

## CHAPTER IV

# HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION

### INTRODUCTION

1. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR or Commission) continues its practice of including a Chapter in its Annual Report to the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the situation of human rights in the Member States of the Organization, based on its competence as set forth in the OAS Charter, the American Convention on Human Rights, the Statute and the Commission's Rules.

2. Preparing reports on the situation of human rights in the countries of the region has been one of the main tools of the Commission since its first Annual Report to the OAS General Assembly in 1969. Beginning in 1977, the Commission started to publish this information systematically, using different titles, chapters or sections, in what essentially has become Chapter IV.

3. In 1996, the Commission established four specific criteria to identify those OAS member States whose human rights practices merited special attention by the IACHR and consequently a special analysis to be included in the annual report. In the 1997 Annual Report, the Commission added a fifth criterion to be considered when deciding which countries to include in this Chapter. The IACHR has applied these criteria on the basis of the mandate and faculties assigned to it by the regional instruments, and accordingly analyzes the situations under consideration in light of the actions of States, pursuant to inter-American human rights standards.

4. Following a process of reflection on the strengthening of the inter-American human rights system, the IACHR issued Resolution 1/2013, "Reform of the Rules of Procedure, Policies and Practices," which included changes with respect to the content of Chapter IV of its Annual Report. Along these lines, Chapter IV has been divided into two sections:

- i. Section A) will include an annual overview of the human rights situation in the hemisphere, derived from its monitoring work, which shall identify the main tendencies, problems, challenges, progress and best practices of civil and political rights, and social, economic and cultural rights;
- ii. Section B) will include the special reports that the Commission considers necessary regarding the situation of human rights in Member States, pursuant to the criteria, methodology and procedure provided below.

5. As part of the process of reflection, the Commission reviewed and modified the criteria to be applied for including a State in Chapter IV. B. The current criteria are:

### CRITERIA

- a. A serious breach of the core requirements and institutions of representative democracy mentioned in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which are essential means of achieving human rights, including:
  - i. there is discriminatory access to or abusive exercise of power that undermines or denies the rule of law, such as systematic infringement of the independence of the judiciary or lack of subordination of State institutions to the legally constituted civilian authority;

- ii. there has been an unconstitutional alteration of the constitutional regime that seriously impairs the democratic order; or
  - iii. the democratically constituted government has been overthrown by force or the existing government has otherwise come to power through means other than free and fair election, based on universal and secret ballot, pursuant to internationally accepted norms and principles reflected in the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
- b. The free exercise of the rights guaranteed in the American Declaration or the American Convention has been unlawfully suspended, totally or partially, by virtue of the imposition of exceptional measures such as a declaration of a state of emergency, state of siege, suspension of constitutional guarantees, or exceptional security measures.
- c. The State has committed or is committing massive, serious and widespread violations of human rights guaranteed in the American Declaration, the American Convention, or the other applicable human rights instruments.
- d. The presence of other structural situations that seriously affect the use and enjoyment of fundamental rights recognized in the American Declaration, the American Convention or other applicable instruments. Factors to be considered shall include the following, among others:
  - i. serious institutional crises that infringe the enjoyment of human rights;
  - ii. systematic noncompliance of the State with its obligation to combat impunity, attributable to a manifest lack of will;
  - iii. serious omissions in the adoption of the necessary measures to make fundamental rights effective, or in complying with the decisions of the Commission and the Inter-American Court; and
  - iv. systematic violations of human rights attributable to the State in the framework of an internal armed conflict.

6. The Commission assesses the situation of human rights in the OAS Member States throughout the year in the exercise of its mandate to promote and protect human rights in the region. It gathers information from multiple sources and, in particular, utilizes reliable information obtained from the following sources in making its evaluations:

- a. official acts of all levels and branches of government, including constitutional amendments, legislation, decrees, judicial decisions, policy statements, official communications to the Commission and to other human rights organs, as well as any other statement or action attributable to the Government;
- b. information available in cases, petitions and precautionary and provisional measures in the inter-American system, as well as information on compliance by the State with recommendations of the Commission and judgments of the Inter-American Court;
- c. information gathered in the course of on-site visits by the Commission, its Rapporteurs and members of its staff;
- d. information obtained during hearings held by the Commission as part of its sessions;
- e. conclusions of other international human rights bodies, including UN treaty bodies, UN Rapporteurs and working groups, the Human Rights Council, and other UN specialized agencies;
- f. human rights reports issued by governments and regional organs;

- g. reports by civil society organizations, as well as information presented by such organizations and private persons; and
- h. public information that is widely disseminated in the media.

7. The Commission deliberates in plenary during its third ordinary session each year, applying the methodology and criteria indicated to make reasoned decisions on Chapter IV and on other matters included in the Annual Report. During its 159th period of sessions and at its working meeting in California, from January 13 to 23, the Commission analyzed briefings on the human rights situation in some countries previously requested by the Commissioners and voted on whether or not to include those countries. As a result of that review, in some cases it was decided to include a State in Chapter IV. B and, in other cases, not.

