

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights
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I/A Court H.R. Protecting Rights

HISTORIC SESSIONS IN BRAZIL: HEARING ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY CONCLUDES



Brasilia, May 30, 2024. - The Inter-American Court of Human Rights concludes its visit to Brazil as part of its 167th Regular Session. From May 20 to 24, the Court met in Brasilia, where the first hearings of Regular Sessions were held, and on May 27, 28 and 29, in Manaus, it continued with the Public Hearing on the Advisory Opinion on Climate Emergency and Human Rights.

During the two weeks of work, the Opening Ceremony of the 167th Regular Session, an International Seminar, two public hearings, three private Supervision of Compliance with Judgments hearings, the signing of five cooperation agreements and several protocol visits took place.

Regarding the sessions, Judge Hernández, President of the Court, said in her inaugural speech: "There are two fundamental issues that are the reason for this Session: the call to care for our planet and democratic resilience, and the role that judges play in this context". She also stressed her solidarity with the Brazilian people over the floods in Rio Grande do Sul.

Summary of activities:

I. Inauguration Ceremony



On Monday, May 20, the Inauguration Ceremony of the 167th Regular Session was held in the plenary of the Supreme Court. As [previously reported](#), the sessions were opened by the President of the I/A Court H.R., Judge Nancy Hernández López, and the President of the Supreme Court, Justice Luís Roberto Barroso, who highlighted the importance of protecting the environment and democracies as a way of guaranteeing fundamental rights.

The activity was also attended by the Vice-President of the I/A Court H.R., Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch; Ambassador Denis Fontes de Souza Pinto Mauro Vieira, representing the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the President of the Federal Council of the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB), Beto Simonetti, and the Federal Attorney General, Jorge Messias.

Watch the broadcast of the ceremony [here](#).

II Public Hearings

a) Public Hearing on the Case of Adolescents Interned in Detention and Provisional Internment Centers of the National Service for Minors (SENAME) v. Chile



The case is related to the alleged international responsibility of the State for several adolescents who died in a fire at the "Tempo de Crescer" Provisional Detention Center in Puerto Montt run by the National Juvenile Service (SENAME).

The hearing was held on Wednesday, May 22, at the Superior Electoral Court. The broadcast of the hearing can be seen [here](#).

b) Public Hearing of the Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and its impact on Human Rights Obligations”



Brazil was the setting for the second part of the public hearing of the Advisory Opinion on “Climate Emergency and Human Rights”; requested by Chile and Colombia, which continued after three days of hearings in Barbados.

During the four days of hearings in Brasilia and Manaus, the Court heard 116 delegations, including representatives of States - Brazil, Costa Rica, Honduras and Paraguay - international organizations, national bodies, representatives of indigenous and tribal peoples, academic institutions, scientists, non-governmental organizations and civil society.

This concludes the oral phase of the Advisory Opinion with the largest participation in the history of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The broadcast of the hearing can be seen [here](#).

III International Seminar



The International Seminar “Challenges and Impact of the Jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights” was also held, inaugurated by the President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Judge Nancy Hernández López; the Vice-President, Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch, and the President of the Brazilian Supreme Court, Justice Luís Roberto Barroso. Two panels were held with experts, the first on freedom of expression and the second on judicial independence.

The broadcast of the seminar can be seen [here](#).

IV Private Monitoring Compliance with Judgments

A The Court held three Private Hearing to Compliance Supervision with Judgments on May 23:

a) Private Hearing to Supervise Compliance with Judgment in the Case of Gomes Lund et al (“Guerrilha do Araguaia”) v. Brazil



b) Private Hearing to Supervise Compliance with the Judgment in the Case of Barbosa de Souza et al. v. Brazil



c) Private Hearing to Supervise Compliance with Judgment in the Case of the Xucuru Indigenous People and its members v. Brazil



V Protocol meetings

a) Meeting with the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva



On Thursday, May 23, the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, received the President of the I/A Court H.R., Judge Nancy Hernández López, Vice-President Rodrigo Mudrovitsch, Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto, Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor and Judge Verónica Gómez, together with Secretary Pablo Saavedra Alessandri.

The meeting discussed issues related to the climate emergency and human rights challenges.

b) Protocol visit and signing of agreement with the Federal Attorney General's Office



On Tuesday, May 21, Presiding Judge Nancy Hernández López, accompanied by Vice-President Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch, Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor and Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra-Porto visited the Federal Attorney General, Jorge Messias.

During the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the I/A Court H.R. and the AGU. They also discussed issues related to the climate emergency, freedom of expression and progress in the enforcement of judgments.

c) Meeting with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security



On the same day, the Judges of the Court met with Mr. Carlos de Almeida Neto, Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, to discuss some of the challenges surrounding democracy.

d) Meeting with the Superior Court of Justice



The President Hernández, together with Vice-President Mudrovitsch and Judges Sierra Porto and Ferrer, also paid an official visit to the President of Brazil's Superior Court of Justice (STJ), Maria Thereza de Assis Moura. During the meeting, the parties discussed issues of relevance to the judicial systems.

e) Meeting with the Minister of Human Rights and Citizenship



The President, Judge Nancy Hernández López, the Vice-President, Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch, Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto and Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot, visited the Minister of Human Rights and Citizenship, Silvio Almeida.

Several topics were discussed at the meeting, including the importance of complying with the Brazilian cases before the Inter-American Court.

f) Meeting with the Attorney General of Brazil



The Court's Judges met with the Attorney General of Brazil, Paulo Gonet Branco. During the meeting, the President, Judge Nancy Hernández López, highlighted the efforts of the Public Prosecutor's Office to cooperate with the Court through various initiatives.

g) Meeting with the President of the Superior Electoral Court



The I/A Court H.R. met with Justice Alexandre de Moraes, President of the Superior Electoral Court, and other Justices of the Court.

h) Meeting with General Secretariat of the Council of Justice



The President of the Court, Judge Nancy Hernández López , Judge Eduardo Ferrer MacGregor Poisot, Judge Verónica Gomez and Secretary Pablo Saavedra Alessandri met with the Secretary General of the Council of Justice, Adriana Cruz, to discuss training for judicial operators.

i) Meeting with the Federal Public Defender



The President, Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot, Judge Verónica Gomez and Secretary Pablo Saavedra Alessandri met with the Federal Public Defender, Leonardo Magalhães. They discussed various opportunities to promote and protect human rights and carried out various training activities.

VI Cooperation Agreements



During its visit to Brazil, the I/A Court H.R. signed several Cooperation Agreements with various institutions. The aim of these agreements is to strengthen ties with entities in this country, in order to promote teaching and knowledge of the Inter-American Human Rights System.

These Agreements were signed with the following institutions:

1. Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Attorney General's Office
2. Cooperation Agreement with the Superior Labor Court
3. Cooperation Agreement with the Court of Justice of the State of Amazonas
4. Cooperation Agreement with the Public Defender's Office of Rio de Janeiro
5. Cooperation Agreement with the Regional Electoral Court of Amazonas
6. Cooperation Agreement with the Regional Labor Court of the 11th Region - Amazonas

The composition of the Court for this Regular Session: Judge Nancy Hernández López, President (Costa Rica); Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch, Vice-President (Brazil); Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto (Colombia); Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot (Mexico) Judge Verónica Gómez (Argentina) and Patricia Pérez Goldberg (Chile).

The Court is grateful for the cooperation of Spain and Sweden, whose financial support was essential for holding this session in Brazil.



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