

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

I/A Court H.R._PR-55/2021 English

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I/A Court H.R. Protecting Rights

ECUADOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARBITRARY DISMISSAL OF A MEMBER OF ITS ARMED FORCES WHO DENOUNCED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

San José, Costa Rica, August 16, 2021. In the Judgment of the *Case of Grijalva Bueno v. Ecuador*, notified today, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights declared that the State of Ecuador was responsible for the violation of Judicial Guarantees (Articles 8(1), 8(2), 8(2)(b), 8(2)(c) and 8(2)(f)), freedom of expression (Article 13(1)) and Judicial Protection (Article 25(1) and 25(2)(c)), established in the American Convention on Human Rights, to the detriment of Vicente Aníbal Grijalva Bueno, who was improperly dismissed from the Ecuadorian Navy in 1993, after he had reported the involvement of military personnel in acts of torture and forced disappearances. The State made a partial acknowledgement of international responsibility due to the violations that occurred in the context of the dismissal procedure and the failure to execute the Judgment of the Court of Constitutional Guarantees.

In its Judgment, the Court indicated that the State must ensure practical conditions for public officials to be able to report human rights violations freely without being victims of threats, retaliations and other types of harassment.

Based on the violations, the Court ordered diverse measures of reparation.

The official summary of the Judgment may be consulted [here](#), and the complete text of the Judgment [here](#).

The Court's composition for this Judgment was as follows: Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito, President (Costa Rica); Judge Eduardo Vio Grossi (Chile); Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto (Colombia); Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot (Mexico); Judge Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni (Argentina), and Judge Ricardo Pérez Manrique (Uruguay). The Vice President of the Court, Judge Patricio Pazmiño Freire, an Ecuadorian national, did not take part in the deliberation and signature of this Judgment pursuant to the provisions of Articles 19(2) of the Court's Statute and 19(1) of its Rules of Procedure.

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