

Summary of the Seventh Special Meeting on the Mechanisms for Detention Center Monitoring in Place in Each Official Public Defender Institution in the Region, held on April 4, 2019

The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of Ambassador Leonidas Rosa, Permanent Representative of Honduras and Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP). The meeting was called to order at 2:50 p.m.

The statutory quorum was constituted by the representatives of Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, and Uruguay.

The audio recording of the meeting may be found at the following link:

http://scm.oas.org/Audios/2019/CP_CAJP_3486-04-04-2019.MP3

1. Adoption of the order of business

The Committee adopted the order of business, [CP/CAJP-3486/19 rev. 2](#), without amendment.

2. Follow-up on the mandate in resolution AG/RES. 2928 (XLVIII-O/18), "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights"

- Toward Autonomous Official Public Defenders as a Safeguard for Integrity and Personal Liberty

The presentations under this item on the order of business, given by Dr. Dante Negro, Director, Department of International Law (DIL) and of the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI); Ms. Nydia Arévalo de Corzantes, Director General, Criminal Public Defender Institute of Guatemala and General Coordinator of the Inter-American Association of Public Defender Offices (AIDEF); and Commissioner Joel Hernández García, Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Freedom, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR); may be consulted in [CP/CAJP-3267/19](#), [CP/CAJP-3267/19](#), and [CP/CAJP-3267/19](#), respectively.

3. Sharing of best practices of mechanisms for detention center monitoring in place in each official public defender institution in the region

- Presentations by regional groups given by the following AIDEF representatives:

Mr. Gabriel Faria Oliveira, Federal Public Defender of Brazil and AIDEF Vice Coordinator, gave a presentation on best practices and developments at the federal level in Brazil, which may be consulted in [CP/CAJP/INF.594/19](#)). For his part, Mr. Pablo Sanzana, President, Criminal Public Defenders Association of Chile and AIDEF Coordinator for South America, gave a presentation on institutional violence in detention centers and progress, challenges, and common problems occurring in AIDEF South American countries. Subsequently, Ms. Carolina Corpeño, Deputy Prosecutor of the Republic of El Salvador, referred to common problems and efforts in the Central American AIDEF countries ([CP/CAJP/INF.593/19](#)). To conclude the segment, Messrs. Rodolfo Valentín Santos, Director, National Public Defense Office of the Dominican Republic, representing the AIDEF Coordination for the Caribbean, and Netzaí Sandoval Ballesteros, Director General, Federal Public Defenders Institute of Mexico, representing AIDEF Coordination for North America, focused their interventions on best practices and monitoring mechanisms in the Dominican Republic and Mexico, respectively.

- Participation by member states

Fernando Cristaldo, Esq., Chief of Staff, Ministry of Public Defense of Paraguay, Ms. Matilde Alvarenga de Apolayo, District Coordinator, Second Judicial District, Public Defense Institute of Panama, and Ms. Diana Montero Montero, Chief, Public Defense of Costa Rica, as well as the delegations of Argentina, Guatemala, Mexico, El Salvador, Uruguay, Honduras, Brazil, and Ecuador, expressed appreciation for the presentations given and in turn shared information on best practices implemented by their institutions and national public defense systems to prevent and report human rights violations in jails and detention centers. Delegations also shared information on the existing legal and institutional public defense framework in their States, including statistics, progress, and challenges in its application.

The AIDEF General Coordinator expressed appreciation for the interventions by delegations and emphasized the Association's commitment to continue working on common problems faced by the region, such as overcrowding, lack of guarantees, and excessive use of deprivation of liberty, as well as the importance of public defense as a legal tool to be used to address these common problems.

At the close of the interventions, the CAJP took note of the presentations given pursuant to the mandate of resolution AG/RES. 2928 (XLVIII-O/18), in its section titled “Towards the defense of autonomous official public defenders as a safeguard of personal safety and liberty,” given by the Director of the DIL, the AIDEF General Coordinator, and the IACHR’s Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty, as well as the presentations given by the AIDEF representatives and interventions by delegations during the sharing of best practices of mechanisms for detention center monitoring in place in each official public defender institution in the region. It also decided to report to the Permanent Council and General Assembly in that regard, pursuant to the provisions of the aforesaid AG/RES. 2928 (XLVIII-O/18).

Before declaring the meeting closed, the Chair reported that April 5 was the end of the period decided by the Committee for the presentation of draft paragraphs for inclusion in the omnibus resolutions, and that the next meeting would be held on April 11, at which would be received the presentations of the annual reports of the CJI and the Justice Studies Center of the Americas, to be given by the Chair of the CJI and the Executive Director of CEJA, respectively, as well as the report on the implementation of the Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law, by the DIL.

There being no other business to consider, at 5:35 p.m., the meeting was declared closed.