

# Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

I/A Court H.R.\_PR-31/2020 English

Should you have any trouble viewing this message, please click [HERE](#)



## I/A Court H.R. Protecting Rights

---

### **Inter-American Court of Human Rights presents 2019 Annual Report to the Organization of American States**

*San José, Costa Rica, April 30, 2020- San José, Costa Rica, April 30, 2020-* The Inter-American Court has presented the Annual Work Report for the year 2019 today to the Commission on Justice and Political Affairs of the Organization of American States, which was attended by of the Secretary-General of the OAS, Luis Almagro and representatives of the member states. President Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito attended the Inter-American Court. The meeting was held by videoconference.

You can review the report [here](#).

During the presentation of the Report, the President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito, recounted the main activities of the year 2019 and the impact of the court's work in the region.

In its 2019 Annual Report, the Inter-American Court gathers all the activities of that year, which was characterized by an important advance in jurisdictional production, with 21 judgments on merits and 4 on interpretation, as well as the record of 51 resolutions of supervision of compliance with judgments and 18 resolutions on provisional measures. Likewise, 18 public hearings were held on contentious cases, as well as 16 on compliance supervision.

In turn, it should be noted that in the year 2019 the average duration in the processing of cases has decreased, currently being 21.9 months.

During 2019, the Court held four Ordinary Periods of Sessions at its seat in San José, Costa Rica, and three Extraordinary Periods of Sessions in Uruguay, Argentina, and Colombia.

The report includes that, during 2019, the Court continued to consolidate and develop its jurisprudence on various human rights issues, such as economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights; judicial independence, deprived of liberty, among other topics.

In turn, the Judge thanked that the Cancun Agreements have been fulfilled, regarding the increase in financing for the Inter-American Court. "This is of great importance to the Tribunal. What allows to give more predictability to the work of the Court, strengthening its autonomy and independence," said Odio.

During the Report, the Judge expressed: "I must be honest with you, it is very difficult for me to present this work report in the midst of the social and economic crisis like the one we are going through. These enormous and unprecedented challenges have had great impacts not only on our working methods but also substantially on the rights of the people," said Judge Odio.

"Individuals, families, communities, states, our region and the entire planet are facing unprecedented challenges as a consequence of the global pandemic caused by the new coronavirus. Today in all our societies, fear and uncertainty have globalized, two circumstances that, when badly faced, can lead to a profound crisis of human rights," said the President.

During the meeting, Judge Odio reported that the Inter-American Court will start a series of conferences entitled "The present and future challenges and impacts of COVID-19 for human rights and the rule of law" at the end of May and during June, in that "space for academic dialogue and reflection will be opened on how to address, from the human rights perspective, the responses, strategies and efforts by States to mitigate and suppress the transmission of the new coronavirus in accordance with international human rights obligations and within the framework of the rule of law".

In turn, the President reported that "the Court has continued to work at a distance. The consequence of the pandemic makes it impossible for us to work collectively with the Judges in San José, Costa Rica, and to carry out the sessions that we had scheduled. This has led us, like you, to seek alternative solutions. The Court will begin to hold a collegial session from the end of May, throughout June and July, to advance matters that are before it in the measures that circumstances allow," said Judge Odio.

Regarding the current situation, the President of the Inter-American Court made a call to continue working with multilateralism as a guiding principle of cooperation between States. "Today, like never before, being indifferent to neighbors can cost us our lives or those of those we love most. These are the moments in history where more than ever we must act together and in a united way, leaving aside our differences. Today more than ever we must be in solidarity, leaving aside our pettiness. Today more than ever we must seek regional and multilateral solutions, leaving aside nationalism, xenophobia, racism, and any type of discrimination. Finally, today more than ever, human rights are the tool to face this pandemic", she concluded.

[Statement COVID-19 and Human Rights: The Problems and challenges must be addressed from a human rights perspective and with respect for international obligations.](#)

\*\*\*

This press release was produced by the Secretariat of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which is the only responsible for its content.

For the latest information please visit the website of the Inter-American Court, <http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index-en.cfm>, or send an email to Pablo Saavedra Alessandri, Secretary, at [corteidh@corteidh.or.cr](mailto:corteidh@corteidh.or.cr). For press inquiries please contact Matías Ponce at [prensa@corteidh.or.cr](mailto:prensa@corteidh.or.cr).

You can subscribe to the information services of the Court [here](#). You can sign up for updates from the court here or unsubscribe sending an email to [comunicaciones@corteidh.or.cr](mailto:comunicaciones@corteidh.or.cr). You can also follow the activities of the Court on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) (@CorteIDH for the Spanish account and @IACourtHR for the English account), [Instagram](#), [Flickr](#), [Vimeo](#) and [Soundcloud](#).

Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos. 2020.  BY-NC-ND

Esta obra está bajo una [Licencia Creative Commons Atribución-NoComercial-SinDerivadas 3.0 Unported](#)

Avenida 10, Calles 45 y 47 Los Yoses, San Pedro, San José, Costa Rica.