

# X. Mechanisms to promote access to inter-American justice: Victims' Legal Assistance Fund (FALV) and Inter-American Defender (DI)

### A. Victims' Legal Assistance Fund (FALV)

#### 1. Procedure

The Court's Rules for the Operation of the Victims' Legal Assistance Fund (hereinafter, "the Fund") were issued on February 4, 2010, and entered into force on June 1, 2010. The Fund's purpose is to facilitate access to the Inter-American Human Rights System for those who do not have sufficient resources to bring their case before the Court.

Once the case has been put before the Court, any victim who does not have the necessary financial resources to cover the expenses arising from the proceedings may expressly request access to the Fund. In accordance with the Rules, any alleged victim who wishes to access the Fund must notify the Court in their brief with pleadings, motions, and evidence. In addition, they must demonstrate to the Court, through sworn statements and other suitable means of evidence that satisfy the Court, that they lack sufficient financial resources to cover the costs of the litigation and indicate precisely which aspects of their participation require the use of resources from the Fund. The President of the Court will be in charge of evaluating each application made, determining their admissibility, and indicating, where appropriate, which aspects of the participation can be covered by the Victims' Legal Assistance Fund.

The Court Secretariat is in charge of administering the Fund. Once the President decides on the admissibility of the request and the applicant has been notified, the Secretariat opens an expense file for the specific case, in which it documents each of the expenditures made in accordance with the parameters authorized by the President. Subsequently, the Secretariat informs the respondent State of the expenditures made from the Fund, so that it can submit its observations, if it so wishes, within the timeframe established for this purpose. As indicated above, at the time of delivering a judgment the Court will evaluate whether it is admissible to order the respondent State to reimburse the Fund for the expenditures incurred and will indicate the total amount owed.

#### 2. Donations to the fund

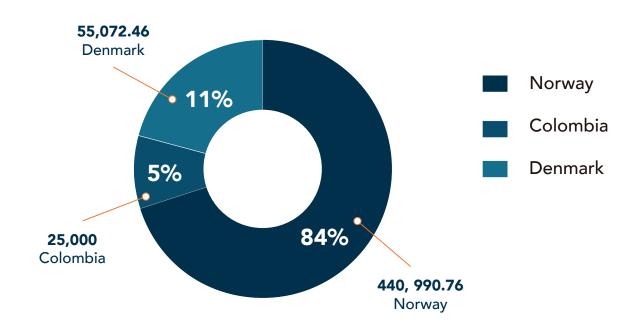
It should be noted that this fund does not receive resources from the OAS regular budget. This has led the Court to seek voluntary contributions to ensure its existence and operation. To date, these funds come from cooperation projects, as well as from voluntary contributions from States.

During 2023, a contribution of US\$25,450.46 was received from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As can be seen, as of December 2023, cash contributions to the fund amount to a total of US\$521,063.22.

The list of donor countries to date is:

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND				
State	Year	Contribution in US\$		
Norway	2010-2012	210,000.00		
Colombia	2012	25,000.00		
Norway	2013	30,363.94		
Denmark	2013 5,661.75			
Norway	2014 19,621.88			
Denmark	2014	30,571.74		
Norway	2015	15,532.50		
Denmark	2015	18,838.97		
Norway	2016	15,000.00		
Norway	2017	24,616.07		
Norway	2018	24,764.92		
Norway	2019	24,539.80		
Norway	2021	8,117.95		
Norway	2022	42,983.24		
Norway	2023	25,450.46		
	SUBTOTAL	US\$521,063.22		

# Contributions to FALV as of December 31, 2023 Total amount: US\$521,063.22



### 3. Application of the Victims' Legal Assistance Fund

#### 3.1 Expenses approved in 2023

In 2023, the President of the Court issued resolutions approving access to the Victims' Legal Assistance Fund in relation to the following cases<sup>197</sup>:

CASE	DATE OF FUND APPROVAL	ITEM
Rodríguez Pacheco et al v. Venezuela	February 17, 2023	To cover the expenses for the presentation of a maximum of three statements, either at a hearing or by affidavit, as well as, eventually, the appearance of the Inter-American Defenders at the hearing.

<sup>197</sup> In the Airton Honorato case, its resolution was issued during the year 2022.

