CHAPTER II
THE PETITION AND CASE SYSTEM

A. Introduction

1. This chapter refers to the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2016 in relation to the petition and case system.

2. Section B includes statistical information to provide a general overview of the different activities carried out by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. First it presents data concerning the cases and petitions being processed. These comprise the greater volume of the Commission's work. “Cases” is taken as meaning all those petitions declared admissible by means of a report on admissibility. “Petitions” is taken as meaning all those complaints that have been transmitted to the state involved but in which no report on admissibility has been issued. This report includes the statistics of the total number of petitions received by the Commission in 2016, indicating the number of petitions received by country, as well as a comparison of the number of petitions received in 2016 in relation to each of the last twenty years. It also includes statistical information on the number of petitions it decided to transmit to the States, and the number of petitions being processed, also by country. The statistical information reflects as well the number of requests for precautionary requests received by the Commission in 2016, as well as the number of precautionary measures the Commission decided to grant during that same period. The statistics indicate how many reports on admissibility, inadmissibility, friendly settlement, archive, and the merits the Commission published in 2016. The section also includes statistical tables on the Commission’s activity before the Inter-American Court. Finally, statistics are included on the number of hearings the Commission held in 2016.

3. Section C has two parts. The first, section C.1, contains an overview of the resolutions on precautionary measures granted or extended by the IACHR in 2016, in relation to the various member States, under Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure. The resolutions set forth the parameters used by the IACHR in determining the requisites of urgency, seriousness and irreparable nature of each specific case.

4. The second part (section C.2) includes all the reports adopted by the Commission on admissibility, inadmissibility, merits, friendly settlement, or archive of petitions and cases in the period covered by this report. This section contains a total of 74 reports: 43 declaring petitions admissible; 2 reports declaring petitions inadmissible; 8 reports on friendly settlement; 16 reports on merits, and 5 reports on publication. The IACHR also decided to set aside 77 petitions and cases, which were archived.

5. Section D includes an analysis of compliance by the States with the recommendations contained in the reports on individual cases published in the Annual Reports since 2000, in keeping with Article 47 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure.
B. Statistics

[Image of bar chart showing petitions received by country in 2016]
Peticiones recibidas por año (1997-2016)

Petitions received per year

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Peticiones aceptadas a trámite (2016) Petitions accepted for processing

TOTAL: 516
Peticiones no aceptadas a trámite (2016) Petitions not accepted for processing
TOTAL: 968
Comparación entre peticiones recibidas y decisiones sobre apertura, por año
Comparison between petitions received and decisions on processing, per year
Este número incluye peticiones revisadas por GAP, como parte de la iniciativa contra el atraso procesal, pendientes de una notificación.

This number includes petitions reviewed by GAP, as part of the procedural backlog initiative, which are pending notification.
Peticiones en admisibilidad y fondo (2016) Petitions in admissibility and merits
TOTAL: 2333

Admisibilidad is the stage in which the IACHR determines if a petition satisfies the requirements established in Articles 46 and 47 of the American Convention. Fondo es la etapa en la que la CIDH decide sobre los méritos del caso según el procedimiento establecido en los artículos 48 y 50 de la Convención Americana.
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.
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.
Portafolio en trámite (admisibilidad y fondo) al final de cada año
Case docket (admissibility and merits) at the end of every year
Durante el 2016 se aprobaron 43 informes de admisibilidad que representan un total de 53 peticiones.
In 2016, 43 admissibility reports were approved; they represent 53 petitions.
Informe de solución amistosa publicados por año
Reports on friendly settlement published by year

Una petición o un caso puede, en cualquier momento de las etapas de admisibilidad o fondo, entrar en un proceso de solución amistosa entre las partes.
A petition or case can, at any time in the admissibility or merits stage, enter into a friendly settlement process between the parties.
Durante el 2016 se aprobaron 16 informes de fondo que representan un total de 20 casos ya que en un informe se acumulan 5 casos.

In 2016, 16 merits reports were approved; they represent 20 cases, because one report accumulates 5 cases.
Informes de fondo publicados por año
Reports on the merits published by year

En el año 2001 cambió la regla de remisión de casos a la Corte, lo cual provocó un descenso de los casos en que es pertinente publicar el informe de fondo.
In 2001 the rule of remission of cases to Court changed; this change decreased the number of cases in which it corresponds to publish a report on the merits.
Casos presentados a la Corte cada año
Cases submitted to the Court each year
Casos presentados a la Corte por país 2016
Cases submitted to the Court by country 2016
TOTAL: 16

- Costa Rica, 1
- Guatemala, 3
- Colombia, 3
- México, 2
- Chile, 1
- Nicaragua, 1
- Brasil, 2
- Perú, 1
- Venezuela, 2
Solicitudes de medidas cautelares recibidas por año
Requests for precautionary measures received per year

2005: 265
2006: 314
2007: 250
2008: 301
2009: 324
2010: 375
2011: 422
2012: 448
2013: 400
2014: 504
2015: 674
2016: 1061
Requests for precautionary measures received by country

TOTAL: 1061
Medidas cautelares otorgadas por año*
Precautionary measures granted by year**

*Las medidas cautelares otorgadas pueden incluir situaciones presentadas en años anteriores
**Precautionary measures granted may include requests presented in previous years
Solicitudes de medidas cautelares otorgadas (2016)
Precautionary measures granted
TOTAL: 42

*El total puede incluir decisiones en solicitudes presentadas en años anteriores
*The total may also include decisions of requests received in previous years
Comunicados de prensa emitidos por año
Press releases issued by year