8. By an absolute majority and based on the aforementioned criteria, it was decided to include three member states in this Chapter IV.B of the 2016 Annual Report: Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela. Furthermore, pursuant to its Rules of Procedure, the Commission transmitted a draft of the respective sections of Chapter IV. B to the States concerned with a request that they submit any observations on them by a given deadline. Cuba did not submit its observations within the time allowed. As regards the Dominican Republic, in 2015 the Commission adopted its country report entitled "The Human Rights Situation in the Dominican Republic," which contains a detailed analysis of the structural factors identified by the IACHR as impairing the enjoyment of fundamental rights by the inhabitants of the Dominican Republic. Accordingly, given that there are still structural situations impairing the enjoyment and effective exercise of human rights for persons born in the territory of the Dominican Republic who are, or are perceived as being, of Haitian descent, the IACHR decided to include the Dominican Republic in section B of this Chapter.

9. In addition, it is worth noting that for Colombia, in 2016 la CIDH decided to continue monitoring the recommendations made in *its country Report on Truth, Justice and Reparation: Fourth Report on the human rights situation in Colombia approved by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on December 31, 2013 through its Chapter V of its Annual Report*.

## **A. Overview of the human rights situation in the hemisphere**

### **1. List of press releases and requests for information from the States in the exercise of the monitoring faculty**

10. In keeping with its mandate to monitor the human rights situation in the hemisphere in 2016, the Commission issued 196 press releases regarding situations that raised concerns and, also, voiced positions recognizing good practices of some States. The complete list of press releases issued by the Commission over the course of 2016 appears hereunder :

- R196/16 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Concern over the detention in Cuba of artist Danilo Maldonado, known as "El Sexto". Washington, D.C., December 23, 2016
- 195/15 - Follow-Up Mechanism to Ayotzinapa Case Conducted First Visit to Mexico Washington, D.C., December 21, 2016
- 194/16 - IACHR Concludes Working Visit to Peru on Poverty and Human Rights Washington, D.C., December 20, 2016
- 193/16 - IACHR Launches Preliminary Report on Poverty, Extreme Poverty, and Human Rights in the Americas Washington, D.C., December 20, 2016
- 192/16 - IACHR Wraps Up its 160th Session. Washington, D.C., December 19, 2016
- 191/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Guatemala to the Inter-American Court Washington, D.C., December 19, 2016
- 190/16 -International Migrants Day: "Measures to prevent all types of hate speech and advocacy of hatred that tend to incite violence or any other illegal acts against migrants are critical to stop hate crimes" Washington, D.C., December 18, 2016

- 189/16, IACHR Expresses Concern at the Possible Indefinite Suspension of the Mandate of the United Nations Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Calls on the States of the Region to Reaffirm their Commitment. Washington, D.C., December 17, 2016
- 188/16 - IACHR Is Accepting Requests for Hearings for its 161st Regular Session. Washington, D.C., December 16, 2016
- 187/16 - IACHR Hails the Entry into Force of the Inter-American Convention on the Rights of Older Persons Washington, D.C., December 16, 2016
- R186/16 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns the Killing of a Journalist in Mexico Washington, D.C., December 14, 2016
- 185/16 - IACHR and UN Human Rights Offices Commit to Develop Joint Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists. Washington, D.C., December 13, 2016
- 184/16 - IACHR Welcomes the Commitment of the OAS LGBTI Core Group Member States in Advancing in the Protection of the LGBTI Persons Victims of Human Trafficking. Washington, D.C., December 9, 2016
- 183/16 - IACHR Wraps Up its 159th Session. Panama, December 7, 2016.
- Annex to the Press Release Issued at the Close of the 159th Session.
- 182/16 - IACHR Urges the State of Argentina to respond to the Case of Milagro Sala Panama, December 2, 2016.
- 181/16 - IACHR Repudiates Murder of Defender of Trans Rights in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., December 2, 2016
- 180/16 - It is Time to Increase Action to End and Prevent Violence against Women and Girls. Washington, D.C. / Geneva, December 2, 2016.
- 179/16 - IACHR Urges States to Protect the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at Mental Health Facilities. Washington, D.C., December 2, 2016
- 178/16 - IACHR Reaffirms its Support for the Peace Process in Colombia and Is Monitoring Compliance with Inter-American Standards. Washington, D.C., December 1, 2016.
- R177/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Murder of Journalist in Peru and urges the State to Swiftly and Opportunely Investigate and Punish those Responsible. Washington, D.C., November 28, 2016.
- 176/16 - IACHR Urges Strengthening of National Systems for Protection of Children and Adolescents. Washington, D.C., November 28, 2016.
- 175/16 - IACHR Condemns Acts of Violence in Detention Facilities in Pernambuco, Brazil Washington, D.C., November 23, 2016.
- 174/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Peru to the Inter-American Court Washington, D.C., November 22, 2016.
- 173/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Mexico to the Inter-American Court Washington, D.C., November 22, 2016.
- 172/16 - Joint Call of the UN Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and All other Global and Regional Mechanisms to End Femicides and Gender Based Violence. Washington, D.C. / Geneva, November 22, 2016.
- R171/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Concern over Murder of Journalist in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., November 21, 2016.
- 170/16 - Call to Participate in Hearings Requested by States in the 159th Session. Washington, D.C., November 21, 2016.
- 169/16 - CIDH Urges States to Combat Impunity in cases involving Prejudice against Trans Persons. Washington, D.C., November 18, 2016.
- 168/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Venezuela to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., November 17, 2016.
- 167/16 - IACHR Announces Schedules of Public Hearings for its 159th and 160th Sessions Washington, D.C., November 17, 2016.
- 166/16 - IACHR Welcomes Costa Rica's Efforts to End the Use of Prolonged Solitary Confinement. Washington, D.C., November 16, 2016.

