaraciones.asp>. Given their importance for the observance and defense of human rights in the Americas and the strengthening of the Inter-American system, they are listed below:

Resolutions concerning the organs of the Inter-American human rights system

AG/RES. 2796 (XLIII-O/13)	Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
AG/RES. 2797 (XLIII-O/13)	Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

Resolutions containing requests to the IACHR

AG/RES. 2789 (XLIII-O/13)	Human Rights Defenders: Support for Individuals, Groups, and Organizations of Civil Society Working to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Americas
AG/RES. 2800 (XLIII-O/13)	Right to the Truth
AG/RES. 2803 (XLIII-O/13)	Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará

⁵ In this regard, see IACHR press release No. 24/13, IACHR presents its 2012 Annual Report.

AG/RES. 2805 (XLIII-O/13) Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance

AG/RES. 2807 (XLIII-O/13) corr. 1 Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity and Expression

Other resolutions concerning human rights (without specific requests)

AG/DEC. 71 (XLIII-O/13) Human Rights Education

AG/DEC. 73 (XLIII-O/13) corr. 1 Declaration of Antigua Guatemala “For a Comprehensive Policy against The World Drug Problem In The Americas”

AG/RES. 2770 (XLIII-O/13) Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality and Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women

AG/RES. 2771 (XLIII-O/13) Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Minors

AG/RES. 2777 (XLIII-O/13) Strengthening the Topic of Migration in the OAS

AG/RES. 2784 (XLIII-O/13) Recognition and Promotion of the Rights of People of African Descent in the Americas

AG/RES. 2785 (XLIII-O/13) Support for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and Its Technical Secretariat

AG/RES. 2787 (XLIII-O/13) Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons in the Americas

AG/RES. 2790 (XLIII-O/13) The Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and their Families

AG/RES. 2792 (XLIII-O/13) Draft Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons

AG/RES. 2793 (XLIII-O/13) Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

AG/RES. 2794 (XLIII-O/13) Persons Who Have Disappeared and Assistance to Members of Their Families

AG/RES. 2795 (XLIII-O/13) Promotion of and Respect for International Humanitarian Law

AG/RES. 2798 (XLIII-O/13)	Adoption of Progress Indicators for Measuring Rights under the Protocol of San Salvador
AG/RES. 2799 (XLIII-O/13)	Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms While Countering Terrorism
AG/RES. 2801 (XLIII-O/13)	Toward Autonomy for Official Public Defenders/Criminal and Civil Legal Aid Providers as a Guarantee of Access to Justice
AG/RES. 2802 (XLIII-O/13)	Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of People Vulnerable to, Living with, or Affected by HIV/AIDS in the Americas
AG/RES. 2804 (XLIII-O/13)	Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance
AG/RES. 2810 (XLIII-O/13)	Elimination of Neglected Diseases and Other Poverty-Related Infections
AG/RES. 2811 (XLIII-O/13)	Access to Public Information and Protection of Personal Data

E. Activities of the IACHR with other national and international human rights mechanisms

86. In order to highlight the strategic priority given by the Inter-American Commission to the promotion and defense of human rights in partnership with other international organizations, below is a summary of the main activities carried out during 2013 in coordination with such organizations, or at their invitation.

87. On January 30 and 31, 2013, the team from the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression took part in a Regional Experts Workshop on Freedom of Expression, Digitalization and Internet Regulation. The event was co-organized by Open Society Foundations, Trust for the Americas and the Office of the Special Rapporteur. The United Nations Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Opinion and Expression also participated, along with 24 other guests from 13 countries of the Americas.

88. On April 5-6, 2013, Elizabeth Abi-Mershed, Deputy Executive Secretary, took part in a conference/workshop on the approaches, progress, and perspectives of different human rights systems with regards to the rights of indigenous peoples. This event in Gambia was convened by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and organized by the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA). Participants included the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, James Anaya, and the UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues, Gay McDougall. The Deputy Executive Secretary presented the work of the IACHR on the rights of indigenous peoples and discussed the Inter-American Human Rights System's jurisprudence on that topic.

89. On April 5-6, 2013, the staff of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty participated to the Expert Meeting: Right to Reparation for Torture: the role of African Human Rights Mechanisms. This event took place on Banjul, The Gambia, and was organized by the Center for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation and The REDRESS Trust, in collaboration with other organizations.