CASE	DATE OF FUND APPROVAL	ITEM
Vitteri Ungaretti et al v. Ecuador	February 21, 2023	To cover the expenses for the presentation of four statements, either at a hearing or by affidavit, and the appearance of two legal representatives. Financial assistance from the Legal Assistance Fund was provided to cover the reasonable travel and accommodation expenses necessary for Mr. Julio Rogelio Viteri Ungaretti and two of the legal representatives who will appear before the Court at the hearing to be held in the case. It was also decided to cover the reasonable expenses of the three remaining statements with resources from the Legal Assistance Fund.
Boleso v. Argentina	March 06, 2023	To cover the reasonable expenses of preparing and sending the affidavits of the alleged victim, the witnesses, and the expert proposed by the representatives.
Córdoba v. Paraguay	March 22, 2023	To cover the expenses for the presentation of a maximum of three statements, including that of the alleged victim, either in a hearing or by affidavit as well as the eventual attendance of a maximum of two representatives at the public hearing held in the case.
Bendezú Tuncar v. Peru	March 23. 2023	To cover the reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by the defenders. The amount, destination, and specific purpose of the financial assistance will be specified in a timely manner when deciding on the examination of the evidence put forward and the eventual opening of the oral procedure, pursuant to Article 50 of the Court's Rules of Procedure.
González Méndez et al v. México	May 3, 2023	To cover expenses related to a maximum of three statements, oral or written. The amount, destination, and specific purpose of the financial assistance will be specified in a timely manner when deciding on the examination of the evidence put forward and the eventual opening of the oral procedure, pursuant to Article 50 of the Court's Rules of Procedure.

CASE	DATE OF FUND APPROVAL	ITEM
Case of the Members of the Single Workers Union ECASA – SUTECASA v. Peru	May 29, 2023	To cover the reasonable expenses of travel and necessary stay of an alleged victim and the first group of Inter-American Public Defenders in the case, as well as the reasonable expenses of preparing and sending the affidavits of five alleged victims and three expert opinions proposed.
Case of Leite de Souza et al v. Brazil	August 8, 2023	To cover the expenses for the presentation of a maximum of six statements, either in a public hearing or before a notary. The specific amount, destination, and purpose of said assistance will be detailed at the time of deciding on the statements offered, the testimonial and expert evidence, and the possible opening of the oral stage, in accordance with Article 50 of the Court's Rules of Procedure.
Manaure Flores et al v. Venezuela	November 3, 2023,	To cover the reasonable and necessary expenses incurred for the presentation of four statements, either at a hearing or before a notary public (affidavit), as well as the costs incurred by the participation of one of the representatives of the alleged victim in the public hearing eventually called.
Lynn v. Argentina	November 24, 2023,	To cover the reasonable and necessary expenses incurred for the presentation of three statements, either in a public hearing or before a notary public (affidavit).
Reyes Mantilla et al v. Ecuador	December 26, 2023	To cover the travel expenses of up to three declarants in order for them to appear before the Court either during the eventual public hearing of this case or by means of a statement before a notary public.

#### 3.2 FALV Fund expenses for 2023

During the 2023 period, the Secretariat of the Inter-American Court made payments to alleged victims, experts, other witnesses, and representatives, covering the expense amounts for the preparation of affidavits and reimbursement of various expenses in 14 cases. The details of these disbursements are shown in the following table:

	VICTIMS' LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND DISBURSEMENTS IN 2023				
TOTAL	CASES	AMOUNT			
	VICTIMS' LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND				
1	Beatriz et al. v. El Salvador	2,042.42			
2	Cajahuanca Vásquez v. Peru	3,563.51			
3	Dos Santos Nascimento et al. v. Brazil	3,810.02			
4	Guzmán Medina et al. v. Colombia	4,312.54			
5	Members of the Single Workers' Union of ECASA (SUTECASA) v. Peru	10,726.47			
6	Case of the Rama and Kriol Peoples, Community of Monkey Point and the Black Creole Indigenous Community of Bluefields and their members v.  Nicaragua	3,285.94			
7	Viteri Ungaretti et al. v. Ecuador	4,779.29			
8	Airton Honorato et al. v. Brazil	7,006.58			
9	Community of la Oroya v. Peru	88.24			
10	Córdoba v. Paraguay	6,584.83			
11	Leite de Souza et al. v. Brazil	3,639.46			
12	María et al. v. Argentina	371.94			
13	The U´wa Indigenous Peoples and its Members v. Colombia	4,063.75			
14	Rodríguez Pacheco et al. v. Venezuela	4,522.90			
	TOTAL	58,797.89			
	FINANCIAL EXPENSES				
	Financial Expenses (Audit and exchange difference)	1,519.14			
	TOTAL	1,519.14			
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2023	US\$60,317.03			