- 165/16 - IACHR Presents its Work Plan for the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Ayotzinapa Case. Mexico City, November 10, 2016.
- 164/16 - IACHR Publishes Report on Legal Standards for Persons in the Context of Human Mobility Washington, D.C., November 4, 2016.
- R163/16 - UN and IACHR Rapporteurs warn of arbitrary application of the Organic Communications Act in Ecuador. Washington, D.C., November 3, 2016.
- 162/16 - IACHR Condemns the Murder of Judge in Mexico. Washington, D.C., November 3, 2016.
- 161/16 - IACHR Repudiates the Killing of José Ángel Flores and Silmer Dionisio George in Honduras. Washington, D.C., November 3, 2016.
- 160/16 - IACHR Condemns the Increase in Killings of Human Rights Defenders in Colombia. Washington, D.C., November 02, 2016.
- R159/16 - International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. Washington, D.C., November 2, 2016.
- 158/16 - IACHR Thanks the United States for Additional Financial Contribution. Washington, D.C., October 26, 2016.
- 157/16 - IACHR Receives Requests for Hearings for Extraordinary Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., October 25, 2016.
- 156/16 - IACHR Condemns Violent Deaths in Brazilian Prison. Washington, D.C., October 25, 2016.
- 155/16 - IACHR Announces First Visit to Mexico of the GIEI Follow-Up Mechanism. Washington, D.C., October 25, 2016.
- 154/16 - IACHR and Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Condemn Measures to Shut Down Spaces for Political Participation in Venezuela and Raise Alarm at their Impact on Democracy. Washington, D.C., October 25, 2016.
- 153/16 - Intersex Awareness Day – End Violence and Harmful Medical Practices on Intersex Children and Adults, UN and Regional Experts Urge. Washington, D.C. / Geneva, October 24, 2016.
- 152/16 - IACHR Issues Appeal to Member States to End Poverty. Washington, D.C., October 19, 2016.
- 151/16 - Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty Visits Argentina Washington, D.C., October 19, 2016.
- 150/16 - IACHR Seeks to Reduce the Backlog in the System of Petitions and Cases. Washington, D.C., October 18, 2016.
- R149/16 - IACHR and the Office of the Special Rapporteur express concern for retaliation actions of the Cuban State against an organization dedicated to defending freedom of expression. Washington, D.C., October 13, 2016.
- 148/16 - IACHR Concludes Working Visit to Guyana. Washington, D.C., October 13, 2016.
- 147/16 - IACHR Calls Attention to the Continuing Challenges Facing Pre-teen and Teenage Girls in the Region. Washington, D.C., October 12, 2016.
- 146/16 - IACHR and Inter-American Court Present a Joint Proposal for the Financing of the Inter-American System of Human Rights. Washington, D.C. /San José, Costa Rica, October 4, 2016
- 145/16 - IACHR Overcomes its Severe Financial Crisis of 2016 and Thanks Countries and Donors who Made it Possible. Washington, D.C., September 30, 2016.
- 144/16 - Panama Will Host the Ordinary Period of Sessions of the IACHR. Washington, D.C., September 29, 2016.
- R143/16 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression welcomes positive measures adopted by Member States to ensure access to information in the Americas. Washington, D.C., September 28, 2016.
- 142/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Guatemala to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., September 28, 2016.