90. On April 5-6, the Special Rapporteur of Freedom of Expression took part in a meeting of experts on the Project for Principles on National Security and the Right to Information held in Pretoria, South Africa. The event was organized by the Human Rights Center at the University of Pretoria and Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI). At this event, special rapporteurs on freedom of expression Pansy Tlakula, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; Frank La Rue, United Nations Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Catalina Botero, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR; Günter Schirmer, Deputy Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The workshop provided inputs for drafting the declaration of the "General Principles on National Security and the Right to Information".

91. On April 9, 2013, the Deputy Executive Secretary participated in an event organized by American University in the framework of the 25th anniversary of the UN Committee against Torture. Her presentation provided a comparative analysis of General Comment 3 of the Committee on redress for victims of torture, and the jurisprudence thereon in the inter-American human rights system. On April 13, also in the framework of the 25th anniversary of the UN Committee against Torture, the Deputy Executive Secretary gave a presentation in Geneva.

92. On April 12 and 13 the Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child participated in a meeting of experts in Montevideo to discuss the topic of boys and girls in institutions of alternative care, and to analyze in particular policies and programs to prevent the separation of children from their families and to facilitate desinstitutionalization family reintegration. The Rapporteur also took part in an event to release a handbook for application of the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, together with UNICEF and the NGO Aldeas Infantiles SOS.

93. On April 15, 2013, the IACHR participated in a joint conference of the World Organization against Torture and the American University Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C., entitled "Litigation before the UN Committee against Torture: Strengthening this Important Tool against Torture". The IACHR was represented by an attorney from the Executive Secretariat who gave a talk on perspectives on torture in the inter-American human rights system.

94. On April 16 and 17, 2013, Commissioner Rose-Marie Antoine participated in a workshop in the Bahamas, in the context of the Second Meeting of the Working Groups of the XVII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor. Commissioner Antoine made two presentations; the first was "The Situation of Vulnerable Groups in Latin America and the Caribbean as it Relates to Access to the Labor Market- Imagining A New Approach." Commissioner Antoine was part of a panel. The second presentation was entitled "Human Rights and Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean." Workshop participants were labor Ministers and other government officials, as well as members of advisory bodies such as the International Labor Organization (ILO).

95. The IACHR was represented by an attorney from the Executive Secretariat at the VII Ministerial of the Community of Democracies, held from April 27 to 29, 2013 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia,

who participated as a special guest at the Civil Society Forum held as part of that meeting. At that event, experiences were shared on the inter-American system in the areas of freedom of expression and political rights, as well as respect for the work of human rights defenders.

96. On May 2-4, the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression participated in a series of events in the framework of the Congress titled Safe to Speak: Securing Freedom of Expression in all Media, organized for World Freedom of the Press Day by UNESCO and the University for Peace to commemorate freedom of the press. On May 2, the Special Rapporteur attended a meeting at the University for Peace with authorities from the United Nations Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, which was attended by the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Frank La Rue. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss measures to be adopted by UNESCO and other key actors in the implementation and adaptation of the United Nations Action Plan on Journalists' Security in Latin America and the Caribbean. On May 3, the Special Rapporteur took part in the launching of the Joint Declaration on Protection of Freedom of Expression and Diversity in the Digital Terrestrial Transition, which was drafted jointly by the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the Representative for Freedom of the Press of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on Human Rights and Peoples Rights (CADHP) on freedom of expression and access to information. On May 3, the Special Rapporteur, the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Protection and Promotion of Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the Representative for Freedom of the Communications Media of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on Human Rights and Peoples Rights (CADHP), Issued a joint declaration on the protection of freedom of expression and diversity in the digital terrestrial transition. On May 3, the Special Rapporteur participated in a meeting organized by UNESCO with authorities from the States of Honduras, Colombia, Mexico and Brazil. The objective was to present the United Nations Plan on Journalists' Security and specifically to promote a dialogue on good practices for protecting journalists and combating impunity in crimes against journalists. On May 4, the Special Rapporteur took part in the event titled Knowledge-Driven Media Development in Latin American organized by UNESCO. The main objective was to analyze experiences and share information on the results of interventions to develop the communications media in Latin America and the Caribbean.

