

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 156th Period of Session, the IACHR analyzed informative *memoranda* about the situation of human rights in some countries, which were previously requested by the Commissioners, and voted on whether to include them or not. As a result, in some cases it was decided to include the State in Chapter IV.B; and in others, not to do so.

8. The Commission, by an absolute majority, and based on the indicated criteria and Article 18 (1)(c) of its Rules of Procedure, decided to include three member States in the current Chapter IV.B for 2015: Cuba, Guatemala y Venezuela. In addition, as provided in the Rules of Procedure, the Commission sent the draft of the respective sections of Chapter IV.B to the States concerned with a request to present relevant observations within a certain period. Cuba did not present comments within the period provided. With regard to Guatemala, the Commission adopted in 2015 its report "Situation of Human Rights in Guatemala: Diversity, Inequality and Exclusion, which examines in detail the structural factors identified by the IACHR as impairing the enjoyment of human rights by Guatemala's inhabitants. Therefore, Chapter IV on Guatemala consists of the Executive Summary of the said report. Of the three States included in this Chapter, only Guatemala and Venezuela sent their observations within the deadline established by the IACHR.

9. In addition, it is worth noting that for Colombia, in 2015 the Commission decided to follow up the recommendations of 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 2015, the Commission issued a series of 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 2015 appears hereunder:

- 149/15 - IACHR Condemns the murder of a person deprived of liberty in Honduras. Washington, D.C., December 28, 2015
- 148/15 - IACHR Wraps up Visit to Bolivia. Washington, D.C., December 16, 2015
- 147/15 - Joint Statement on International Human Rights Defenders' Day "The critical situation of human rights defenders: The urgent need to protect and recognize their contributions." Geneva / Banjul / Washington, D.C., December 9, 2015
- 146/15 - IACHR Expresses Deep Concern regarding Situation of Cuban Migrants on the Costa Rica-Nicaragua Border. Washington, D.C., December 8, 2015
- 145/15 - IACHR Takes Case involving Peru to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., December 8, 2015
- 143/15 - IACHR Publishes Report on Violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Persons. Washington, D.C., December 7, 2015
- 142/15 - IACHR Decides to Publish Merits Report concerning Mexico's Compliance with Recommendations. Washington, D.C., December 7, 2015
- 141/15 - IACHR Urges States to Guarantee the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Who Are Deprived of their Liberty. Washington, D.C., December 3, 2015

- 140/15 - IACHR Expresses Concern regarding Effects of Climate Change on Human Rights. Washington, D.C., December 2, 2015
- 139/15 - IACHR Condemns the Murder of Opposition Leader Luis Manuel Diaz in Venezuela . Washington, D.C., December 1, 2015
- R138/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Killing of Journalist in Colombia. Washington, D.C., November 30, 2015
- 137/15 - On the International Transgender Day of Remembrance, IACHR urges States to increase the life expectancy of trans persons in the Americas. Washington, D.C., November 20, 2015
- 136/15 - IACHR Publishes Report: “Access to Information, Violence against Women, and the Administration of Justice in the Americas”. Washington, D.C., November 20, 2015
- 135/15 - IACHR Condemns Killings in Fortaleza, Brazil. Washington, D.C., November 19, 2015
- 134/15 - IACHR Publishes Report on the Importance of Universal Ratification of Inter-American Human Rights Treaties. Washington, D.C., November 19, 2015
- R133/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses its Concern Over Killing of Journalist in Brazil. Washington, D.C., November 18, 2015
- 132/15 - IACHR Publishes Report on Legal Standards related to Gender Equality. Washington, D.C., November 18, 2015
- 131/15 - IACHR Takes Case involving Honduras to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., November 17, 2015
- 130/15 - IACHR Regrets Violence in Juvenile Detention Facilities in Fortaleza, Brazil. Washington, D.C., November 17, 2015
- 129/15 - IACHR Takes Case involving Colombia to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., November 11, 2015
- 128/15 - IACHR and UN Rapporteur Concerned over Continued Harassment of Lilian Tintori in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., November 10, 2015
- 127/15 - IACHR Takes Cases involving Peru to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., November 10, 2015
- 126/15 - IACHR Takes Case involving Nicaragua to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., November 9, 2015
- 125/15 - IACHR Takes Case involving Guatemala to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., November 6, 2015
- R124/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur calls for an end to the impunity for crimes against journalists. Washington, D.C., November 2, 2015
- 123/15 - IACHR Condemns Killing of Trans Human Rights Defender in Argentina. Washington, D.C., October 30, 2015
- 122/15 - IACHR Congratulates Argentina for Passing Provincial Quota Job Law for Trans Persons. Washington, D.C., October 30, 2015
- 121/15 - IACHR Welcomes Sessions of the Working Group to Examine Progress Reports of States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador. Washington, D.C., October 29, 2015
- 120/15 - IACHR Wraps Up its 156th Session. Washington, D.C., October 28, 2015
- 119/15 - IACHR Extends Mandate of Interdisciplinary Group of Experts. Washington, D.C., October 28, 2015
- 118/15 - IACHR Concludes Visit to Florida, Louisiana and Missouri, United States. Washington, D.C., October 16, 2015
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- 117/15 - Progress in Friendly Settlements and in Cases Pending before the IACHR involving Mexico. Washington, D.C., October 15, 2015
- 116/15 - Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty Conducted Visit to Mexico. Washington, D.C., October 15, 2015
- 115/15 - Pointing to Progress, IACHR Urges Continued Efforts to Abolish the Death Penalty. Washington, D.C., October 9, 2015