#### 3.3 Approved expenses and respective reimbursements from 2010 to 2023

From 2010 to 2023, the Court's Victims' Legal Assistance Fund has been accessed in 122 cases. As established in the Rules of Operation, States are obliged to reimburse the Fund for the resources used, when the Court so orders through the corresponding judgment or relevant order.

A report on the Fund's movements, in relation to these 122 cases, is detailed in the following graphs and table.

- In 86 of the cases, the respective States have complied and reimbursed the Fund.
- ▶ In 2 cases, the Court did not order the State to reimburse the Fund by the State as it was not found internationally responsible in the judgment.
- ▶ In 34 cases, reimbursement to the Fund is still pending. However, in 6 of these 34 cases, their deadline has not expired, in 10 a judgment or order requiring reimbursement by the State has not yet been issued and 1 corresponds to an ex officio case requested by this Court.

	VICTIMS' LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND REIMBURSEMENTS TO THE FUND / ACCUMULATED TO DECEMBER 2023						
No.	Case	State	Reimbursement (in dollars)	Interest (in dollars)	Exchange difference (in dollars)		
1	Torres et al. v. Argentina	Argentina	10,043.02	4,286.03	0.00		
2	Fornerón and Daughter v. Argentina	Argentina	9,046.35	3,075.46	0.00		
3	Mohamed v. Argentina	Argentina	7,539.42	1,998.30	0.00		
4	Furlán and Family v. Argentina	Argentina	13,547.87	4,213.83	0.00		
5	Mendoza et al. v. Argentina	Argentina	3,393.58	967.92	0.00		
6	Argüelles et al. v. Argentina	Argentina	7,244.95	4,170.64	0.00		
7	Torres Millacura et al. v. Argentina (Hearing on Monitoring Compliance)	Argentina	7,969.08	0.00	0.00		
8	López et al. v. Argentina	Argentina	3,277.62	2,567.73	0.00		
9	Furlán and Family v. Argentina (Hearing on Monitoring Compliance)	Argentina	4,025.58	346.02	0.00		
10	Jenkins v. Argentina	Argentina	6,174.66	2,355.06	0.00		

No.	Case	State	Reimbursement (in dollars)	Interest (in dollars)	Exchange difference (in dollars)
11	Acosta Martínez et al. v. Argentina	Argentina	2,718.75	482.17	0.00
12	Spoltore v. Argentina	Argentina	4,340.58	994.02	0.00
13	Fernández Prieto and Tumbeiro v. Argentina	Argentina	3,251.84	645.46	0.00
14	Julien Grisonas et al. v. Argentina	Argentina	358.98	369.66	0.00
15	DaCosta Cadogan v. Barbados	Barbados	1,999.68	0.00	0.00
16	Familia Pacheco Tineo v. Bolivia	Bolivia	9,564.63	0.00	0.00
17	I.V. v. Bolivia	Bolivia	1,623.21	0.00	0.00
18	Valencia Campos et al. v. Bolivia	Bolivia	6,264.80	56.38	0.00
19	Favela Nova Brasília v. Brazil	Brazil	7,367.51	156.29	0.00
20	Herzog et al. v. Brazil	Brazil	4,260.95	0.00	554.89
21	Barbosa de Souza et al. v. Brazil	Brazil	1,579.20	0.00	0.00
22	Norín Catrimán et al. v. Chile	Chile	7,652.88	0.00	0.00
23	Poblete Vilches et al. v. Chile	Chile	10,939.93	0.00	0.00
24	Ángel Alberto Duque v. Colombia	Colombia	2,509.34	1,432.96	0.00
25	Isaza Uribe et al. v. Colombia	Colombia	1,172.70	0.00	0.00