97. From May 6 to 10, 2013, an attorney from the Executive Secretariat participated as a speaker in a seminar on "International Treaty Law," organized by the Plurinational Constitutional Tribunal of Bolivia, and in the Master's Program on "Constitutional Law and Autonomous Plurinational Justice and International Law and Constitutional Justice" at the Simón Bolívar Andean University, both in Sucre (Bolivia). The two events were held in the framework of the "Project to Strengthen and Increase the Independence of the Judicial System in Bolivia," financed by the European Union through the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner.

98. From 6 to 10 May 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child participated, in Panama City, in a meeting to enhance the strategic coordination with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, experts from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and representatives of the UN Agencies UNDP, OHCHR and UNICEF. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen cooperation between the Universal System and the Inter-American System for the protection the rights of the chils in the region. The Rapporteur also participated along with members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the UN Special Representative on Violence

against Children in a public event, in Panama City, to promote universal ratification of international treaties relating to the protection of children's rights, including the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

99. From June 10 to 14, 2013 the Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child participated in the meeting of the High Authorities on Human Rights of MERCOSUR and the meeting of Permanent Committee NIÑOSUR, which took place in Montevideo.

100. Between May 14 and 15, 2013 was held at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, a "Meeting of Experts to Define Strategic Priorities of the Regional Agenda on the Status of Persons with Disabilities", where Commissioner Rose-Marie Belle Antoine was invited and participated in the Panel No 2: Effective Realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. The Commissioner gave a presentation about "Cases of human rights violations against persons with disabilities reported to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights".

101. On June 14, the Rapporteur launched in person the Report on the Human Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas in the city of Panama, in a ceremony organized by the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), which was also attended by Mrs. Carmen Rosa Villa, Regional Representative for Central America of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the UN, officials from the Government of Panama and representatives of civil society.

102. Between June 18 and 19, 2013, a consultation of experts was held in the Commission headquarters, within process of drafting a thematic report on armed violence and the rights of the child. In the context of the consultation, the Rapporteur received relevant information on the issue from the UN Special Representative on Violence against Children, UNICEF and other international experts.

103. On June 19, 2013, the Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children agreed to strengthen their collaboration in the framework of a strategic Cooperation Agreement for the work in the Americas, which was announced in Washington, DC. This cooperation will allow to enhance the follow-up, within the inter-American system, of the recommendations to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against children, contained in the UN Study on Violence against Children from 2006.

104. On June 21, 2013, the Special Rapporteur, the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Protection and Promotion of Freedom of Opinion and Expression produced a joint declaration on surveillance programs and their impact on freedom of expression.

105. Between June 25 and 29, 2013, staff from the Office of the Rapporteur took part in a seminar held in Paraíba, Brazil, on Ensuring Consistency with Treaties (Control de Convencionalidad) and Case-Law of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in order to give a talk on the case-law of the Inter-American Court in relation to gender and reparations. The seminar was organized by the Inter-American Court in conjunction with the Amnesty Committee and the Ministry of Justice of Brazil. The organizers invited government officials, federal and state judges, government attorneys, prosecutors, and a number of civil society organizations.

106. On July 10, a representative from the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty participated in a meeting of experts on the review of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners organized by the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or

Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Mr. Juan Mendez. This event took place at Oxford, England; and was sponsored by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Center for Human rights & Humanitarian Law of the American University and the project Human Rights for Future Generations of the University of Oxford.

107. From 26 August to 6 September 2013, the Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child held a series of activities under the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with UNICEF's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, which has as main objective to promote coordination among both entities in the promotion and protection of child rights in the hemisphere. In particular, the Rapporteur conducted two promotional visits, to Peru, from 26 to 29 August, and to Chile, from 2 to 6 September.

108. On September 13, 2013, the Office of the Special Rapporteur produced a joint communiqué with the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Protection and Promotion of Freedom of Opinion and Expression on "Violence against Journalists and Communicators in the Framework of Social Manifestations.

109. On September 23, 2013, a specialist from the Executive Secretariat took part in a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, organized by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, which was attended by members of the African Commission, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, and representatives of the Kenyan State.

110. On September 27, the Executive Secretary was part of a high-level ministerial meeting on the role of regional organizations in the fight for the abolition of the death penalty. The event was held at UN headquarters in New York.

