FACTS AND NORMS
Research for Truth and Justice

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The Facts and Norms Newsletter

Editorial

Dear Reader,

In this new edition you will find coverage of renewed violence in Gaza following a two-month ceasefire, evolving crises in Haiti, the humanitarian catastrophe in Sudan, and recent turmoil in Syria. United Nations officials call for the protection of civilians, condemn rights violations, and underscore the urgent need for renewed negotiation and humanitarian access.

Multiple UN bodies, including the International Organization for Migration, highlight the critical impact of funding cuts on essential humanitarian programs. Reports of heightened vulnerability to trafficking—particularly for children—and increased concerns over gender-based violence and discrimination against persons with disabilities also feature prominently in this issue.

Updates from the International Court of Justice include new filings in contentious cases—particularly *Sudan v. UAE*—and additional developments in the advisory proceedings related to Palestine. Meanwhile, the International Criminal Court has commenced high-profile proceedings with the prosecution and arrest of former Filipino ruler Rodrigo Duterte over charges of crimes against humanity.

The Regional News section features detailed summaries of judgments by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. These decisions address topics ranging from forced disappearance, indigenous rights, and discrimination, to forced displacement and police misconduct. Highlights include the first Inter-American rulings with regards to indigenous peoples living in isolation, as well as the rights of Brazilian quilombola communities.

For readers interested in academic and professional growth, this edition offers a broad list of publication opportunities, scholarships, fellowships, internships, entry-level jobs, as well as mid-level and senior positions. We encourage readers to review these third-party opportunities with due diligence and seize any that match their aspirations.

Lastly, the Facts and Norms Institute shares two recent contributions: an *Amicus Curiae* brief submitted to the Inter-American Court in a forced sterilization case, and a report to the UN advocating for the integration of human rights principles into climate negotiation frameworks.

Welcome to our latest edition—and thank you for reading.

Professor Henrique Napoleão Alves
Chief Editor

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new developments in international law and human rights,

recent rulings by international courts and tribunals and...

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Universal News

UN News

GAZA CEASEFIRE COLLAPSES (20 Mar. 2025)

Senior UN official Khaled Khiari called for Israel and Hamas to restore the shattered ceasefire in Gaza.

* *UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe*. Khaled Khiari, Assistant Secretary-General for Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, briefs the Security Council.

Briefing ambassadors, Khiari reiterated the UN's unequivocal condemnation of the horrific attacks by Hamas on Israeli communities on 7 October 2023. More than 1,200 Israelis were brutally killed and over 250 taken hostage. "*Nothing can justify the intentional killing, torture, sexual violence, and destruction – entire families murdered, burned in their homes, taken hostage*," Mr. Khiari said.
Mr. Khiari equally reported on the worsening situation in Gaza following the collapse of the two-month ceasefire. Israeli airstrikes have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Palestinians, including women and children, he said, adding also that six UN staff members have been killed in the past three days. He recalled UN relief chief Tom Fletcher's briefing to the Council earlier this week,

> "*a renewed ceasefire is the best way of protecting civilians – in Gaza, in the occupied Palestinian territory and in Israel – releasing hostages and detainees and allowing aid and commercial supplies in.*"

UN MIGRATION AGENCY FORCED TO RESTRUCTURE AMIDST BUDGET CUTS (18 Mar. 2025)

The International Organization for Migration is undertaking "essential structural adjustments", in response to a substantial 30 per cent reduction in donor support for 2025 – including a significant decrease in projects funded by the United States. The adjustments involve scaling back or ending projects affecting over 6,000 staff members worldwide and implementing a structural realignment at headquarters, reducing staffing by approximately 20 per cent – or more than 250 staff.

* *IOM/A. Lemonnier*. An IOM member in Haiti assesses the needs of those displaced by violence.

The funding cuts have severe repercussions, exacerbating humanitarian crises and undermining support systems for displaced populations, the UN agency said in a statement.

INCREASE IN CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING (12 Mar. 2025)

Children make up almost four in ten victims of trafficking worldwide, but the true number of young victims is likely much higher, warned Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children. In a new report, Dr. Maalla M'jid stated that traffickers are quick to exploit technological advancements and prey on vulnerable individuals, particularly in emergency situations.
She emphasized that children—mainly girls—are increasingly at risk, as poverty, food insecurity, humanitarian crises, and conflict drive displacement and violence, which are among the main factors fueling illegal trafficking. "*Corruption, stigma, fear, and a lack of protection limit children's ability to report crimes and seek justice*," she told the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

* *UNICEF/Jim Holmes*. A mother whose daughter was trafficked at the age of sixteen covers her face to protect her identity.