No.	Case	State	Reimbursement (in dollars)	Interest (in dollars)	Exchange difference (in dollars)
26	Villamizar Durán et al. v. Colombia	Colombia	6,404.37	0.00	0.00
27	Vereda La Esperanza v. Colombia	Colombia	2,892.94	0.00	0.00
28	Yarce et al. v. Colombia	Colombia	4,841.06	4,099.64	0.00
29	Bedoya Lima et al. v. Colombia	Colombia	104.88	0.00	0.00
30	Amrhein et al. v. Costa Rica	Costa Rica	5,856.91	0.00	0.00
31	Kichwa Indigenous People of Sarayaku v. Ecuador	Ecuador	6,344.62	0.00	0.00
32	Suárez Peralta v. Ecuador	Ecuador	1,436.00	0.00	0.00
33	Vásquez Durand v. Ecuador	Ecuador	1,674.35	466.59	0.00
34	Montesinos Mejía v. Ecuador	Ecuador	176.00	0.00	0.00
35	Flor Freire v. Ecuador	Ecuador	4,788.25	412.08	0.00
36	Gonzales Lluy et al. v. Ecuador	Ecuador	4,649.54	2,872.20	0.00
37	Guachalá Chimbo et al. v. Peru	Peru	60.74	0.00	0.00
38	Cortez Espinoza v. Ecuador	Ecuador	80.46	0.00	0.00
39	Contreras et al. v. El Salvador	El Salvador	4,131.51	0.00	0.00
40	The Massacres of El Mozote and Nearby Places v. El Salvador	El Salvador	6,034.36	0.00	0.00

No.	Case	State	Reimbursement (in dollars)	Interest (in dollars)	Exchange difference (in dollars)
41	Rochac Hérnandez et al. v. El Salvador	El Salvador	4,134.29	0.00	0.00
42	Ruano Torres et al. v. El Salvador	El Salvador	4,555.62	0.00	0.00
43	Véliz Franco et al. v. Guatemala	Guatemala	2,117.99	0.00	0.00
44	Chinchilla Sandoval et al. v. Guatemala	Guatemala	993.35	0.00	0.00
45	Ramírez Escobar et al. v. Guatemala	Guatemala	2,082.79	0.00	0.00
46	Cuscul Pivaral et al. v. Guatemala	Guatemala	2,176.36	0.00	0.00
47	Villaseñor Velarde et al. v. Guatemala	Guatemala	4,688.10	0.00	0.00
48	Martínez Coronado v. Guatemala	Guatemala	280.00	0.00	0.00
49	Ruíz Fuentes v. Guatemala	Guatemala	1,943.20	0.00	0.00
50	Valenzuela Ávila v. Guatemala	Guatemala	1,620.53	0.00	0.00
51	Rodríguez Revolorio et al. v. Guatemala	Guatemala	1,943.20	0.00	0.00
52	Girón et al. v. Guatemala	Guatemala	1,271.54	0.00	0.00
53	Garífuna Community of Triunfo de la Cruz and its Members v. Honduras	Honduras	1,662.97	0.00	0.00
54	Garífuna Community of Punta Piedra and its Members v. Honduras	Honduras	8,528.06	0.00	0.00

No.	Case	State	Reimbursement (in dollars)	Interest (in dollars)	Exchange difference (in dollars)
55	Alvarado Espinoza et al. v. México	Mexico	5,444.40	226.32	0.00
56	Women Victims of Sexual Torture at Atenco v. Mexico	Mexico	4,214.09	0.00	0.00
57	Digna Ochoa and Family v. México	Mexico	715.15	0.00	12.67
58	Tzompaxtle Tecpile et al. v. México	Mexico	4,372.75	140.31	0.00
59	V.R.P. and V.P.C. et al. v. Nicaragua	Nicaragua	13,862.51	0.00	0.00
60	The Kuna Indigenous People of Madungandí and the Emberá Indigenous People of Bayano and their Members v. Panama	Panama	4,670.21	0.00	0.00
61	Ríos Ávalos et al. v. Paraguay	Paraguay	685.32	0.00	0.00
62	Osorio Rivera and Family v. Peru	Peru	3,306.86	0.00	0.00
63	J. v Peru	Peru	3,683.52	0.00	0.00
64	The Miguel Castro Castro Prison v. Peru	Peru	2,756.29	0.00	0.00
65	Espinoza Gonzáles v. Peru	Peru	1,972.59	0.00	0.00
66	Cruz Sánchez et al. v. Peru	Peru	1,685.36	0.00	0.00
67	Peasant Community of Santa Bárbara v. Peru	Peru	3,457.40	0.00	0.00
68	Canales Huapaya et al. v. Peru	Peru	15,655.09	0.00	0.00