- 114/15 - IACHR Condemns Execution of Alfredo Ronaldo Prieto in Virginia. Washington, D.C., October 8, 2015
- 113/15 - IACHR Announces Schedule for its 156th Session. Washington, D.C., October 8, 2015
Direct Access to Schedule of Hearings
- 112/15 - IACHR Wraps up Onsite Visit to Mexico. Washington, D.C., October 2, 2015
Annex to the Press Release: Preliminary Observations
- 111/15 - IACHR Urges States to Guarantee the Human Rights of Older Persons. Washington, D.C., October 1, 2015
- R110/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Celebrates the International Right to Know Day. Washington, D.C., September 28, 2015
- 109/15 - IACHR Concludes Visit to Colombia's Border with Venezuela. Washington, D.C., September 28, 2015
Annex to the Press Release
- 108/15 - IACHR Begins On-Site Visit to Mexico. Mexico City, September 28, 2015
- 107/15 - IACHR Voices Concern over Ruling against Leopoldo López in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., September 25, 2015
- 106/15 - More Needs to be Done to Protect Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights – UN and Regional Experts. Washington, D.C., September 24, 2015
- 105/15 - Inter-American Commission and Inter-American Court Hold Joint Meeting with OAS Secretary General. San José / Washington, D.C., September 17, 2015
- 104/15 - IACHR Conducts On-Site Visit to Mexico. Washington, D.C., September 17, 2015
- 103/15 - UN and IACHR experts condemn moves to dissolve prominent organization in Ecuador. Geneva / Washington, D.C., September 17, 2015
- R102/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Killing of Journalist Flor Alba Núñez in Colombia. Washington, D.C., September 14, 2015
- 101/15 - IACHR Conducts Visit to Colombia-Venezuela Border. Washington, D.C., September 9, 2015
- 100/15 - IACHR Expresses Concern over Arbitrary Deportation of Colombians from Venezuela. Washington, D.C., August 28, 2015
- 99/15 - IACHR Extends Mandate of Interdisciplinary Group of Experts. Washington, D.C., August 28, 2015
- 98/15 - Forced Disappearances: Significant Progress and Major Challenges in the Region. Washington, D.C., August 28, 2015
- 97/15 - IACHR Calls on the Dominican Republic to Meet its Obligations regarding the Right to Nationality and Due Process in Immigration. Washington, D.C., August 27, 2015
- 96/15 - IACHR Urges Honduras to Ensure Transparency and Civil Oversight in its Judicial Appointment Process for the Supreme Court of Justice. Washington, D.C., August 27, 2015
- 95/15 - IACHR Visits Colombia to Receive Information on the Situation of Persons of African Descent. Washington, D.C., August 27, 2015
- 94/15 - IACHR Condemns Killing of Afro-descendent Leader in Colombia. Washington, D.C., August 25, 2015
- 93/15 - IACHR and the Special Rapporteur Express Deep Concern over the Stigmatization and Judicial Harassment against Three Media Outlets in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., August 24, 2015
- 92/15 - IACHR Condemns Killings in São Paulo, Brazil. Washington, D.C., August 21, 2015
- 91/15 - IACHR Concludes that the United States Violated Bernardo Aban Tercero's Fundamental Rights and Requests that his Execution be Suspended. Washington, D.C., August 19, 2015
- 90/15 - IACHR Condemns Acts of Violence against Incarcerated Adolescents in Uruguay. Washington, D.C., August 18, 2015
- 89/15 - IACHR Condemns Killing of Human Rights Defender in Mexico. Washington, D.C., August 17, 2015
- R88/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns New Killing of Journalist in Brazil. Washington, D.C., August 10, 2015

