

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

I/A Court H.R._PR-65/2023 English

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I/A Court H.R.
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DELEGATION OF THE I/A COURT H.R. PERFORMS IN SITU JUDICIAL PROCEEDING IN THE CITY OF TELA



San José, Costa Rica, September 25th, 2023. From May 29th to May 31st, 2023, a delegation from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights performed an *in situ* judicial proceeding in the city of Tela and its vicinities, where it held a work meeting to hear the State of Honduras and the Inter-American Commission, as well as third parties and institutions with direct interests in the *Case of the Garifuna Community of San Juan and its members v. Honduras*. The delegation of the Inter-American Court was composed of the Judges Nancy Hernández López, Patricia Pérez Goldberg and Humberto Antonio Sierra Ponto, Assistant Secretary, Romina I. Sijniensky and personnel from the Court's Secretariat.

This case, submitted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, concerns the international responsibility of the State for the lack of protection of the ancestral lands of the Communities Garifuna of San Juan and Tornabé, as well as the alleged threats to several of their leaders.

Specifically, the delegation of the Inter-American Court performed the following activities:

On May 29, 2023, an information session was held regarding the *on-site* visit with authorities from the State and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

During the onsite inspection procedure performed on May 29th and 30th, 2023, the delegation of the Inter-American Court was able to see the reference points that mark the limits of the territory claimed by the Community. In addition, it visited another reference point mentioned by the representatives, the mouth of the San Juan River or Tela River. The delegation visited the wetlands adjacent to the branch of the Los Micos Lagoon and the territories claimed by the San Juan Community in this case.

On May 31, 2023, the delegation of the I/A Court H.R. held a meeting with the State of Honduras, the IACHR, various authorities and inhabitants of the city of Tela. Representatives from the Municipality of Tela, the business sector, inhabitants of the area, representatives of the families and boards of the city were in attendance.

This judicial proceeding was possible thanks to the support and financing of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), as part of the project "Improving access to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights through on the road sessions and judicial proceedings at the State parties" (CoIDH 2201).

This press release was drafted by the Secretariat 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 or write to Secretary Pablo Saavedra Alessandri at corteidh@corteidh.or.cr. To contact the press office, please write to Gabriela Sancho at prensa@corteidh.or.cr.

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