No.	Case	State	Reimbursement (in dollars)	Interest (in dollars)	Exchange difference (in dollars)
69	Valdemir Quispialaya Vicalpoma v. Peru	Peru	1,673.00	0.00	0.00
70	Tenorio Roca et al. v. Peru	Peru	2,133.69	0.00	0.00
71	Tarazona Arrieta et al. v. Peru	Peru	2,030.89	0.00	0.00
72	Pollo Rivera et al. v. Peru	Peru	4,330.76	15.40	0.00
73	Zegarra Marín v. Peru	Peru	8,523.10	0.06	0.00
74	Lagos del Campo v. Peru	Peru	1,336.71	23.70	0.00
75	Dismissed Workers of Petroperú et al. v. Peru	Peru	3,762.54	18.01	0.00
76	Terrones Silva et al. v. Peru	Peru	5,095.99	0.12	0.00
77	Munárriz Escobar et al. v. Peru	Peru	1,100.76	0.72	0.00
78	Muelle Flores v. Peru	Peru	2,334.04	0.00	0.00
79	Azul Rojas Marín et al. v. Peru	Peru	886.23	0.00	0.00
80	Rosadio Villavicencio v. Peru	Peru	2,286.24	0.00	0.00
81	Casa Nina v. Peru	Peru	704.46	0.00	0.00
82	Olivera Fuentes v. Peru	Peru	5,560.07	0.00	0.00
83	Barrios Family v. Venezuela	Venezuela	3,232.16	0.00	0.00

	VICTIMS' LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND REIMBURSEMENTS TO THE FUND / ACCUMULATED TO DECEMBER 2023					
No.	Case	State	Reimbursement (in dollars)	Interest (in dollars)	Exchange difference (in dollars)	
84	Néstor José and Luis Uzcátegui et al. v. Venezuela	Venezuela	4,833.12	0.00	0.00	
85	Hermanos Landaeta Mejías et al. v. Venezuela	Venezuela	2,725.17	0.00	0.00	
86	Barrios Family v. Venezuela (Hearing on Monitoring Compliance)	Venezuela	1,326.33	0.00	0.00	
		SUBTOTAL	\$345,697.90	\$36,590.74	\$567.56	
	TOTAL RECOVERED (EXPENSES, INTEREST AND EXCHANGE DIFFERENCE) \$382,856.20					

The following table shows details of the 34 cases in which reimbursement to the Fund by the States remains pending:

ı	VICTIMS LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND DISBURSEMENTS, BY CASE, PENDING REIMBURSEMENT BY THE STATE ON DECEMBER 31, 2023				
Total	Total Number by Case		Amount	Date on which payment was ordered	
		ARGENTINA			
1	1	Gorigoitía v. Argentina	987.36	September 2, 2019	
2	2	* Torres Millacura et al. v. Argentina (Hearing on Monitoring Compliance)	6,094.88	November 21, 2023	
3	3	* María et al. v. Argentina	1,088.94	August 22, 2023	

Total	Number by State	Case Amount		Date on which payment was ordered
4	4	* López et al. v. Argentina (Hearing on Monitoring Compliance)	1,128.40	September 4, 2023
		TOTAL	9,299.58	
		BOLIVIA		
5	1	Flores Bedregal et al. v. Bolivia	6,641.79	October 17, 2022
		TOTAL	6,641.79	
		BRAZIL		
6	1	Airton Honorato et al. v. Brazil	7,006.58	Judgment in this case has not yet been delivered
7	2	Leite de Souza et al. v. Brazil	3,639.46	Judgment in this case has not yet been delivered
8	3	Dos Santos Nascimento et al. v. Brazil	3,810.02	Counsel requested by the Court
		TOTAL	14,456.06	
		COLOMBIA		
9	1	Matter of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó regarding Colombia	1,116.46	The order for reimbursement has not been issued
10	2	Members and Activists of the Patriotic Union v. Colombia	671.55	July 27, 2022
11	3	* Guzmán Medina et al. v. Colombia	4,312.54	August 23, 2023