'HAITI'S SURVIVAL IS AT STAKE,' SAYS UN EXPERT (11 Mar. 2025)

UN human rights expert William O'Neill warned that

Haiti is in freefall as gangs tighten their grip on Port-au-Prince and violence spreads across all social strata. Speaking at UN Headquarters in New York after his fourth on-ground visit, O'Neill described a nation overwhelmed by despair, with the Haitian National Police and the Multinational Security Support Mission struggling to stem the tide of gang control.

He shared harrowing testimonies, including that of a 16-year-old girl from Kenscoff who was brutally attacked by masked gunmen—raped alongside her stepmother and forced to witness her father's murder—and a 12-year-old boy forcibly recruited by gangs, now detained for alleged gang association. The escalating violence has displaced over a million people, with thousands more recently forced from their homes, igniting tensions between communities. O'Neill called for immediate political action to combat impunity and corruption, stressing that upholding the right to life and international human rights law is crucial. "*There is not a day to lose. There is no alternative*," he declared, emphasizing that Haiti's survival is at stake.

VIOLENCE IN SYRIA: 111 CONFIRMED DEAD, TOLL MAY REACH 1,000; IN PARALLEL, KURDISH ACCORD SPARKS HOPE (11 Mar. 2025)

Days of violence against Syria's mainly Alawite communities have included the summary execution of entire families. UN spokesperson Thameen Al-Kheetan in Geneva said 111 deaths have been confirmed so far, though media reports suggest the true toll could be closer to 1,000. Security forces allied with Syria's Caretaker Authorities allegedly targeted coastal communities—the former powerbase of ousted President Bashar Al Assad. Testimonies indicate attackers raided houses, asking residents whether they were Alawite or Sunni before killing or sparing them. "*Some survivors told us that many men were shot dead in front of their families*," he added. Hospitals were also targeted, with patients, doctors, and students among the casualties.

* *UNOCHA/Ali Haj Suleiman*. Hostilities have continued in northwestern Syria.

In parallel, the UN welcomed an agreement signed by the leadership of Syria's Caretaker Authorities and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Once a powerful part of the armed opposition that held a large area in northeastern Syria, the SDF will see its fighting units integrated into the national army, with Kurds recognized as integral to the State. The UN Special Envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, expressed hope that the deal will bolster support for a broader, credible, and inclusive political transition process.

WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES FACE CYBERBULLYING AND TECH BARRIERS (10 Mar. 2025)

The Human Rights Council heard calls for stronger state action against cyberbullying and unequal access to assistive technology for persons with disabilities—especially women and girls.
UN rights chief Volker Türk stressed that online spaces have become unsafe and criticized the international community for failing to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' promise of equality.
Türk noted that people with disabilities are globally discriminated against, with women and girls facing compounded bias. Special Rapporteur Heba Hagrass highlighted stalled progress on disability-related Sustainable Development Goals, warning that affected women and girls are at high risk of forced sterilization, domestic violence, and sexual exploitation.
Digital advocate Nikki Lilly, drawing from personal experience with cyberbullying, explained that while social media can serve as a lifeline, it also exposes vulnerable users to severe abuse. She urged social media platforms to involve persons with disabilities in technology development and implement faster content filtering to prevent widespread harm.

The debate also addressed assistive technology challenges: some devices are designed primarily for men, and only one in ten persons with disabilities has adequate access, according to WHO research.
Sanja Tarczay of the World Federation of the Deaf-Blind called on all stakeholders to invest in inclusive digital systems and policies, ensuring that persons with disabilities can fully participate in society.

'NAKED STRUGGLE FOR POWER' LEAVES CIVILIANS PAYING AN UNBEARABLE PRICE, UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF WARNS (3 Mar. 2025)

UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk addressed the Human Rights Council, warning that amidst 120 global conflicts—from Gaza and Ukraine to DR Congo, Sudan, Myanmar, Haiti, Yemen, and the West Bank—civilians are suffering as international norms and institutions crumble.
Legal safeguards for non-combatants are routinely ignored, with weapons, sexual violence, and famine being used as tools of war. In Gaza, constant bombardment jeopardizes lives, while in Ukraine, escalating attacks have increased civilian casualties by 30% since 2023, with systematic targeting of energy infrastructure and unlawful killings.

* *UNICEF/Mohammed Nateel*. A boy sits amongst the destruction of the Al-Touam neighbourhood in the northern Gaza Strip.