- 87/15 - IACHR Expresses Concern regarding Allegations of Law Enforcement Participation in Acts of Violence in Mexico. Washington, D.C., August 7, 2015
- 86/15 - IACHR Calls on Member States to Guarantee the Right of Indigenous Peoples to Live in their Ancestral Lands. Washington, D.C., August 7, 2015
- 85/15 - IACHR Publishes Report: "Towards the Closure of Guantanamo". Washington, D.C., August 5, 2015
- R84/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns the Killing of Graphic Reporter in Mexico in a Crime with Four Other Victims. Washington, D.C., August 4, 2015
- 83/15 - IACHR Calls upon States to Adopt Human Rights Approach to Combat Human Trafficking. Washington, D.C., July 29, 2015
- 82/15 - IACHR Launches Individual Petition System Portal. Washington, D.C., July 22, 2015
- 81/15 - High Time to Pull the Plug of Televised Reprisals Against Rights Defenders in Venezuela. Ginebra / Washington, D.C., July 22, 2015
- R80/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Concern Over the Acquisition and Implementation of Surveillance Programs by States of the Hemisphere. Washington, D.C., July 21, 2015
- 79/15 - IACHR Takes Case involving Ecuador to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., July 17, 2015
- 78/15 - Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child Wraps Up Visit to Brazil and Speaks Out against the Lowering of the Age of Criminal Responsibility. Washington, D.C., July 17, 2015
- R77/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Urges the State of Honduras to Investigate the Killing of Journalists. Washington, D.C., July 15, 2015
- R76/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Killing of Two Journalists in Mexico. Washington, D.C., July 6, 2015
- 75/15 - IACHR Congratulates Mexico and Colombia for Measures Recognizing Identity of Trans Persons. Washington, D.C., July 1, 2015
- 74/15 - IACHR Urge States to Provide Rehabilitation to Victims of Torture. Washington, D.C., June 25, 2015
- 73/15 - IACHR Condemns Killing of Union Leader in Honduras. Washington, D.C., June 24, 2015
- 72/15 - IACHR Welcomes Approval of the Convention on Protecting the Rights of Older Persons. Washington, D.C., June 22, 2015
- 71/15 - OAS General Assembly Elects New IACHR Commissioners. Washington, D.C., June 17, 2015
- 70/15 - IACHR Condemns Murder of Human Rights Defenders in Colombia. Washington, D.C., June 12, 2015
- 69/15 - IACHR Takes Case involving Brazil to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., June 12, 2015
- 68/15 - IACHR Takes Case involving Venezuela to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., June 11, 2015
- 67/15 - IACHR Urges States to Take Immediate, Effective Steps to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor. Washington, D.C., June 11, 2015
- 66/15 - IACHR Wraps Up Visit to Paraguay. Washington, D.C., June 11, 2015
- 65/15 - IACHR Expresses Concern over Mexico's Southern Border Plan. Washington, D.C., June 10, 2015
- 64/15 - IACHR Takes Case Involving Bolivia to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., June 9, 2015
- 63/15 - IACHR Condemns Killing of Human Rights Defender of Trans Persons in El Salvador. Washington, D.C., June 8, 2015
- 62/15 - 25 Years after the Adoption of the Protocol, the IACHR Urges States to Abolish the Death Penalty or Take Steps toward its Abolition. Washington, D.C., June 8, 2015
- 61/15 - IACHR Welcomes the Abolition of the Death Penalty in the State of Nebraska, United States. Washington, D.C., June 5, 2015