111. From September 30 to October 17, within the framework of the cooperation agreement with UNICEF, the Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child visited Brazil, Mexico, and Honduras with the aim of accessing to information on the issue of armed violence and its effects on the rights of the child, consulting a broad range of stakeholders.

112. On October 3, 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples participated in the "Roundtable: Guatemala" organized by the Department of Democratic Sustainability and Special Missions of the OAS Secretariat for Political Affairs.

113. On October 10, 2013, the Executive Secretariat staff met with Volker Turk, Director of the Division of International Protection, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); Buti Kale, Deputy Regional Representative UNHCR United States and the Caribbean; and Anna Greene, UNHCR Senior Protection Officer for the United States and the Caribbean, in order to exchange information on issues of concern to both institutions.

114. On October 18, in the framework of the Ibero-American Summit, the Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child, together with the Executive Secretary of the IACHR, the President of Costa Rica, Mme. Chinchilla, UNICEF's regional representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Aasen, and Ms. Perrault of UNICEF's regional office, presented the IACHR report on "The Right of Boys and Girls to a Family. Alternative Care. Ending Institutionalization in the Americas," and launched the UNICEF call for action to prevent the institutionalization of young children and promote the strengthening of families as environments for the protection, care, and rearing of children.

115. On October 22, within the context of the UN General Assembly, the Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child took part together to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children, in an event promoted by the Permanent Missions to the UN of the States of Brazil and Austria, and co-organized by Save the Children and Aldeas Infantiles SOS. The event was aimed to analyze developments on the implementation of the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children and contributions in terms of standards of protections included in the IACHR thematic report "The Right of Boys and Girls to a Family. Alternative Care. Ending Institutionalization in the Americas."

116. On October 22, the staff of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty participated at the side event Reviewing the Standards Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners – Preventing Torture and ill-treatment?, organized by the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in the frame of the 68th period of sessions of the General Assembly of the UN, in New York. The goal of this event was to provide an opportunity to draw attention to the on-going review process and to discuss the recommendations rendered by the Special Rapporteur in his recent report (A/68/295), delivered specifically for this process. Also participated in this panel discussion: Malcolm Evans, Chair of the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT); Claudio Grossman, Chair of the Committee Against Torture (CAT); Andrea Huber, Policy Director of Penal Reform International (PRI); Jamil Dakwar, Director Director of the Human Rights Program of American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); y Yuval Ginbar, Asesor Legal Advisor of Amnesty International (AI).

117. On October 25, 2013, the Rapporteur on the Rights of Women took part in a seminar held under the auspices of the United Nations special rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on the problem of violence against women and the state's obligations in tackling this serious human rights problem.

118. On November 12, 2013, with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Executive Secretary of the IACHR conducted a workshop on International Humanitarian Law and Related Topics, addressed to its staff members. The purpose of the event was to meet and interexchange forms and contents of addressing the protection of individuals from each of the institutions in their respective fields of application. On that first workshop two topics were addressed: the International humanitarian law and use of force.

119. On November 15, 2013, the Executive Secretary of the IACHR held a meeting with representatives from various departments of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to establish a cooperative relationship around the right to food in the framework of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR).

120. On December 2-3, 2013, a lawyer of the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR participated in the second annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights will be held in Geneva. The Forum was established by the Human Rights Council and is under the guidance of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights. The Forum provides a global platform for the promotion and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

121. On December 5-6, 2013, a lawyer of the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR participated in the 15th EU-NGO Forum on Human Rights held in Brussels, organized by the European Commission. The theme of the forum was "accountability" articulated into two thematic axis : "the fight against

impunity" and "accountability of economic, social and cultural rights". The participation of the Commission's representation was part of the first axis.

122. On December 12-13, 2013 the Special Rapporteur conducted an academic visit to Brazil jointly with the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations for the protection and promotion of freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue. On December 12, the rapporteurs participated in the World Human Rights Forum (WHRF), in Brasilia, Brazil. This forum is an initiative of the Secretariat for Human Rights of the Presidency of the Republic in collaboration with the civil society, international organizations, associated countries and institutions. In this forum, the rapporteurs held a joint Conference on Internet, privacy, and freedom of expression and another Conference on communication rights and democratic media. During the visit, they held joint meetings with various State's representatives. Thus, the rapporteurs met with the Minister of the Controladoria-Geral da União (CGU), Jorge Hage and all the Secretaries of State, the Secretary national anti-corruption, Ombudsman "Ouvidor" General of the Nation, Secretary of transparency and other senior officials of the Executive Branch on issues of access to information. They also met with the President of the Federal Supreme Court to define the terms of a cooperation agreement and dictate a joint workshop on access to information to officials of the CGU.