Türk condemned bomb attacks in Sudan and brutal assaults in DR Congo, where fighting by the M23 group has killed thousands and displaced over half a million people. In Myanmar, 2024 was the deadliest year for civilians since the 2021 coup, and in Haiti, rampant gang violence has left over 5,600 dead.
He also criticized Israel's unilateral actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and West Bank, citing attacks on refugee camps, illegal settlements, and the deprivation of humanitarian aid, as violations of international law.
Türk also warned against the unchecked power of unelected tech oligarchs who exploit personal data and manipulate public opinion, as well as the dangerous impact of simplistic, divisive electioneering tactics and misogynistic influencers that undermine gender equality.
He also called on all nations to apply pressure on conflicting parties, resume humanitarian aid, and pursue an inclusive, civilian-led political transition to restore human rights and uphold international law.

UN CALLS OUT GRAVE VIOLATIONS BY ERITREAN FORCES IN ETHIOPIA (27 Feb. 2025)

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ilze Brands Kehris reported credible evidence that Eritrean Defence Forces continue operating in Tigray, committing abductions, rape, property looting, and arbitrary arrests with impunity.
Ms. Brands Kehris warned that Eritrea's domestic judicial system is unlikely to hold perpetrators accountable, despite steps to improve healthcare for over one million newborns, children, and women and the recent ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
She also condemned the country's system of indefinite forced military conscription—associated with forced labor, torture, and sexual violence—and the collective punishment of draft deserters' families.
In response, Eritrea's Chargé d'Affaires to the UN in Geneva, Mr. Habtom Zerai Ghirmai, rejected the accusations as exaggerated and misleading.

SUDAN, "THE WORLD'S LARGEST HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE" (27 Feb. 2025)

More than 600,000 Sudanese "*are on the brink of starvation*", said UN rights chief Volker Türk. Famine is reported to have taken hold in five areas**,** including Zamzam displacement camp in North Darfur, where the World Food Programme has just been forced to suspend its lifesaving operations due to conflict.

* *UNOCHA/Yao Chen*. Displaced families at an IDP camp in Sudan's Gedaref state. More than 12 million people have been displaced due to the conflict in the country.

Presenting his annual report on the situation in Sudan, Mr. Türk noted that the armed conflict between rival militaries that erupted in April 2023 had generated "the world's largest humanitarian catastrophe".

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

45 STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO JOIN IN THE PALESTINE ADVISORY PROCEEDINGS (12 March 2025)

The ICJ has received 45 written statements from states and international organizations in the advisory proceedings concerning Israel's obligations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Court also authorized the late filing of a statement from the African Union.
Public hearings will open on April 28, 2025, at the Peace Palace in The Hague. A future press release will provide details regarding the hearing schedule and admission procedures.

The Peace Palace at the Hague, home of the International Court of Justice.

GUYANA REQUESTS PROVISIONAL MEASURES IN ARBITRAL AWARD CASE (*GUYANA V. VENEZUELA*) (7 March 2025)

Guyana has filed a request for provisional measures with the ICJ in its case against Venezuela concerning the 1899 Arbitral Award defining their land boundary.
Guyana's request comes in response to Venezuela's announcement of upcoming elections in the disputed Essequibo region, which Guyana argues violates its sovereignty and a previous ICJ order. Guyana requests that the Court prevent Venezuela from conducting elections in the disputed territory, taking actions to annex the territory, or otherwise altering the current situation.

SUDAN SUES UAE AND REQUESTS PROVISIONAL MEASURES (6 March 2025)

Sudan has filed an application with the ICJ against the United Arab Emirates, alleging violations of the Genocide Convention related to the Masalit group in Sudan, particularly in West Darfur. Sudan claims the UAE is complicit in genocide through its support of the Rapid Support Forces. Sudan has also requested provisional measures, asking the Court to order the UAE to prevent further acts of genocide and ensure that any groups under its influence do not commit such acts. The application and request for provisional measures are available on the Court's website.

JUDGE YUJI IWASAWA ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (3 March 2025)

Judge Yuji Iwasawa has been elected President of the ICJ, following the resignation of Judge Nawaf Salam. President Iwasawa's term will run until February 2027.