- 60/15 - IACHR Condemns Killings of Indigenous Human Rights Defenders in Brazil. Washington, D.C., June 4, 2015
- 59/15 - IACHR Evokes Inter-American Standards in Reaction to a Court Ruling in Argentina. Washington, D.C., June 3, 2015
- R58/15 - Comparative Study of Specialized Supervisory and Enforcement Bodies for Access to Public Information in the Hemisphere. Washington, D.C., June 2, 2015
- 57/15 - IACHR Expresses Concern over Measures Taken against Leopoldo López and Daniel Ceballos in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., May 29, 2015
- R56/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Killing of Journalist in Brazil. Washington, D.C., May 28, 2015
- R55/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses its Concern for Killing of Journalist in Brazil. Washington, D.C., May 21, 2015
- R54/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Presents Thematic Report on Freedom of Expression Standards for Digital Television. Washington, D.C., May 21, 2015
- 53/15 - IACHR Expresses Concern about Violence and Discrimination against LGBT Persons Deprived of Liberty. Washington, D.C., May 21, 2015
- 52/15 - IACHR Announces Visit to Paraguay and Preparation of a Report on Human Rights and Poverty. Washington, D.C., May 19, 2015
- 51/15 - IACHR Concludes Visit to Colombia. Washington, D.C., May 15, 2015
- R50/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur of IACHR Calls on the US to Introduce Strong Reforms on the NSA Metadata Collection Program. Washington, D.C., May 14, 2015
- 49/15 - Discriminated and Made Vulnerable: Young LGBT and Intersex People Need Recognition and Protection of their Rights. Geneva / Washington, D.C., May 13, 2015
- R48/15 - Office of Special Rapporteur Condemns Killing of Journalist; Expresses Concern on the Disappearance of Another One in Mexico. Washington, D.C., May 11, 2015
- R47/15 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression presents its 2014 Annual Report. Washington, D.C., May 11, 2015
- 46/15 - IACHR Presents its Annual Report. Washington, D.C., May 7, 2015
- 45/15 - IACHR Takes Case involving Brazil to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., May 7, 2015
- R44/15 - On World Press Freedom Day, the Office of the Special Rapporteur Calls the States to Refrain From Using Criminal Laws to Silence Voices of Criticism. Washington, D.C., May 4, 2015
- 43/15 - IACHR Takes Case concerning Ecuador to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., April 30, 2015
- 42/15 - IACHR Expresses its Deep Concern over the Acts of Violence in the Dominican Republic. Washington, D.C., April 29, 2015
- 41/15 - Joint Press Release by UN and IACHR Rapporteurs. Trinidad/Geneva, April 28, 2015
- 40/15 - IACHR Condemns the Killing of an African-American Man in the United States. Washington, D.C., April 17, 2015
- 39/15 - IACHR Deplores Violent Deaths in Honduran Prisons. Washington, D.C., April 14, 2015
- 38/15 - IACHR Expresses Concern on Authorization to Use Firing Squads in Utah, USA. Washington, D.C., April 1, 2015
- 37/15 - IACHR Wraps Up its 154th Session. Washington, D.C., March 27, 2015
- 36/15 - IACHR expresses concern over the initiative to amend Brazil's constitution in order to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility for adolescents. Washington, D.C., March 23, 2015
- R35/15 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Killing of Reporter in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., March 23, 2015
- R34/15 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Killing of Paraguayan Journalist in Brazil. Washington, D.C., March 23, 2015
- 33/15 - IACHR Urges Countries in the Americas to Respect and Guarantee the Right to Truth. Washington, D.C., March 23, 2015