123. On December 11, 2013, the Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child participated in a training workshop on the Inter-American Human Rights System organized by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IHR), the Secretariat for Human Rights of Brazil, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, during which she gave a presentation on the main progress that has been made on promoting and protecting the rights of children in the inter-American system.

124. On December 10 and 11, 2013, Commissioner Rose-Marie Antoine represented the Commission in a meeting in Haiti organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights. She presented a paper "The Inter-American System on Human Rights-Lessons for Haiti."

125. On December 13, 2013, the Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child, together with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, during the activities organized by the Brazil UNICEF office, in the context of World Human Rights Forum, presented the IACHR thematic report entitled "The Right of Boys and Girls to a Family. Alternative Care. Ending Institutionalization in the Americas".

F. Other activities

The First Inter-American Conference on Human Rights and the Exchange of Best Practices on Friendly Settlements

126. The First Inter-American Conference on Human Rights and the Exchange of Best Practices on Friendly Settlements took place June 7-9, 2013, at the Training Center of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID) in Antigua, Guatemala.

127. The Inter-American Commission held this conference against the backdrop of the implementation phase of the recommendations for strengthening the inter-American human rights system, in order to exchange good practices in the protection of human rights, contribute to the

collective construction of the inter-America public order, and promote the use of friendly settlements among users of the system.

128. Participants in this activity included representatives from 15 OAS Member States (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, and the United States) as well as representatives from the following civil society organizations: Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR), Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS), Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Human Rights Center, Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM), International Committee of the Red Cross (CICR), Colombian Commission of Jurists, DEMOS, Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF), Study for the Defense of Women's Rights (DEMUS), Pro Bono Foundation, Mutual Support Group (GAM), Legal Defense Institute (IDL).

129. Special guests invited to attend the opening session of the conference included Ambassador Jorge Hevia, Permanent Observer of Spain to the OAS; Manuel Lejarreta Lobo, Ambassador of Spain in Guatemala; Pablo Gómez de Olea Bustinza, AECID Director General for Ibero-America; and Roberto Cuellar, Director of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.

130. IACHR Chair José de Jesús Orozco gave opening remarks, as did Jesús Manuel Gracia Aldaz, Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America of Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Héctor Iván Espinoza, Guatemala's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; and OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza.

131. The event began with a presentation by Emilio Álvarez Icaza, IACHR Executive Secretary, on general aspects of the friendly settlement process, the evolution of the mechanism, and the Commission's role as facilitator.

132. The agenda included two panel discussions with representatives from the States and from civil society, which presented information on good practices in friendly settlements, particularly aspects related to both the negotiation and content of the agreements as well as compliance and the impact of reparation measures provided in those agreements.

133. The participants on the panel of State representatives were Javier Salgado, from Argentina; María Beatriz Bonna Nogueira, from Brazil; Assad J. Jater Peña, from Colombia; Antonio Arenales Forno from Guatemala; Nimia Da Silva Boschert, from Paraguay; and Alejandro Alday, from Mexico.

134. The participants in the civil society panel were Alejandra Vicente, from the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL); Alejandra Cárdenas, from the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR); Gabriela Kletzel, from the Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS); María Gabriela Filoni, from the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM); Federico Andreu, from the Colombian Commission of Jurists; and Maynor Alvarado, from the Mutual Support Group (GAM).

135. There was also an open discussion moderated by the IACHR Executive Secretary, in which participants expressed their views regarding the future of the friendly settlement mechanism, its challenges, lessons learned, and suggestions for making it more effective.

136. The conference concluded with the presentation of certificates to the panelists and IACHR Executive Secretary Emilio Álvarez Icaza's thoughts emphasizing the IACHR's role and responsibility in creating opportunities for dialogue to move friendly settlement processes forward; the use of technology to bring parties together; and the challenges the IACHR faces in monitoring compliance with friendly settlement agreements.