- R141/16 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur joins in the Celebration of the First International Day for Universal Access to Information. Washington, D.C., September 27, 2016.
- 140/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Mexico to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., September 27, 2016.
- 139/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Chile to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., September 27, 2016.
- 138/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Nicaragua to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., September 26, 2016.
- 137/16 - IACHR Seeks to Hold Period of Sessions this Year. Washington, D.C., September 26, 2016.
- 136/16 - IACHR Concludes Working Visit to Guatemala. Washington, D.C., September 26, 2016.
- R135/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression applauds recent enactment of Public Information Access Law in Argentina. Washington, D.C., September 22, 2016.
- R134/16 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns the Killing of a Journalist in Mexico. Washington, D.C., September 21, 2016.
- 133/16 - IACHR Commends the Identification of Human Remains of Victims of Enforced Disappearance in Paraguay. Washington, D.C., September 16, 2016.
- IACHR Expresses Concern Regarding Restrictions on the Exercise of Fundamental Rights in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., September 14, 2016.
- 131/16 - IACHR Announces Launching of Implementation of GIEI Follow-Up Mechanism. Washington, D.C., September 9, 2016.
- 130/16 - IACHR Condemns the Violent Death of Bolivia's Vice Minister. Washington, D.C., September 9, 2016.
- 129/16 - IACHR Thanks Contributions to Overcome Financial Crisis. Washington, D.C. September 8, 2016.
- 128/16 - IACHR Assigns Rapporteurships. Washington, D.C., September 8, 2016.
- 127/16 - IACHR Concerned over Treatment of Human Rights Defenders in Cuba. Washington, D.C., September 6, 2016.
- 126/16 - IACHR Expresses Concern over Impeachment of President of Brazil. Washington, D.C., September 2, 2016.
- 125/16 - The IACHR Welcomes Panama's Efforts to Get Rid of Corruption in the Prison System. Washington, D.C., September 1, 2016.
- 124/16 - IACHR and Inter-American Court Create a Joint Working Group to Address their Financial Situation. Mexico City, August 30, 2016.
- R123/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Murder of Journalist in Brazil and Urges the State to Adequate the Protection Mechanism to Media Worker's Needs. Washington, D.C., August 29, 2016.
- 122/16 - IACHR Welcomes the Signing of Agreement for the Construction of Peace in Colombia. Washington, D.C., August 29, 2016.
- 121/16 - IACHR Visits Paraguay to Promote Compliance with Friendly Settlement Agreements. Washington, D.C., August 26, 2016.
- 120/16 - IACHR Expresses Concern with the Deficiencies in the Investigation of Cases Relating to Killing of Afro-descendants by the Police in the United States. Washington, D.C., August 23, 2016.
- 119/16 - IACHR Hails Unconstitutionality Decision on Criminalization of Consensual Sexual Relations between Same Sex Adults in Belize. Washington, D.C., August 22, 2016.
- 118/16 - Honduras, one of the most dangerous countries for human rights defenders – Experts warn. Geneva/Washington, D.C., August 19, 2016.
- 117/16 - IACHR Hails Costa Rica's Ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance. Washington, D.C., August 18, 2016.

- 116/16 - IACHR Welcomes Progress on Human Rights of LGBTI Persons. Washington, D.C., August 16, 2016.
- 115/16 - IACHR Receives Information for Follow-Up Reports on Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Dominican Republic. Washington, D.C., August 15, 2016.
- 114/16 - Outgoing and Incoming IACHR Executive Secretaries Hold Transition Meeting. Washington, D.C., August 15, 2016.
- 113/16 - Joint Press Release - Indigenous Peoples' Rights to Effective Participation and to Self-Determined Development. Washington, D.C., August 10, 2016.
- 112/16 - IACHR Deeply Concerned about the Situation of Migrants in Colombia Close to the Panama Border. Washington, D.C., August 08, 2016.
- 111/16 - IACHR Expresses Concern over Removal of Opposition Legislators in Nicaragua. Washington, D.C., August 8, 2016.
- R110/16 - Venezuela / Crisis: UN and Inter-American experts raise alarm at deterioration of media freedom. Washington, D.C. / Geneva, August 4, 2016.
- 109/16 - IACHR Condemns Violence in Guatemalan Prison. Washington, D.C., August 3, 2016.
- 108/16 - IACHR Expresses Deep Concern over Blocking of Trial for Grave Human Rights Violations in Suriname. Washington, D.C., August 2, 2016.
- 107/16 - IACHR Expresses Concern about Lack of Representation of Indigenous Peoples in National Assembly of Venezuela. Washington, D.C., July 29, 2016.
- R106/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Murder of Journalist in Brazil and Urges the State to Adjust the Protection Mechanism to Media Worker's Needs. Washington, D.C., July 28, 2016.
- 105/16 - IACHR Presents Report on the Criminalization of the Work of Human Rights Defenders. Washington, D.C., July 28, 2016.
- 104/16 - IACHR Thanks Donors and Urges Redoubled Efforts to Overcome Financial Crisis. Washington, D.C., July 28, 2016.
- 103/16 - IACHR Makes its Choice of Paulo Abrão for Executive Secretary. Washington, D.C., July 27, 2016.
- 102/16 - IACHR Expresses Concern at Detentions and Deportations of Cuban Migrants in Ecuador. Washington, D.C., July 26, 2016.
- 101/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Colombia to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., July 25, 2016.
- R100/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur condemns latest murder of a journalist in Mexico. Washington, D.C., July 25, 2016.
- 99/16 - IACHR Welcomes Enactment of Law on Search for Missing Persons from Period of Violence in Peru. Washington, D.C., July 25, 2016.
- 98/16 - IACHR Hails Determination of Unconstitutionality of Amnesty Law in El Salvador. Washington, D.C., July 25, 2016.
- 97/16 - IACHR Welcomes Creation of LGBTI Core Group at the OAS. Washington, D.C., July 25, 2016.
- 96/16 - IACHR Calls on Venezuelan State to Adopt Comprehensive Measures in the Face of Scarcity in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., July 22, 2016.
- R95/16 -The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR Presents Preliminary Observations Following Trip to Chile. Washington, D.C., July 18, 2016.
- 94/16 - Leading Human Rights Experts Call for Speedy Implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules on Nelson Mandela International Day. Geneva / Kampala / Strasbourg / Washington D.C., July 15, 2016.
- 93/16 - IACHR Laments Deaths in Prison Fire in Paraguay. Washington, D.C., July 11, 2016.
- 92/16 - IACHR Welcomes the Adoption of the UN Resolution on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Washington, D.C., July 5, 2016.
- R91/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Concern over Murder of Journalists and Media Workers in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., July 1, 2016.