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- 32/15 - IACHR Expresses Alarm over Intimidation in Venezuela directed against People Who Come before the Inter-American Human Rights System. Washington, D.C., March 20, 2015
- 31/15 - IACHR Calls on OAS Member States to Bring an End to Racial Discrimination in the Americas. Washington, D.C., March 20, 2015
- 30/15 - IACHR Expresses its Concern over the Death of Rodolfo González in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., March 18, 2015
- 29/15 - IACHR Elects New Board. Washington, D.C., March 13, 2015
- R28/15 - The Office Of The Special Rapporteur Condemns Killing of Two Journalists in Guatemala. Washington, D.C., March 12, 2015
- 27/15 - IACHR Welcomes Abolition of the Death Penalty in Suriname. Washington, D.C., March 12, 2015
- 26/15 - IACHR Condemns Killing of Alberto Almeida in Mexico and Calls for Clarification of the Facts. Washington, D.C., March 6, 2015
- R25/15 - Office Of The Special Rapporteur Condemns Killing Of Journalist In Colombia. Washington, D.C., March 6, 2015
- 24/15 - On International Women’s Day, IACHR Urges States to Guarantee Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Rights. Washington, D.C., March 6, 2015
- 23/15 - Call to Participate in Hearings Requested by States in the 154th Session. Washington, D.C., March 4, 2015
- 22/15 - IACHR Laments the Death of a Student during Protests in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., March 3, 2015
- 21/15 - IACHR Announces Schedule for its 154th Session. Washington, D.C., March 2, 2015
- 20/15 - IACHR Takes Case involving Peru to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., March 2, 2015
- 19/15 - IACHR Calls on States to Combat Discrimination against All People Living with HIV. Washington, D.C., February 27, 2015
- 18/15 - IACHR Takes Case involving Ecuador to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., February 26, 2015
- R17/15 - The Office of the Special Rapporteur Urges Ecuador to Ensure the Safety of Citizen Behind “Crudo Ecuador” and Expresses Concern Regarding Comments Made by High Authorities. Washington, D.C., February 25, 2015
- 16/15 - IACHR Takes Case involving Bolivia to the Inter-American Court. Washington, D.C., February 24, 2015
- 15/15 - IACHR Expresses Deep Concern over the Situation regarding the Rule of Law in Venezuela. Washington, D.C., February 24, 2015
- 14/15 - IACHR Welcomes First Session of OAS Working Group to Examine Reports on Fulfillment of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Washington, D.C., February 24, 2015
- R13/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Condemns Murder of Journalist in Colombia. Washington, D.C., February 17, 2015
- R12/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Celebrates the World Radio Day. Washington, D.C., February 12, 2015
- 11/15 - IACHR Condemns Killing of Human Rights Defender in Mexico. Washington, D.C., February 12, 2015
- R10/15 - Office of Special Rapporteur Condemns Death and Attacks to Journalists in Mexico. Washington, D.C., February 11, 2015
- 9/15 - IACHR Condemns Killing of Julian Gonzalez Dominguez in Mexico. Washington, D.C., February 10, 2015
- 8/15 - Interdisciplinary Group of Experts to Launch at IACHR Headquarters its Work on the Case of the Students of Ayotzinapa, Mexico. Washington, D.C., January 30, 2015
- 7/15 - IACHR Condemns Killing and Threats Against Defenders and Journalists in Colombia. Washington, D.C., January 30, 2015

- 6/15 - IACHR Laments Death of Prosecutor Alberto Nisman in Argentina. Washington, D.C., January 29, 2015
- 5/15 - IACHR Condemns Execution of Charles Warner in Oklahoma. Washington, D.C., January 21, 2015
- 4/15 - IACHR Urges United States to Suspend Execution of Charles Warner in Oklahoma. Washington, D.C., January 15, 2015
- 3/15 - IACHR Presents Report on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women in British Columbia, Canada. Washington, D.C., January 12, 2015
- R2/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Joins International Condemnation of the Attack on Satirical Magazine Charlie Hebdo Washington, D.C., January 7, 2015
- R1/15 - Office of the Special Rapporteur Expresses Concern over Disappearance of Journalist in the State of Veracruz, Mexico Washington, D.C., January 6, 2015

11. Additionally, in exercising the powers granted to it under Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights¹ and Article 18 of its Statute² with respect to countries that have not ratified the American Convention or have withdrawn from it, the Commission requested information from different Member States on 53 occasions.

	Member State	Article 41	Article 18
1	Argentina	1	
2	Bahamas		2
3	Bolivia	1	
4	Brazil	4	
5	Colombia	4	
6	Chile	1	
7	Costa Rica	1	
8	El Salvador	1	
9	United States		3
10	Ecuador	2	
11	Guatemala	2	
12	Haiti	1	
13	Honduras	2	
14	Jamaica	1	
15	Mexico	6	
16	Nicaragua	3	
17	Panama	1	

¹ The 25 States that have ratified the Convention are: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, 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 withdrew from the American Convention on Human Rights on May 26, 1998 and September 10, 2012, respectively. Ten OAS Member States have not signed the Convention: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Cuba, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, and the United States of America.