First National Seminar on the Friendly Settlement Mechanism

137. The First National Seminar on the Friendly Settlement Mechanism took place October 14-15, 2013 at the Ibero-American University in Mexico City.

138. The Inter-American Commission conducted this seminar against the backdrop of the implementation phase of the recommendations for strengthening the inter-American human rights system, in order to promote the use of the friendly settlement mechanism as an alternative to the adversarial procedure in the inter-American human rights system, by disseminating the impact achieved through that mechanism and the opening up of opportunities for dialogue to allow petitioners and officials of the Mexican State to exchange good practices and identify challenges for the future to ensure the protection of victims' rights.

139. The participants included representatives from the Mexican State such as the Secretariat of Health, SEGOB, SEDENA, Federal Council of the Judiciary, Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, Secretariat of Government of the Federal District, Office of the Prosecutor of Chihuahua, Attorney General of Morelos, Office of the Attorney General of the Federal District, Secretariat of Government of Hidalgo, Assistant Attorney General of the State of Tlaxcala, Office of Legal Counsel of the Federal Executive, General Secretariat of Government of Chihuahua, Foreign Office Case Management, General Secretariat of Government of Guerrero, the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Mexico.

140. Civil society was represented by participants from the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPPDH), Commission for Solidarity and Defense of Human Rights (COSYDDHAC), Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT), Center for Reproductive Rights, Organization for the Investigation, Promotion, and Defense of Human Rights, State Human Rights Commission of Yucatán, Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Human Rights Center, Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Center "Centro ProDH", Human Rights Commission of the Federal District (CDHDF), Information Group on Reproductive Choice, National Network of Civil Organizations "Full Rights for Everyone," Human Rights Center of Montaña, Tlachinollan, National Association of Democratic Attorneys, Ideas, Strategic Litigation on Human Rights, Litigate OLE, Legal Assistance for Human Rights (ASILEGAL), Documentation, Analysis, and Action for Social Justice, Mexican Law Center, Disability Rights, Fray Francisco de Vitoria Human Rights Center, Center for Civil Collaboration, Center for Research and Economic Teaching, FLACSO Mexico, ITAM, National Center for Social Communication (CENCOS), Article XIX-Mexico, Citizens in Support of Human Rights, (CADHAC), ITESO, Jesuit University of Guadalajara, Institute for Legal Research at the UNAM, Researcher from ILR/UNAM, Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM), Human Rights Attorneys, and Peace Brigades International - Mexico (PBI)

141. José de Jesús Orozco, IACHR President, welcomed the participants. Special guests who attended the seminar included Ambassador Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo, Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Relations; Doctor José Morales

Orozco, Rector of the Ibero-American University; Professor Alejandro Alday González, General Director for Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Relations; Dr. Emilio Rabasa Gamboa, Mexico's Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States; and Dr. Victor Rojas Amandi, Director of the Law Department at the Ibero-American University

142. The seminar began with a presentation by Emilio Álvarez Icaza, IACHR Executive Secretary, on general aspects of the friendly settlement procedure, the evolution of the mechanism, and the Commission's role as facilitator.

143. The first item on the agenda for the first day was a presentation on good practices called "The Perspective of the Mexican State" followed by a presentation on "The Perspective of Mexican Civil Society" and the exchange of good practices related to negotiation, agreements, and compliance, with the participation of both parties. During the second day, Sylvia Aguilera, of the Center for Civic Collaboration, gave a presentation on tools for facilitating friendly settlements, after which both State and civil society representatives exchanged ideas on identifying the challenges of the friendly settlement mechanism, followed by a discussion on increased utilization of the friendly settlement mechanism in Mexico, lessons learned, and suggestions for the future.

144. There was also an open discussion moderated by the Executive Secretary of the IACHR, in which the participants expressed their views regarding the future of the friendly settlement mechanism: its challenges, lessons learned, and suggestions for achieving greater effectiveness.

145. The seminar concluded with the presentation of certificates to the presenters and IACHR Executive Secretary Emilio Álvarez Icaza's thoughts emphasizing the IACHR's role and responsibility in creating opportunities for dialogue to move friendly settlement processes forward; the use of technology to bring parties together; and the challenges the IACHR faces in monitoring compliance with friendly settlement agreements