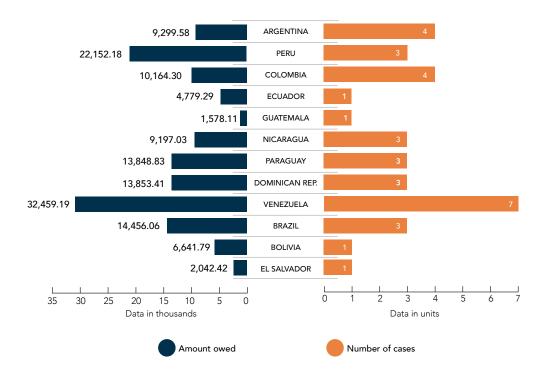
Total	Number by State	Case	Amount	Date on which payment was ordered
12	4	U´wa Indigenous Peoples and its Members v. Colombia	4,063.75	Judgment in this case has not yet been delivered
		TOTAL	10,164.30	
		ECUADOR		
13	1	Viteri Ungaretti et al. v. Ecuador	4779.29	November 27, 2023
		TOTAL	4,779.29	
		EL SALVADOR		
14	1	Beatriz et al. v. El Salvador	2042.42	Judgment in this case has not yet been delivered
		TOTAL	2,042.42	
		GUATEMALA		
15	1	Village of los Josefinos Massacre v. Guatemala	1,578.11	November 3, 2021
		TOTAL	1,578.11	
		NICARAGUA		
16	1	Acosta et al. v. Nicaragua	2,722.99	March 25, 2017
17	2	Roche Azaña et al. v. Nicaragua	3,188.10	June 3, 2020
18	3	Rama and Kriol Peoples, Community of Monkey Point and the Black Creole Indigenous Community of Bluefields and their members v. Nicaragua	3,285.94	Judgment in this case has not yet been delivered
		TOTAL	9,197.03	

Total	Number by State	Case	Amount	Date on which payment was ordered
		PARAGUAY		
19	1	Noguera et al. v. Paraguay	1,994.88	March 9, 2020
20	2	Nissen Pessolani v. Paraguay	5,269.12	November 21, 2022
21	3	* Córdoba v. Paraguay	6,584.83	September 5, 2023
		TOTAL	13,848.83	
		PERU		
22	1	Community of La Oroya v. Peru	7,862.20	November 27, 2023
23	2	Cajahuanca Vásquez v. Peru	3,563.51	November 27, 2023
24	3	Members of the Single Workers Unión of ECASA (SUTECASA) v. Peru	10,726.47	Judgment in this case has not yet been delivered
		TOTAL	22,152.18	
		DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		
25	1	Gonzáles Medina and Family v. Dominican Republic	2,219.48	February 27, 2012
26	2	Nadege Dorzema et al. v. Dominican Republic	5,972.21	October 24, 2012
27	3	Tide Méndez et al. v Dominican Republic	5,661.75	August 28, 2014
		TOTAL	13,853.44	

Total	Number by State	Case	Amount	Date on which payment was ordered
		VENEZUELA		
28	1	Ortiz Hernández et al. v. Venezuela	11,604.03	August 22, 2017
29	2	López Soto et al. v. Venezuela	7,310.33	September 26, 2018
30	3	Álvarez Ramos v. Venezuela	4,805.40	August 30, 2019
31	4	Díaz Loreto et al. v. Venezuela	3,476.97	November 19, 2019
32	5	Guerrero Molina et al. v. Venezuela	64.56	June 3, 2021
33	6	González et al. v. Venezuela	675.00	September 20, 2021
34	7	*Rodríguez Pacheco et al. v. Venezuela	4,522.90	September 1, 2023
		TOTAL	32,459.19	
		TOTAL AMOUNT	\$ 140,472.22	

<sup>\*</sup> Corresponds to cases that are within the deadline for reimbursement, granted to each country in the judgment.

