

Press Release 55/2024 English

## INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATES 45 YEARS SINCE ITS INSTALLATION



*San José, Costa Rica, September 4, 2024.* – As part of its 169<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights celebrated the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its installation. The event, held on September 3, included a ceremony that gathered national and international authorities, members of the diplomatic corps, former judges of the Court, academics, media and representatives of the branches of government of Costa Rica.

The activity was inaugurated by the President of the I/A Court HR, Judge Nancy Hernández López. It was followed by speeches by Orlando Aguirre Gómez, President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica, and Arnoldo André Tinoco, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica.

The President of the I/A Court HR stated that: "Hundreds of victims have passed through here, burdened with pain and dwindling hopes, seeking justice. Each corner has been witness to the resilience, courage and strength of mothers of disappeared sons, victims of political violence and human rights defenders. Justice has found its home here, in a building where silenced voices have been heard, sowing hopes for a better American continent."

Arnoldo André Tinoco, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, noted that "the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and Costa Rica have forged a historical relationship based on respect, cooperation and genuine interest in its strengthening and functional independence." Similarly, during his speech the President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica, Orlando Aguirre Gómez, mentioned that "the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has established a framework of respect for human rights to provide legal certainty, which is essential for the continuity and legitimacy of the democracies in the continent."

Elizabeth Odio Benito, former President of the I/A Court HR and former Minister of Justice of Costa Rica; Luis López Guerra, former judge of the European Court of Human Rights, and Catalina Botero Marino, Director of the UNESCO Chair on Freedom of Expression, also participated in the event.

Several personalities close to the Inter-American Court sent their messages celebrating its anniversary, including the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro, who highlighted the work of the Court and its jurisprudence as a guarantee for all citizens of the Americas. Moreover, Cecilia Medina, former judge of the I/A Court HR, noted that the Court has established a conversation among the national courts, leading to the creation of common standards on human rights in the region.

As part of the celebration, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights officially presented the photography contest "Focusing on Rights," which aims to promote the participation of new groups in the human rights of Latin America and the Caribbean. The details of the contest are available at the following link:

<https://www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/45-aniversario/concurso.html>.

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights presented the microsite commemorating the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its installation, available at the following link: <https://www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/45-aniversario/index.html>. The photography exhibition "Creation, installation and first years of the Court" was inaugurated.

To view the picture gallery of the event please click here <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBG4yW> and visit the recording of the livestream here [https://youtube.com/live/mFaBv\\_B-Ci0](https://youtube.com/live/mFaBv_B-Ci0)

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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.

For more information on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, please visit [www.corteidh.or.cr](http://www.corteidh.or.cr) or write to the Registrar, Pablo Saavedra Alessandri, at [corteidh@corteidh.or.cr](mailto:corteidh@corteidh.or.cr). To contact the press office please write to Dannel Pinilla, Director of Communications and Press, at [prensa@corteidh.or.cr](mailto:prensa@corteidh.or.cr).

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