

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights
I/A Court H.R._PR-69/2021 English

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I/A Court H.R. Protecting Rights

ECUADOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WRITER'S FORCED DISAPPEARANCE

San José, Costa Rica, October 7, 2021. – In the Judgment of the *Case of Garzón Guzmán et al. v. Ecuador* notified today, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights declared the State of Ecuador responsible for the forced disappearance of Mr. César Gustavo Garzón Guzmán and for the violation of his rights to recognition as a person before the law, life, integrity, personal freedom, Judicial Guarantees and Protection. In addition, it declared the State responsible for the violation of the rights to Judicial Guarantees and Protection, and personal integrity of Mr. Garzón Guzmán's family members. The State acknowledged its international responsibility in the case.

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

César Gustavo Garzón Guzmán was a writer and workshop leader for the Ecuadorian Cultural Institute (*'Casa de la Cultura'*) and worked for the *'El Conejo'* Publishing House. At the time of his disappearance, he was 32 years old and was writing his Ph.D. thesis. On November 9, 1990, he was with a group of friends in a disco, this being the last place he was seen at. On noticing that he did not arrive home, his family began their search and went to the Pichincha Criminal Investigation Service to report his disappearance.

The Truth Commission of Ecuador documented the case of César Gustavo Garzón Guzmán in its Final Report "Without truth, there is no Justice" and described the events as a forced disappearance in which "the responsibility of the National Police is presumed".

After the presentation of the Truth Commission's Final Report in September 2011, a preliminary inquiry was initiated in relation to this case. In May 2013, Mr. Garzón Guzmán's family filed a complaint that began a new investigation. The process is still open, without significant progress having been made, so the events that affected Mr. Garzón Guzmán remain unpunished.

Due to the violations declared in the Judgment, the Court ordered various reparation measures.

The Court's composition for issuance of 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 (México), Judge Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni (Argentina); and Judge Ricardo Pérez Manrique (Uruguay). The Vice President of the Court, Judge Patricio Pazmiño Freire, Ecuadorian by nationality, did not participate in the deliberation and signing of this Judgment, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 19(1) and 19(2) of the Court's Rules of Procedure.

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