- 90/16 - IACHR Hails Signing of Agreement for a Ceasefire in Colombia. Washington, D.C., June 27, 2016.
- 89/16 - IACHR condemns murder of Guarani-Kaiowá indigenous leader in Brazil. Washington, D.C., June 27, 2016.
- 88/16 - Joint Statement from the IACHR and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Washington, D.C., June 27, 2016.
- R87/16 -Freedom of expression experts warn of interference with the Brazilian Public Broadcaster and the National Comptroller's Office. Available in Portuguese and English only. Washington, D.C., June 24, 2016.
- 86/16 - IACHR condemns prison violence in Nuevo León, Mexico. Washington, D.C., June 23, 2016.
- 85/16 - Progress on Friendly Settlements in petitions and ongoing cases before the IACHR concerning Chile. Washington, D.C., June 23, 2016.
- 84/16 - IACHR Deeply Concerned over Inaction to Avoid Institutional Vacuum in Haiti. Washington, D.C., June 22, 2016.
- 83/16 - IACHR Condemns Violence in Oaxaca, Mexico. Washington, D.C., June 22, 2016.
- 82/16 - The IACHR celebrates the adoption of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Washington, D.C., June 22, 2016.
- 81/16 - IACHR Calls on States to Protect Asylum Seekers and Refugees and Guarantee their Rights. Washington, D.C., June 21, 2016.
- R80/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns the Murder of a Sixth Journalist in Mexico in 2016. Washington, D.C., June 21, 2016.
- 79/16 - IACHR Regrets Violence in Detention Centers in Ceará, Brazil. Washington, D.C., June 16, 2016.
- 78/16 - IACHR Condemns Killing of LGBT Human Rights Defender in Honduras. Washington, D.C., June 15, 2016.
- 77/16 - IACHR Welcomes the Restoration of Voting Rights for Former Felons in the United States. Washington, D.C., June 14, 2016.
- 76/16 - IACHR Condemns Mass Shooting at a Gay Bar in the United States. Washington, D.C., June 14, 2016.
- 75/16 - IACHR Wraps Up its 158th Special Session. Santiago, Chile, June 13, 2016.
- 75A/16 - Report on the 158th Special Session of the IACHR.
- 74/16 - IACHR Urges Member States to Redouble Efforts to Overcome IACHR Financial Crisis and Announces Consultation of its Strategic Plan. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, June 11, 2016.
- 73/16 - IACHR Expresses Concern over Detentions and Attacks on Demonstrators and Journalists in the Context of Protests in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., June 9, 2016.
- 72/16 - Joint Statement of Support in the Lead-up to the Bahamian Constitutional Referendum. Washington, D.C., June 2, 2016. Available in English only.
- 71/16 - IACHR Expresses its Concern Regarding the Declaration of a "State of Exception and Economic Emergency" in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., June 1, 2016.
- R70/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Concern over the Situation of Three Journalists Reported Missing in Colombia. Washington, D.C., May 25, 2016.
- 69/16 - Severe Financial Crisis of the IACHR Leads to Suspension of Hearings and Imminent Layoff of Nearly Half its Staff. Washington, D.C., May 23, 2016.
- R68/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns New Killing of Journalist in Mexico. Washington, D.C., May 20, 2016.
- 67/16 - IACHR Expresses Deep Concern over Regression in Human Rights in Brazil. Washington, D.C., May 18, 2016.
- 66/16 - IACHR Condemns Murder of Opposition Leader in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., May 16, 2016.



