

# Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

I/A Court H.R.\_PR-30/2024 English

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

### INTER-AMERICAN COURT PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL REPORT 2023



*Washington D.C., May 10, 2024.* – On Thursday, May 9, the President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Judge Nancy Hernández López, presented the Inter-American Court of Human Rights’ Annual Report for 2023 to the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs.

The report highlights the work performed by the I/A Court H.R. during 2023. Through a hybrid system, 22 weeks of sessions were held. Sessions were also held in Chile and in Colombia. In addition, several field visits were held in relation to various matters being heard by the Court.

Regarding the **contentious function of the Court**, during 2023, the Inter-American Commission submitted 34 new cases to the Court. This is 10 cases more than in 2022. With the reception of these cases, as of 2023 there are 69 cases pending resolution, with an average of 26 months for resolution of a case. In 2023 the Court held 24 Public Hearings on Contentious Cases, several evidentiary procedures and 33 Judgments were issued in Contentious Cases.

The Court issued rulings on issues such as equality and non-discrimination based on sexual orientation; impact of corruption on democracy; the right to personal liberty and the limits of preventive detention; the principle of non-regression in the context of the right to judicial independence of electoral judges; the limitation of intelligence activities, the right to informational self-determination and the protection of human rights defenders; the right to protest and conditions for the use of force, rights on indigenous matters and the scope of the right to a healthy environment.

In this regard, Judge Hernández indicated that the I/A Court H.R. “does not limit itself to the functions of the bench, it is present in the territory of the States through the exercise of its various competences, and it also dedicates space and time to human rights training and education in the region.”

During the last year the Court issued 28 orders on Provisional Measures. In this regard, the President noted that “the fact that the Court currently has 44 active measures in total shows the challenges regarding grave human rights violations faced by the region”



Regarding the **function of Monitoring Compliance with Judgment**, during 2023, the Court held 26 hearings in 24 cases in the Monitoring Stage. In addition, 68 orders on Monitoring Compliance with Judgment were issued, and eight cases were closed due to Compliance with the Reparations Ordered. At the end of 2023, the Court has 296 cases in the Monitoring Stage, including a total of 1,577 Reparation Measures.

Regarding the **advisory function**, during 2023 the Court received two requests for advisory opinion. The first request was filed by Chile and Colombia, regarding “the climate emergency and human rights.” The second request was filed by Argentina, regarding “the content and scope of the right to care and its interrelation with other rights.” Previously, Mexico had also requested an advisory opinion on “the activities of private arms manufacturing companies and their effects on human rights.”

Judge Nancy Hernández López emphasized the importance of these advisory opinions, since “the advisory function of the Court allows States and OAS organs to actively participate in the human rights conversation in the region, which is a real exercise of the democratic right of participation, for civil society, individuals, academic institutions and students from all over the world.”

The President also mentioned the creation of the "Corte IDH TV" channel and the work of the **Education Center**, which held more than 23 trainings, in which approximately 27,000 individuals participated, with in-person courses held in several countries. Moreover, during 2023 the Court adopted the Protocol to Provide Psychological Support Services to Victims.

In her closing remarks, President Judge Nancy Hernández López appealed to the organization's commitment since its foundation with the values of democracy and human dignity, so that the countries that continuously disregard the resolutions of the Court can be punished, "not in order to satisfy the Court, but for the victims of their own countries, who seek justice." She also spoke of the dictatorships in the region: "The message that we must send to the dictatorships in the region is not silence; rather, our message must be clear: the power given to you by the people is to serve, not to oppress."

The full annual report can be accessed [here](#).

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This press release was drafted by the Registrar's Office of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; it is solely responsible for this document.

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