² Forty-six years after the adoption of the American Convention in November 1969, 10 of the 35 OAS Member States are not parties and two have withdrawn from the Convention. By the authority vested in it by Article 18 of its Statute, the IACHR requests governments that have not ratified the Convention or have withdrawn from it to provide it with reports on measures they have adopted in matters of human rights. As an OAS institution and not as an organ of the Convention, the IACHR has jurisdiction over this group of 12 States. See IACHR 2013 Annual Report, Chapter IV(A)(2), Overview on universal ratification, incorporation of standards, conventionality control and compliance with IACHR'S recommendations and decisions, para. 62.

	Member State	Article 41	Article 18
18	Paraguay	4	
19	Peru	4	
20	Dominican Republic	4	
21	Suriname	1	
22	Venezuela		4
	TOTAL	44	9

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

Request for information under Article 41 of the American Convention		
Member State	Issue/Situation	Date
Peru	Preventive criminal complaint lodged against 20 citizens for calling for a demonstration against the law promoting access by youth to the labor market and social protection	January 2015
Honduras	Situation of human rights defender Gladys Lanza Ochoa	February 2015
Dominican Republic	Expulsions and/or deportations in the Dominican Republic	February 2015
Mexico	Initiative of the General Transparency and Access to Public Information Act	March 2015
Paraguay	Bill establishing the obligation to preserve information on trafficking	March 2015
Colombia	Status of the 81 people removed from La Arenera beach	April 2015
El Salvador	Situation of LGBTI defenders (ASPIDH-Arcoiris Trans)	April 2015
Brazil	Violence and discrimination against Verónica Bolina, an Afro-descendant trans woman jailed in Brazil	April 2015
Haiti	Violence in Pont-Rouge, Cité Soleil	May 2015
Mexico	Reports of alleged massacre in Apatzingán, Michoacán	May 2015
Peru	Alleged confrontations related to the “Tía María” mining project	April 2015
Brazil	Alleged use of disproportionate force against teachers and protesters during demonstrations taking place in the city of Curitiba, Parana	May 2015
Ecuador	Guilty verdict against teenager L.C.A	May 2015
Nicaragua	Situation of attorneys from the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL).	June 2015
Paraguay	Situation of human rights defender Julia Cabello	June 2015
Chile	Situation of Lorena Fries Monleón, Director of Chile’s National Human Rights Institute (INDH)	June 2015

Member State	Issue/Situation	Date
Mexico	Assassinations during the electoral process in Mexico	June 2015
Colombia	Legislative reform of military criminal justice	June 2015
Honduras	Act on Protection for Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Media Personnel, and Justice Operators	June 2015
Dominican Republic	Constitutional control over the partial decriminalization of abortion in the Dominican Republic	July 2015
Dominican Republic	Due process guarantees in immigration proceedings for people subject to deportation in the Dominican Republic	July 2015
Brazil	Death of a youth at the Men's Detention Center (CEM) in the city of Teresina, Piauí	July 2015
Guatemala	Rioting and deaths at the Las Gaviotas Provisional Youth Detention Center.	July 2015
Mexico	Request to Mexico for information/visit in loco	August 2015
Colombia	Situation of Mr. Pedro Díaz	August 2015
Mexico	Events that took place in Villahermosa, Tabasco, on August 14, 2015	August 2015
Guatemala	Report on Human Rights in Guatemala	August 2015
Peru	Violence in la Oroya	August 2015
Ecuador	Violence related to grass-roots movements in August 2015	August 2015
Peru	Legislative Decree 1182-Telecommunications-	August 2015
Nicaragua	Access to justice and due process in Nicaragua	September 2015
Panama	Status of persons detained at the Punta Coco jail	September 2015
Bolivia	Exclusion of <i>Radio Erbol</i> from government advertising	September 2015
Nicaragua	Human rights situation of persons deprived of liberty	October 2015
Jamaica	Homelessness and LGBT youth	November 2015
Paraguay	Bill to amend several articles of Law No. 1136/97 "On Adoptions"	December 2015
Brazil	Demonstrations against the proposed restructuring of public education in São Paulo	December 2015
Costa Rica	Executive Decree No. 39210 -MP- S authorizing implementation of the In Vitro Fertilization	December 2015

