



Comunicado Comité de Expertas

Committee of Experts expresses concern over the femicides of two adolescents from the Wichi Community, Argentina

Washington, DC, April 21, 2022. The [Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women](#) "Convention of Belém do Pará" (MESECVI) expresses its concern about the femicides of Jorgelina Reinoso, a 16-year-old adolescent, in the town of El Sauzalito and Florencia Isabel Torres, a 14-year-old adolescent, in the town of Pichanal, who belonged to the Wichi community in Argentina. Both, in different circumstances, were found dead and with signs of gender-based violence in this month of March¹.

In this regard, the Committee expresses its most sincere condolences to the families of Jorgelina Reinoso and Florencia Isabel Torres, and underlines that Article 9 of the Belém do Pará Convention² establishes the obligation of States to take into account especially the situation of vulnerability to violence that women may suffer due to, among others, their race or ethnicity, as well as being a minor or being in an unfavorable socioeconomic situation, characteristics that are interrelated in these cases.

In this sense, the Committee of Experts reiterates the provisions of the Inter-American Model Law in the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (Femicide / Femicide) (hereinafter, the "Model Law")³, which considers as aggravating circumstances of femicide / feminicide: i) that which is committed against a girl; ii) the fact that the woman is in a situation of vulnerability due to her race, ethnicity, descendant of native peoples, being indigenous, being in an unfavorable socioeconomic situation, among others; and iii) the fact that the woman deprived of life shows signs of violence such as injuries caused by sharp objects, among others.

¹Infonews, *Shock: Two Wichi adolescents were victims of femicides*, March 21, 2022. Available at: <https://infonews.com/conmocion-dos-adolescentes-wichi-fueron-victimas-de-femicidios.html>.

²Article 9 of the Convention of Belém do Pará. Available at: <https://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/convention.asp>.

³OAS/MESECVI. *Inter-American Model Law in the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (Femicide/Feminicide)*. Available at: <https://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/docs/LeyModeloFemicidio-EN.pdf>

On the other hand, the Committee acknowledges that the Argentine State: (i) has sent to this organism the “Report of the Office for the Comprehensive Approach to Cases of Femicides, Transvesticides, Transfemicides and Crimes against Sexual Integrity” on the actions carried out regarding these cases; (ii) the fact that the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity is intervening in the reported cases, within the framework of the policies for the prevention and eradication of gender-based violence carried out by the national government; and (iii) that in the case of Florencia Isabel Torres, the arrest of the two alleged femicides has been achieved.

Regarding this last point, the CEVI recommends continuing research: a) with a gender perspective; b) under the criminal category of aggravated femicide; c) keeping the presumed aggressors in detention and granting them an exemplary sanction; and d) protecting their next of kin from possible violence that may be exercised against them.

The [Committee of Experts](#) is the technical body of the MESECVI, responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the implementation process of the Convention of Belém do Pará. It is composed of independent Experts, appointed by each of the States Parties from among their nationals, who perform their duties in a personal capacity.