### BALANCES PENDING REIMBURSEMENT TO THE VICTIMS' FUND US DOLLARS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

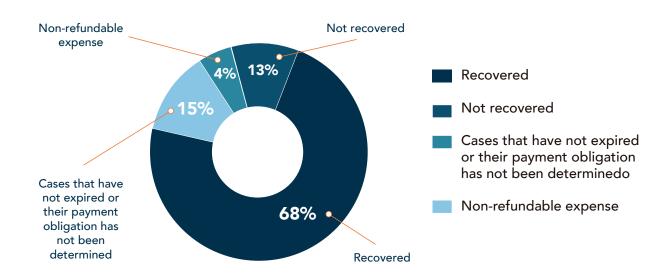


Finally, the following table provides details of the disbursements that States are not obliged to reimburse to the Fund according to the respective Judgments delivered by the Court:

	VICTIMS' LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND EXPENSES THAT DO NOT HAVE TO BE REIMBURSED TO THE FUND					
Case	Case	Reimbursement (in dollars)	Description			
1	Torres et al. v. Argentina	2,214.03	Item that does not have to be reimbursed			
2	Castillo González et al. v. Venezuela	2,956.95	Case not required to reimburse the Fund			
3	Miguel Castro Castro Prisoon v. Peru	1,445.15	Item that does not have to be reimbursed			
4	Arrom Suhurt et al. v Paraguay	1,360.25	Case not required to reimburse the Fund			
TOTAL EXPENSES US\$7,976.38						

The following table presents the current situation of the Victims' Legal Assistance Fund, as explained by the preceding tables, according to their headings, namely: Reimbursements made to the Fund accumulated on December 31, 2023; Disbursements, by case, pending reimbursement by each State on December 31, 2023, and Disbursements where the State is not required to reimburse the Fund.

### Current status of the FALV as of December 31, 2023 Total executed: US\$508,848.00



<sup>\*</sup> Non-reimbursable expenses are composed of non-reimbursable expenses in the amount of US\$7,976.38 and administrative and financial expenses in the amount of US\$14,879.60.

The Statement of Income and Expenses of December 31, 2023, is as shown below:

### **STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES**

January 01, 2010 to December 31, 2023

(In US\$)

#### **INCOME**

521,063.22	Contributions to the Fund:
345,697.90	Reimbursements by States:
36,590.74	Interest paid on arrears:
567.56	Income from differences in exchange:
8,655.20	Interest on bank accounts:
30,000.00	(**) Payment to the fund:
\$ 942,574.62	TOTAL INCOME:

#### **EXPENSES**

Disbursements to beneficiaries of the fund:	(485,992.02)
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Non-reimbursable (7,976.38)

expenses:

Financial and administrative expenses: (Audit, banking commission and exchange differential)

(14,879.60)

**TOTAL EXPENSES:** 

\$ (508,848.00)

**POSITIVE BALANCE TO DATE:** 433,726.62

Compensation not claimed by three victims, pursuant to paragraph 253 of the Judgment of September 01, 2016, in relation to the Case of Herrera Espinoza et al. v. Ecuador.

#### 3.4 Audit of Accounts

The financial statements of the Victims Legal Assistance Fund have been audited by the firm Venegas y Colegiados, Authorized Public Accountants, members of Nexia International. In this regard, the audited financial statements for the fiscal periods ending in December 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 have been favorably approved indicating that, in all important aspects, they present, income and available funds, in accordance with generally accepted accounting and auditing principles. During the first half of 2024, an external audit will be carried out on the financial statements of this fund for 2023.

### B. Inter-American Public Defender

The Court's Rules of Procedure, in force since January 1, 2010, introduced the concept of the Inter-American Public Defender. The aim of this mechanism is to guarantee access to inter-American justice by granting free legal assistance to alleged victims who lack financial resources or legal representation before the Court.