WikiImages, 2018. Judge Yuji Iwasawa, President of the ICJ.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

FORMER PHILIPPINE RULER DUTERTE IS ARRESTED AND PROSECUTED BY THE ICC (14 Mar. 2025)

Former ruler of the Philippines, Mr. Rodrigo Roa Duterte appeared before Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court. Suspected of the crime against humanity of murder, Mr Duterte's identity was verified, and he was informed of the alleged crimes and his rights under the Rome Statute.
The Chamber has provisionally scheduled a confirmation of charges hearing to begin on 23 September 2025, to assess whether there is sufficient evidence to proceed. If charges are confirmed, the case will be transferred to a Trial Chamber.
Background: On 10 February 2025, the ICC

Prosecutor sought an arrest warrant against Mr Duterte for crimes against humanity including murder, torture, and rape. The Chamber found reasonable grounds to believe that Mr Duterte is an indirect co-perpetrator of murder. A "Secret" arrest warrant was issued on 7 March 2025, reclassified as "Public" on 11 March 2025, and Mr Duterte was surrendered to the ICC on 12 March 2025 following his arrest by Philippine authorities. He is now in ICC custody.

ICC PROSECUTOR CONCLUDES DRC VISIT, PLEDGES ACCELERATED JUSTICE EFFORTS (27 Feb. 2025)

On 27 February 2025, ICC Prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan KC concluded his second mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), held from 24–26 February 2025. Emphasizing his Office's commitment to delivering justice and accountability—especially in the eastern DRC—he underscored that no armed group or forces can act with impunity, reaffirming that every life in the DRC matters equally.

During his visit, Prosecutor Khan met with President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, who pledged to convene an international conference in April in Kinshasa for a holistic justice solution. Khan also engaged with judicial partners, including high-ranking officials from the Cassation Court, FARDC, and the High Military Court, to strengthen cooperation and public trust in the justice process. He listened to the testimonies of sexual violence victims and discussed accountability for gender-based crimes and enhanced protections for persons with disabilities with Minister Irène Esambo.
In dialogues with NGOs and civil society, he reiterated support through thematic roundtables and guidance materials.

Regional News

ACHPR EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN (11 Mar. 2025)

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) has expressed deep concern over South Sudan's deteriorating human rights landscape.
Escalating violence and political instability—especially in Upper Nile State and Nasir County—have resulted in armed conflicts, arbitrary detentions, and even attacks on UN aircraft.

UNMISS/Nektarios Markogiannis. A family finds refuge at a former UNMISS base in southwestern South Sudan.

The Commission calls on the South Sudanese government and all parties involved in the Revitalized Agreement (R-ARCSS) to immediately cease hostilities, initiate inclusive dialogue, protect civilians, accelerate transitional reforms, and uphold their obligations under the African Charter. Additionally, the ACHPR urges the international community to bolster peacebuilding efforts and support the full implementation of the R-ARCSS.

ECOWAS CONVERGENCE COUNCIL DISCUSSES SINGLE CURRENCY "ECO" AMIDST GLOBAL ECONOMIC CHALLENGES (04 Mar. 2025)

At the 11th ECOWAS Convergence Council meeting on March 3, 2025, discussions focused on implementing the roadmap for the ECO single currency and furthering regional economic integration. Nigeria's Minister of Finance, Adebayo Olawale Edun, advocated for the single currency to enhance economic integration.
ECOWAS Commission President Dr. Omar Alieu Touray stressed the importance of coordinated fiscal and monetary policies to overcome global economic challenges, reaffirming the region's commitment to the ECO project despite current obstacles.

ECOWAS/CEDEAO. 11th meeting of the ECOWAS Convergence Council.

ECOWAS-UNOWAS HIGH-LEVEL MISSION TO GUINEA-BISSAU DEPARTS AMIDST TENSIONS (02 Mar. 2025)

A joint high-level political mission by ECOWAS and UNOWAS set out from Bissau on March 1, 2025, to develop a roadmap for inclusive and peaceful elections in Guinea-Bissau. The mission, led by ECOWAS Commission President Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, engaged with various stakeholders, including President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, to draft an election roadmap agreement.

AFRICAN COURT REOPENS PLEADINGS IN TANZANIA ELECTION CASE (28 Feb. 2025)

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) has reopened pleadings in the case of *Ado Shaibu and Others v. United Republic of Tanzania* (Application No. 046/2020), which concerns alleged electoral malpractices and human rights violations during the 2020 general elections. Recognizing the complexity and potential impact of the case, the Court has allowed the applicants to file additional written submissions. Furthermore, it has granted a request by the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights (RFK) and the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) to participate as *amici curiae*. The respondent state now has 30 days to respond to the submissions.