- 65/16 - IACHR Announces Schedule of Public Hearings for its 158th Extraordinary Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., May 13, 2016.
- 64/16 - Pathologization: Being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and/or Trans is Not an Illness. Geneva/Washington, D.C., May 12, 2016.
- 63/16 - IACHR Condemns Deaths in Fire at Guyana Prison. Washington, D.C., May 11, 2016.
- R62/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Concern over a New Criminal Conviction for Defamation against a Journalist in Peru. Washington, D.C., May 6, 2016.
- 61/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Brazil to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., May 5, 2016.
- R60/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Urges the States to Promote and Guarantee Access to Public Information and Press Freedom. Washington, D.C., May 3, 2016.
- 59/16 - IACHR Receives Comments on Finalists in the four OAS Official Languages. Washington, D.C., May 2, 2016.
- 58/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Colombia to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., May 2, 2016.
- R57/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns New Killing of Journalist in Mexico. Washington, D.C., April 29, 2016.
- 56/16 - IACHR Receives Comments on Finalists for the Post of Executive Secretary. Washington, D.C., April 27, 2016.
- 55/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Colombia to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., April 27, 2016.
- 54/16 - IACHR Condemns Killings of Human Rights Defenders in Brazil. Washington, D.C., April 27, 2016.
- 53/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Brazil to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., April 26, 2016.
- R52/16 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur expresses concern over the criminal conviction for defamation of a journalist in Peru. Washington, D.C., April 25, 2016.
- 51/16 - IACHR Receives Requests for Hearings for Extraordinary Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., April 22, 2016.
- 50/16 - IACHR Selects Five Finalists for the Post of Executive Secretary. Washington, D.C., April 21, 2016.
- 49/16 - IACHR Wraps Up its 157th Session. Washington, D.C., April 15, 2016.
- 49A/16 - Report on the 157th Session of the IACHR.
- 48/16 - IACHR Presents Report on Extractive Industries and Human Rights. Washington, D.C., April 6, 2016.
- 47/16 - IACHR Presents Report on Violence, Children, and Organized Crime. Washington, D.C., April 6, 2016.
- 46/16 - IACHR Elects New Board. Washington, D.C., April 4, 2016.
- 45/16 - IACHR Urges United States to Comply with Recommendations on Death Penalty Case. Washington, D.C., April 1, 2016.
- 44/16 - IACHR Categorically Rejects Smear Campaign in Mexico against Group of Experts and Executive Secretary. Washington, D.C., March 29, 2016.
- R43/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression presents its 2015 Annual Report. Washington, D.C., March 23, 2016.
- R42/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Killing of Journalist in El Salvador. Washington, D.C., March 22, 2016.
- 41/16 - IACHR Condemns Violent Deaths in Three Detention Centers in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., March 22, 2016.
- 40/16 - IACHR Urges States to Adopt Measures to Protect the Rights of Afro-Descendent Women. Washington, D.C., March 21, 2016.
- 39/16 - IACHR Deplores Killing of Nelson Noé García in Honduras. Washington, D.C., March 21, 2016.