In order to implement the concept of the Inter-American Public Defender, in 2009 the Court signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (hereinafter, "AIDEF")<sup>198</sup>, which entered into force on January 1, 2010. Under the agreement, in cases in which the alleged victims lack financial resources and/or legal representation before the Court, the AIDEF will appoint an inter-American public defender belonging to said Association to assume their legal representation and defense throughout the entire proceedings. To this end, when an alleged victim does not have legal representation in a case and expresses his or her willingness to be represented by an Inter-American Public Defender, the Court will notify the General Coordinator of the Association, so that within a period of 10 days he or she may appoint the defender who will assume the legal representation and defense. In addition, the Court will notify the AIDEF member designated as an inter-American public defender, of the documentation relating to the submission of the case before the Court so that, from then on, he or she may assume the legal representation of the alleged victim before the Court throughout the entire proceedings.

As mentioned above, legal representation before the Inter-American Court by the person designated by the AIDEF is provided free of charge and only the expenses incurred by the defense will be covered. The Inter-American Court will contribute by paying, to the extent possible, the reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by the designated inter-American public defender through the Victims' Legal Assistance Fund. In addition, on June 7, 2013, the new "Unified Rules of Procedure for the actions of the AIDEF before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights" were approved by the AIDEF Board of Directors. To date, the AIDEF has provided legal assistance through this mechanism to a total of 39 cases:

CASES IN WHICH THE AIDEF HAS PROVIDED LEGAL ASSISTANCE				
1	Pacheco Tineo Family v. Bolivia;	21	González et al. v. Venezuela	
2	Furlan and Family v. Argentina;	22	Cordero Bernal v. Peru	
3	Mohamed v. Argentina;	23	Willer et al. v. Haiti	
4	Argüelles et al. v. Argentina;	24	Casierra Quiñonez et al. v. Ecuador	

<sup>198</sup> AIDEF is an organization composed of state institutions and associations of public defenders, whose objectives include, among others, providing the necessary assistance and representation to individuals and ensuring the rights of defendants to allow comprehensive defense and access to Justice, with due quality and excellence.

	CASES IN WHICH THE AIDEF HAS PROVIDED LEGAL ASSISTANCE				
5	Canales Huapaya et al. v Peru	25	Boleso v. Argentina		
6	Ruano Torres et al. v. El Salvador	26	Case of Cajahuanca Vásquez v. Peru		
7	Pollo Rivera et al. v. Peru	27	Case of the Members of the Single Workers u/ nion of Ecasa (SUTECASA) v. Peru		
8	Zegarra Marín v. Peru	28	Valencia Campos v. Bolivia		
9	Ortiz Hernández et al. v. Venezuela	29	Scot Cochran v. Costa Rica		
10	Poblete Vilches et al. v. Chile	30	Hidalgo et al. v. Ecuador		
11	V.R.P., V.P.C. et al. v. Nicaragua	31	Rodríguez Pacheco et al. v. Venezuela		
12	Amrhein et al. v. Costa Rica	32	Nissen Pessolani v. Paraguay		
13	Jenkins v. Argentina	33	Bravo Garvich et al.(Dismissed Workers of the Empresa Nacional de Puertos S.A./National Ports Company) v. Peru		
14	Girón et al. v. Guatemala	34	Revilla Soto v. Venezuela		
15	Martínez Coronado v. Guatemala	35	Bendezú Tuncar v. Peru		
16	Rodríguez Revolorio et al. v. Guatemala	36	Caso Baptiste et al. v. Haiti		
17	Villaseñor Velarde et al. v. Guatemala	37	Rodríguez Pacheco et al. v. Venezuela		
18	Muelle Flores v. Peru	38	Scott Cochran v. Costa Rica		
19	Cuya Lavy v. Peru	39	Hidalgo et al. v. Ecuador		
20	López et al. v. Argentina				

Additionally, on May 14, 2019, an Agreement of Understanding was signed between the Inter-American Court and the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (AIDEF) for the appointment of Inter-American defenders in the supervision stage of sentence compliance. This agreement allows the Court to request AIDEF's appointment of an Inter-American public defender to represent victims in cases where they do not have legal representation during the supervision stage of compliance, if the victims so wish.

As a result, starting in 2019, AIDEF has appointed Inter-American defenders for the first time in the supervision stage in the following cases:

- ▶ Case Heliodoro Portugal v. Panama
- ▶ Case Indigenous Community Sawhoyamaxa v. Paraguay
- ▶ Case Carpio Nicolle et al. v. Guatemala
- ▶ Case Flores Bedregal et al. v. Bolivia
- ▶ Case Blake v. Guatemala