ACHPR CONDEMNS ASSASSINATION OF MUSICIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER IN DRC (26 Feb 2025)

The ACHPR has strongly condemned the assassination of Mr. Delphin Katembo Vinywasiki, also known as Delcat Idengo, a musician and human rights defender, along with several other young individuals in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo. The Commission calls on Congolese authorities to launch a swift, independent investigation into the killings, which constitute a grave violation of the right to life under Article 4 of the African Charter. The ACHPR reaffirms that defending human rights is not a crime.

ACHPR URGES RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL ON NATIONALITY AND STATELESSNESS ON FIRST ANNIVERSARY (17 Feb. 2025)

Marking the first anniversary of the adoption of the *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on Specific Aspects of the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa*, the ACHPR expressed its disappointment over the insufficient number of ratifications.
The Commission highlighted ongoing issues such as politically motivated nationality forfeitures, inadequate birth registration, and discriminatory laws. It called on States Parties to expedite ratification efforts and collaborate with the AU Commission, UNHCR, and civil society to advance African Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

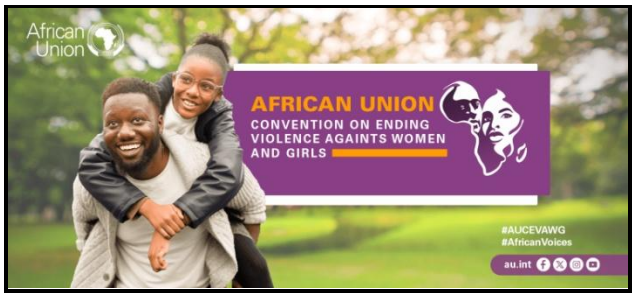
ACHPR WELCOMES ACTION IN FAVOR OF CHILDREN WITH ALBINISM (17 Feb. 2025)

The ACHPR commends Malagasy authorities for dismantling a network of abductors targeting children with albinism but expresses concern over ongoing threats due to harmful traditional practices.
The Commission highlights the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which protects persons with albinism. It urges Madagascar and other Member States to ratify and implement the Protocol to ensure better protection for this vulnerable group.

UNICEF. Celebrating international Albinism Awareness Day June 13, 2022 in Tolagnaro (South East Madagascar).

ACHPR WELCOMES ADOPTION OF AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (17 Feb. 2025)

The ACHPR celebrated the historic adoption of the *African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls* during the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.



The Commission stressed the need for prompt ratification and comprehensive implementation to transform these commitments into effective legal protections and frameworks, building on the foundation of the Maputo Protocol.

Americas

INTER-AMERICAN COURT RULES ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN VOLUNTARY ISOLATION FOR THE FIRST TIME (*TAGAERI AND TAROMENANE PEOPLES V. ECUADOR*) (13 Mar. 2025)

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights held Ecuador internationally responsible for multiple human rights violations against members of the Tagaeri and Taromenane peoples—and other indigenous groups in voluntary isolation (PIAV)—residing in Ecuador's western Amazon. This is the first case in which the Court examined the unique protection needs of PIAV.

In 1999 the Ecuadorian government established the Intangible Zone Tagaeri Taromenane (ZITT) as a permanently protected conservation area, later defined in 2007 with a 10-km buffer zone limiting economic activities.

Although the ZITT is rich in oil—with exploitation concentrated in Blocks 31 and 43 and the Armadillo Field—the state's measures have been inconsistent. In Blocks 31 and 43, a 2007 moratorium failed and subsequent national interest declarations led to oil exploitation by a public enterprise, though a 2023 popular consultation indefinitely preserved Block 43's subsoil. Meanwhile, in the Armadillo Field, despite evidence of PIAV presence, a private company proceeded with oil prospecting outside the defined zones.

The case also covers three violent incidents (in 2003, 2006, and 2013) in which PIAV were attacked by third parties or members of other indigenous groups. In the 2013 incident, two sisters—approximately 6 and 2 years old—were abducted by attackers and placed with Waorani families, leading to their separation.

CIDH | Daniel Cima. Indigenous activist Alicia Cahuiya during a hearing of the Tagaeri and Taromenane Peoples Case before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2015.

The Court found Ecuador responsible for violating the rights to collective property, self-determination, and non-discrimination (Articles 21.1, 24, and 26, in relation to 1.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights). The Court determined that the ZITT's delimitation did not fully accommodate the nomadic patterns of the PIAV, and the State's actions regarding oil exploitation, including the "national interest" declarations, failed to adequately uphold the "no contact" principle. The Court emphasized the insufficient application of the precautionary principle, which requires action to prevent potential harm even in the absence of complete scientific certainty.