- R38/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Murder of Journalist in Brazil and Urges the State to Adjust the Protection Mechanism to Media Worker's Needs. Washington, D.C., March 17, 2016.
- 37/16 - IACHR Presents its Annual Report. Washington, D.C., March 17, 2016.
- 36/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Venezuela to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., March 15, 2016.
- 35/16 - IACHR Publishes Report on the Human Rights Situation in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., March 14, 2016.
- R34/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Concern over Defamation Conviction in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., March 14, 2016.
- 33/16 - Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty Visits Costa Rica. Washington, D.C., March 11, 2016.
- R32/16 - Situation of the Right to Freedom of Expression in Mexico: Findings and Recommendations of the IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur. Washington, D.C., March 9, 2016.
- 31/16 - IACHR Welcomes Progress and Urges States to Ensure Favorable Conditions for the Exercise of Women's Rights. Washington, D.C., March 8, 2016.
- 30/16 - IACHR Calls on States in the Region to Strengthen Judicial Independence. Washington, D.C., March 7, 2016.
- 29/16 - IACHR Celebrates the Anniversary of the Implementation of the Custody Hearings in Brazil. Washington, D.C., March 7, 2016.
- 28/16 - IACHR Condemns Killing of Members of the Tolupán Indigenous Peoples in Honduras. Washington, D.C., March 7, 2016.
- 27/16 - IACHR Condemns Killings and Other Acts of Violence against Human Rights Defenders of LGBT Persons in Honduras. Washington, D.C., March 7, 2016.
- 26/16 - IACHR Urges States to Eradicate Violence against Children 10 Years after the Publication of the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children. Washington, D.C., March 5, 2016.
- 25/16 - IACHR Announces Schedule of Public Hearings for its 157th Period of Sessions. Washington, D.C., March 4, 2016.
- 24/16 - IACHR Condemns the Killing of Berta Cáceres in Honduras. Washington, D.C., March 4, 2016.
- 23/16 - IACHR Publishes Report on the Human Rights Situation in Mexico. Washington, D.C., March 2, 2016.
- R22/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns the Killing of a Journalist in Mexico, the Third in that Country in the First Two Months of 2016. Washington, D.C., February 25, 2016.
- 21/16 - IACHR Condemns Killings and Threats Directed against Human Rights Defenders in Colombia. Washington, D.C., February 25, 2016.
- 20/16 - IACHR Expresses Concern over the Information about La Modelo Prison in Colombia. Washington, D.C., February 25, 2016.
- R19/16 - Conclusions and Recommendations Made by the IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation over the Right to Freedom of Expression in Honduras. Washington, D.C., February 23, 2016.
- 18/16 - IACHR Urges Nicaragua to Protect Members of the Miskitu Indigenous Peoples. Washington, D.C., February 23, 2016.
- 17/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Guatemala to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., February 22, 2016.
- 16/16 - IACHR Condemns Death of 49 Persons Deprived of Liberty in a Nuevo Leon Prison, Mexico. Washington, D.C., February 18, 2016.
- 15/16 - IACHR Publishes Report on the Human Rights Situation in Honduras. Washington, D.C., February 18, 2016.
- 14/16 - IACHR Welcomes Arrest of Military Accused of Killings in El Salvador. Washington, D.C., February 17, 2016.

- 13/16 - IACHR Takes Case involving Costa Rica to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., February 16, 2016.
- R12/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Urges Guatemala to Adopt Legislation on Community Broadcasting Washington, D.C., February 11, 2016.
- R11/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns the Murder of a Journalist in Mexico. Washington, D.C., February 11, 2016.
- 10/16 - IACHR Publishes Report on the Human Rights Situation in Dominican Republic. Washington, D.C., February 9, 2016.
- 9/16 - IACHR Welcomes the Creation of Institutions for the Protection of the Rights of Migrants in Mexico Washington, D.C., February 8, 2016.
- 8/16 - Canada Must Address Root Causes of Extreme Violence and Discrimination against Indigenous Women – Rights Experts. Ottawa / Geneva / Washington, D.C., February 1, 2016.
- 7/16 - IACHR Assigns Rapporteurships. Washington, D.C., January 29, 2016.
- 6/16 - IACHR Expresses Confidence and Support to the Independent Experts Members of the GIEI. Washington, D.C., January 28, 2016.
- 5/16 - IACHR Welcomes Decision to Resettle Syrian Refugees in Canada Washington, D.C., January 28, 2016.
- R4/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns New Killing of Journalist in Mexico. Washington, D.C., January 27, 2016.
- R3/16 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Killing of a Journalist in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., January 25, 2016.
- 2/16 - IACHR Regrets Violence in Guatemalan Prison. Washington, D.C., January 19, 2016.
- 1/16 - IACHR Welcomes Arrest of Individuals Accused of Forced Disappearance and Crimes against Humanity in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., January 13, 2016.

11. In addition, exercising the powers vested in it by American Convention on Human Rights<sup>1</sup> and Article 18 of its Statute,<sup>2</sup> the Commission requested information on 45 occasions from a number of member states.

	<b>Member State</b>	<b>Art. 41</b>	<b>Art. 18</b>
1	Argentina	3	
2	Belize		1
3	Bolivia	2	
4	Brazil	2	
5	Canada		1
6	Chile	2	
7	Colombia	2	

<sup>1</sup> The 25 States that have ratified the Convention are: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela denounced the American Convention on Human Rights on May 26, 1998 and September 10, 2012, respectively. Ten OAS member states have not signed the Convention. They are: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Cuba, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, and the United States of America.

<sup>2</sup> Forty-six years after the American Convention in November 1969, 10 of the 35 member states are not parties to it and two have denounced it. Regarding the State that have not ratified the Convention or have denounced it, the IACHR, under the powers granted it by Article 18 of its Statute, requests those States to provide it with reports on any human rights-related measures they adopt. As an OAS institution, not as an organ of the Convention, the Commission has jurisdiction in respect of that group of 12 countries. See IACHR, Annual Report 2013, Chapter IV(A)(2), Overview on universal ratification, incorporation of standards, conventionality control and compliance with IACHR's recommendations and decisions. par. 62.

