

Press Release

Inter-American Court of Human Rights
I/A Court H.R._PR-73/2021 English

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I/A Court H.R. Protecting Rights

COLOMBIA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KIDNAPPING AND TORTURE OF JOURNALIST JINETH BEDOYA LIMA

San José, Costa Rica, October 18, 2021. In the Judgment of the *Case of Bedoya Lima et al. v. Colombia*, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights found the State of Colombia internationally responsible for the violation of the rights to personal integrity, personal liberty, honor, dignity, and freedom of expression of journalist Jineth Bedoya Lima. During the events on May 25, 2000, when Ms. Bedoya was intercepted and kidnapped outside the *La Modelo* Prison by members of a paramilitary group and subjected to extremely violent and humiliating treatment, she suffered severe verbal, physical and sexual assault. The Court noted the existence of "serious, precise and congruent indications" of the State's participation in such events.

The official summary of the [Judgment](#) can be consulted here and the complete text of the Judgment [here](#) [both documents in Spanish only].

The Court also declared that the State was internationally responsible for the violation of the rights to Judicial Guarantees and Protection, and equality before the law, owing to the lack of due diligence when investigating the events, the gender-based discrimination in the investigation, and the violation of a reasonable time.

In addition, the Court declared the international responsibility of the State for violating the journalist's rights to personal integrity, honor and dignity, freedom of expression, and Judicial Guarantees owing to the failure to investigate the threats she received before and after the events of May 25, 2000.

Lastly, the Court declared the violation of the right to personal integrity, honor, and dignity, Judicial Guarantees, and Protection of Ms. Bedoya Lima's mother, Luz Nelly Lima.

Based on these violations, the Court ordered the State to implement diverse measures of reparation, including: (i) Facilitate and continue the investigations required to determine, prosecute and, as appropriate, punish the remaining perpetrators of the acts of violence and torture suffered by Ms. Bedoya on May 25, 2000, as well of the threats that she has suffered, (ii) guarantee the dissemination of the transmedia program "*No es hora de callar*," to be transmitted by the public media system, (iii) create and implement a training and awareness-raising program for public officials, law enforcement bodies, and agents of justice to ensure they have the necessary skills to: identify acts and manifestations of gender-based violence against women that affect women journalists, protect them from dangerous situations, and investigate and prosecute the perpetrators, (iv) create a state center for the memory and dignification of all women victims of sexual violence in the context of the armed conflict and investigative journalism, which specifically recognizes women journalists' work, (v) design and implement a system for the compilation of data and figures relating to cases of violence against journalists and gender-based violence against women journalists, (vi) establish a Fund to finance programs aimed at prevention, protection and assistance for women journalists victims of violence and the

adoption of effective measures of protection to ensure the safety of women journalists who are exposed to special risks in the exercise of their profession, and (vii) pay the sums established in the Judgment for rehabilitation, pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage, and costs.

Judge Ricardo Pérez Manrique informed the Court of his concurring opinion, which is attached to the Judgment.

The composition of the Court for the delivery of this Judgment was as follows: Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito, President (Costa Rica); Judge Patricio Pazmiño Freire, Vice President (Ecuador); Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor (Mexico); Judge Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni (Argentina) and Judge Ricardo Pérez Manrique (Uruguay). Judge Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto, a Colombian national, did not take part in the deliberation of this judgment in keeping with Art. 19 of the Inter-American Court's Rules of Procedure.

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