Member State	Issue/Situation	Date
Dominican Republic	Human Rights situation of LGBT persons	December 2015
Suriname	Alleged detention and ill-treatment of non-national trans women	December 2015
Paraguay	Situation of violence against trans persons	December 2015
Argentina	Administrative processes related to AFSCA and AFTIC	December 2015
Mexico	Right to education in Chiapas	December 2015
Colombia	Death of Carlos Torres, trans person in Bogota	December 2015
Request for information under Article 18 of the IACHR Statute		
Member State	Issue/Situation	Date
Venezuela	Resolution No. 008610 of the Ministry of People's Power for Defense	February 2015
United States	Situation of Mary Moore, videographer	April 2015
Bahamas	Follow-up to the hearing on the human rights situation of migrants in Bahamas	April 2015
United States	Situation of Ashley Diamond	April 2015
Bahamas	Situation reported in a public hearing of the 154th session on the human rights of migrants in the Bahamas and their subsequent deportation	Abril 2015/June reiteration 2015
Venezuela	Operation People's Liberation and Protection	August 2015
Venezuela	Situation regarding disqualification for public office	August 2015
Venezuela	Draft Bill on international cooperation	November 2015
United States	Human Rights Situation in Puerto Rico	December 2015

2. Issues of Concern

13. Under Chapter IV.A, the Commission provides a yearly overview of the human rights situation in the region and, in so doing, has deemed it important to highlight certain issues. In 2015, the IACHR decided to take up matters related to Access to Water and the Use of Force.

14. The methodology used for producing this report was to analyze the events that occurred in the region from late 2014 to December 2015; that information was obtained in the public hearings of this Commission held during its 153rd, 154th, and 156th regular periods of sessions, as well as from the requests for information in keeping with the powers conferred on this Commission by Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights (hereinafter, American Convention or ACHR) and Article 18 of its Statute. In addition, information has been garnered from various United Nations mechanisms whose mandate is related to the topic of this study, from reports by international and local civil society organizations, and from press reports. As part of the specific methodology used for this report, in late July 2015 the IACHR published a questionnaire that was sent to the member states of the OAS, civil society organizations, and other users of the inter-American human rights system. That questionnaire was answered by a total of 13 Member States of the OAS³ and by 27 civil society organizations, academics, and individuals.⁴

³ The Commission wishes to express its gratitude for the information received from the following states: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

⁴ In addition, the Commission is grateful for the information received from civil society organizations, networks of civil society organizations, and other private actors, to wit: Argentina: Asociación Pensamiento Penal (APP), Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), and Commission for Memory of the Province of Buenos Aires (CPM); Brazil: Força Sindical, Universidade Federal da Paraíba (UFPB), Human Rights Clinic, Faculdade Damas; Colombia: Colombia Diversa, the Public Actions Group of the Universidad Icesi of Cali and the Law School at the Universidad de San Buenaventura, Medellín campus, Instituto de Victimología Bartolomé de las Casas of the city of Tunja, Corporación Jurídica Yira Castro (CJYC); Costa Rica: International Human Rights Clinic at Santa Clara University School of Law, Red Water Pond Road Community Association (RWPRCA), 22 students from the course on Principles of Public International Law at the Universidad de Costa Rica, Guanacaste campus, the Centro de Derecho Ambiental y de los Recursos Naturales (CEDARENA); Cuba: Directorio Cubano Democrático; Guatemala: Peace Brigades International –Guatemala Project, Unidad para la Protección de Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos Guatemala (UDEFEHUA); Honduras: Asociación para una Ciudadanía Participativa (ACI PARTICIPA); Paraguay: Coordinadora Derechos Humanos Paraguay (CODEHPUY); Peru: Instituto de Defensa Legal (IDL), Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDDHH); United States: *Latino Justice* PRLDEF, Philip D. Althouse, Attorney; Venezuela: Law Office allied with the Fundación Pro Bono Venezuela; Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez, A.C. (Centro Prodh).