	<b>Member State</b>	<b>Art. 41</b>	<b>Art. 18</b>
8	Costa Rica	1	
9	Cuba		1
10	Ecuador	3	
11	El Salvador	4	
12	United States		3
13	Guatemala	1	
14	Honduras	2	
15	Jamaica	1	
16	Mexico	3	
17	Nicaragua	1	
18	Panama	1	
19	Paraguay	1	
20	Peru	1	
21	Dominican Republic	2	
22	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		1
23	Uruguay	1	
24	Venezuela		5
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>

12. The particular situations that merit requests for information are listed below:

<b>Request for information under Article 41 of the American Convention</b>		
<b>State</b>	<b>Issue/Situation</b>	<b>Date</b>
Costa Rica	Situation of persons deprived of their liberty in [maximum security] Section "F" of the La Reforma Institutional Center	April 2016
Uruguay	Theft of detainee records missing from the laboratory of the Forensic Archeology Research Group (GIAF) in Uruguay	April 2016
Guatemala	Death of Guatemalan boy: Julio René Alvarado Ruano	May 2016
Bolivia	Use of force against demonstration of persons with disabilities	May 2016
Colombia	Information on the peace agreements	May 2016
Nicaragua	Follow-up to the public hearing on "Human Rights and Citizen Security in Nicaragua"	May 2016
El Salvador	Follow-up to the public hearing on "Human Rights and Citizen Security in El Salvador"	May 2016
Colombia	Hearing on the search for missing persons and excavations in the Medellín landfill site	May 2016
Honduras	Silencing of the Globo TV station's transmitters	June 2016

State	Issue/Situation	Date
El Salvador	Special measures adopted at several detention centers in El Salvador	June 2016
Mexico	Corpses found in Tetelcingo, Morelos	June 2016
Chile	Detention of female staff at the National Human Rights Institute (INDH)	June 2016
Chile	Situation of former political prisons on hunger strike	July 2016
Argentina	Access to Public Information bill	July 2016
Argentina	Situation of the Provincial Ombudsman in Santa Fe, Gabriel Elías Ganón	July 2016
Ecuador	Criminal proceedings against indigenous leaders	August 2016
El Salvador	Request for information regarding the status/possibilities of ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons	August 2016
Jamaica	Report of the West Kingston Commission of Enquiry	August 2016
Mexico	Follow-up on measures to protect against attacks on journalists and see that justice is done	August 2016
Honduras	Situation involving alleged criminalization of student protests at the UNAH	August 2016
Ecuador	Administrative act initiating the dismantling of the National Teachers Union ( <i>Unión Nacional de Educadores</i> )	August 2016
Dominican Republic	Draft Criminal Code	September 2016
State	Issue/Situation	Date
Peru	Investigation of death threats against a journalist working for <i>La República</i> newspaper	September 2016
Argentina	Situation of Laura Figueroa and human rights defenders in the province of Tucumán	September 2016
Mexico	The judge selection process in the state of Chihuahua	September 2016
Paraguay	Violence against journalists in Paraguay	September 2016
Brazil	Request for information regarding news of attacks on and arrests of journalists and demonstrators during demonstrations in São Paulo to protest the impeachment proceedings of dismissed President Dilma Rousseff	September 2016
El Salvador	Proposed legislative amendment to extend the sentences applicable to all kinds of voluntary interruptions of pregnancy and related offenses.	September 2016
Ecuador	Mandates of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Protection and Promotion of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	October 2016
Bolivia	Information on current criminal proceedings against Samuel Doria	November 2016
Brazil	Provisional Measures N° 744/2016, of September 1, 2016.	December 2016

State	Issue/Situation	Date
Panama	Conviction and imprisonment of Journalist Okke Ornstein	December 2016
Dominican Republic	Adoption of the New Criminal Code	December 2016
<b>Request for information under Article 18 of the IACHR Statute</b>		
State	Issue/Situation	Date
Venezuela	Situation of the Globovisión television channel	February 2016
Venezuela	Miners allegedly disappeared in the state of Bolívar	March 2016
Belize	Shots fired on the border between Belize and Guatemala	May 2016
Canada	Request for information on protection of the sources of Ben Makuch, a journalist for <i>VICE</i>	May 2016
Venezuela	Lynchings in Venezuela	May 2016
United States	Request for information on the murder of journalist and photographer Jacinto Torres Hernández	June 2016
United States	Human rights situation of trans women in the San Francisco country jail.	July 2016
Cuba	Arrests and the use of force by members of the security forces in Cuba	August 2016
Venezuela	Mandates of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Protection and Promotion of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	August 2016
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2016 Cybercrime bill providing for the characterization of offenses related to cybercrime and related matters	August 2016
Venezuela	Restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and manifestation of political opinion in connection with promotion of the call for a recall referendum revoking President Nicolás Maduro's mandate.	September 2016
United States	Request for information regarding the protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota	October 2016