

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

OEA/Ser.G
CP/CAJP/SA.690/20
7 July 2020
Original: Spanish

Summary of the eighth special meeting on the mechanisms for detention center monitoring in place in each official public defender institution in the region, held virtually on June 25, 2020

The meeting was presided over by Ambassador Carlos Alberto Játiva, Permanent Representative of Ecuador and Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP). It was called to order at 2:42 p.m.

The statutory quorum was established with the presence of representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The audio recording of the meeting is available at the following link:
http://scm.oas.org/Audios/2020/CP_CAJP-Ex-3521_6-25-2020.mp3

1. Adoption of the order of business

The Committee adopted the draft order of business ([CP/CAJP-3521/19](#) rev. 1).

2. Follow-up on the mandate from resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19) “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights”: Autonomous official public defenders as a safeguard for the personal safety of all individuals, without any kind of discrimination

- The mechanisms for detention center monitoring in place in each official public defender institution in the region

The presentations by Dr. Dante Negro, Director of the Department of International Law, and by Dr. Gabriel Faria Oliveira, Federal Public Defender General of Brazil and Deputy Coordinator General of the Inter-American Association of Public Defender Offices (AIDEF), are available in documents [CP/CAJP/INF.795/20](#) and [CP/CAJP/INF.791/20](#), respectively.

Next to speak were Dr. Stella Maris Martínez, Chief Public Defender of the Argentine Republic; Dr. Jair Soares Júnior, Deputy Federal Public Defender General of Brazil ([CP/CAJP/INF.792/20](#)); Dr. Rivana Barreto Ricarte de Oliveira, Institutional Vice President of the National Association of Public Defenders of Brazil ([CP/CAJP/INF.787/20](#) and [CP/CAJP/INF.786/20](#)); Dr. Andrés Mahnke, National Criminal Public Defender of Chile; Dr. Pablo Sanzana Fernández, President of the Public Defenders Association of Chile; Dr. Erick Núñez Rodríguez, Deputy Director for Public Defense of Costa Rica ([CP/CAJP/INF.789/20](#)); Dr. Ángel Torres Machuca, Public Defender General of Ecuador ([CP/CAJP/INF.798/20](#)); Mr. Netzai Sandoval Ballesteros, Director General of the Federal Public Defense Institute of Mexico ([CP/CAJP/INF.790/20](#)); Dr. Clarisa Indiana Ibarra Rivera,

National Director of the Public Defender Office of Nicaragua; Dr. Matilde Alvarenga de Apolayo, President of the National Association of Public Defenders of Panama; Mr. Rodolfo Valentín, National Director of the National Public Defense Office of the Dominican Republic [CP/CAJP/INF.796/20](#)); and the delegation of the United States. They shared information on best practices of national public defender institutions and systems in preventing and denouncing human rights violations in prisons and detention centers.

Some of the presentations included information on the current legal and institutional framework for public defender offices, statistics, progress, and challenges in implementing them, as well as measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in penal institutions, prisons, and detention centers.

After the presentations, the CAJP took note of the introductory remarks by Dr. Dante Negro, Director of the Department of International Law, and Dr. Gabriel Faria Oliveira, Federal Public Defender General of Brazil and AIDEF Deputy Coordinator General. Note was also taken of the presentations given by the delegations during the exchange of best practices on the mechanisms for detention center monitoring in place in each official public defender institution in the region, and a decision was taken to report thereon to the Permanent Council and the General Assembly pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19).

There being no other business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.