

# Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

I/A Court H.R.\_PR-34/2023 English

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

### **SAD DEATH OF THE FORMER JUDGE AND PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THOMAS BUERGENTHAL**



*San José, Costa Rica, May 29, 2023.* The Inter-American Court of Human Rights expresses its profound sorrow over the death of the Court's Former judge and President, Thomas Buergenthal, and sends its deepest condolences to his family and friends for such a sad and irreparable loss.

Thomas Buergenthal, a national of the United States of America, was a Judge of the Inter-American Court from January 1, 1979, to December 31, 1991, and its President in 1985 and 1986.

Judge Buergenthal was loved and respected by all members of the Inter-American System. He was characterized by his vocation, dedication and commitment to the promotion and defense of human rights and, in particular, to the work of the Inter-American Court. He played an essential role in the Court's consolidation during its initial years and his legacy lives on to this day. Thomas Buergenthal was also a Judge of the International Court of Justice from 2000 to 2010.

The President of the Court, Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique, stated that: "the passing of Former Judge Buergenthal, one of the founding fathers of the Inter-American Court, is a great loss for the legal community of the Americas and of the world. He has had an enduring impact on the Inter-American System of Human Rights and on the different courts of international law of which he formed part. His experience as a child survivor of the Auschwitz and Sachsenhausen concentration camps will always be a source of inspiration for present and future generations."

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