

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

I/A Court H.R._PR-29/2021 English

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I/A Court H.R. Protecting Rights

PUBLIC HEARING SUPERVISION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROVISIONAL MEASURES ADOPTED IN THE CASE OF VÉLEZ LOOR V. PANAMA

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

141 RS

Regular Session

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROVISIONAL MEASURES ADOPTED

Case Vélez Loor v. Panama

Thursday, May 6, 2021 | 10:15 am to 11:30 am (Costa Rica time)
11:15 am to 12:30 pm (Panama time)

San José, Costa Rica, May 4, 2021. During its 141st Regular Session, the Inter-American Court will hold a virtual public hearing to monitor implementation of the Provisional Measures adopted on July 29, 2020, in the Case of Vélez Loor v. Panama.

The hearing will be held virtually on Thursday, May 6, 2021, from 10.15 to 11.30 a.m. (Costa Rican time), 11.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. (Panamanian time). The hearing can be followed live on the Inter-American Court's social networks (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube).

The purpose of the hearing is to receive information from the State and observations from the victim's representatives and the Inter-American Commission in this regard, and also to receive from the Panamanian Ombudsman any information he considers relevant, within his terms of reference, in the context of the procedure of monitoring Provisional Measures in this case.

Background

In its Order on the adoption of Provisional Measures, the Court found that the requirements of extreme gravity, urgency and the possibility of irreparable harm had been met in relation to the situation of those persons in transit through Panamanian territory who were in the La Peñita and

Lajas Blancas Migrant Reception Centers, and prevented from moving on and continuing their migration in the context created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, the Court decided:

1. To require the State of Panama to continue adopting all appropriate measures to provide effective protection for the rights to health, personal integrity and life of those persons who were in the La Peñita and Lajas Blancas Migrant Reception Centers in the province of Darién.
2. To require the State of Panama to ensure access to essential health services, immediately, effectively and without discrimination, to all those persons who are in the La Peñita and Lajas Blancas Migrant Reception Centers, including early detection and treatment of COVID-19.

In addition, the Court specified a series of minimum requirements, based on the recommendations available at the time, for implementation of the necessary measures to ensure the human rights of persons in a situation of human mobility in the context of the pandemic. The Court also stressed that the difficulties of the current context required synergy and solidarity between States, international organizations and civil society to provide an effective regional and global response to the pandemic-related challenges faced by persons in a situation of human mobility.

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