The Court also found violations of the rights to a dignified life, health, food, cultural identity, a healthy environment, and housing (Article 26, in relation to 1.1), underscoring the interconnectedness of these rights for PIAV, whose survival is inextricably linked to their territory and traditional way of life. The State's failure to adequately protect the territory from incursions and extractive activities directly impacted these rights.

The Court also found a violation of the right to life (Article 4.1, in relation to 1.1) concerning the 2013 violent incident, holding that the State had

knowledge of the risk but failed to take reasonable preventive measures.
Regarding the two abducted girls, C. and D., the Court found violations of their rights to personal integrity, liberty, dignity, family protection, the rights of the child, identity, freedom of movement, cultural identity, and health (Articles 5.1, 7.1, 11.2, 17.1, 19, 22.1, and 26, in relation to 1.1). The State failed to prevent their forced separation, did not adequately consider their views, and potentially violated their right to informed consent regarding medical procedures. The Court also determined violations of judicial guarantees and protection (Articles 8.1 and 25.1, in relation to 1.1 and 2) due to the lack of effective remedies to protect PIAV territory, inadequate investigations into the 2003 and 2006 violence, and the girls' lack of participation in the judicial process. The State had acknowledged some facts and responsibility, but only partially, related to a lack of due diligence in the criminal procedures of 2003 y 2006.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Court's headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The Court ordered a comprehensive set of reparations. These included continuing and reopening investigations into the 2003 and 2006 violence, establishing a mechanism for future delimitations of the ZITT (with civil society and indigenous community input), and strengthening measures to protect the ZITT's intangibility. The Court also mandated specific measures for C. and D., including culturally appropriate medical and psychological care (if they consent), a process to facilitate their potential reunion, and a dialogue to determine how to best implement prior internal reparation orders.
Guarantees of non-repetition include stricter regulations on extractive projects near PIAV territories, enhanced environmental protection measures, and the creation of an effective judicial remedy for PIAV rights claims. The State was also ordered to implement training programs for officials on the rights of PIAV. The Court also ordered an expert report to help to define culturally appropriate reparations to C. and D.

Individual Concurring and Dissenting Opinions
The individual opinions of the judges revealed important nuances. Judge Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot, in a concurring opinion, highlighted the groundbreaking nature of the judgment and the need for a flexible approach to state obligations, adapting traditional standards to the unique vulnerabilities of PIAV. He also suggested a "right to habitat" concept. Judge Gómez, also concurring, emphasized the broader historical context of colonization and indigenous resistance. Judges Sierra Porto and Pérez Goldberg dissented, in part, fundamentally challenging the majority's use of circumstantial evidence of other indigenous groups to establish the violation, its application of the precautionary principle, and the transformation of obligations of due diligence into obligations of result. They maintained that the State had taken reasonable measures given the inherent challenges. Judge Hernández López also partially dissented, also questioning the evidence used to establish the violation of several rights.

INTER-AMERICAN COURT RULES ON THE RIGHTS OF THE QUILOMBOLA COMMUNITIES OF ALCÂNTARA, BRAZIL (13 Mar. 2025)

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights concluded its judgment of the *Case of the Quilombola Communities of Alcântara v. Brazil*. These communities, of indigenous and Afro-descendant origin with deep historical roots in resisting slavery, reside in Alcântara, Maranhão. The case centered on the impact of the Alcântara Launch Center (CLA), a military and space launch facility, on their territories and way of life.

CIDH. Danilo Serejo, Quilombola and human rights defender, during the hearings of the case in 2019, during the pre-judicial phase before the Inter-American Commission.

The Court acknowledged the Quilombolas as tribal peoples under international law, emphasizing their unique connection to their territory.
This territory is vital for their cultural identity, social structures, economic systems, and traditional practices.
The judgment detailed how, beginning in the 1980s during a military dictatorship, Brazil initiated the construction of the CLA on Quilombola lands. A large portion of the territory was declared of "public utility" and expropriated. Thirty-one communities were forcibly relocated to "agrovillages," often far from the coast, disrupting their access to essential resources such as fishing, and fracturing their social fabric. Critically, the Court found that these communities were not properly consulted or informed about the CLA's establishment, expansion, or subsequent international agreements related to its use.
Further exacerbating the situation, the CLA's operations imposed restrictions on the Quilombolas' movement and access to crucial areas, including fishing grounds and sacred sites. Despite a constitutional obligation to grant collective land titles to Quilombola communities, the State had previously failed to do so.
While an agreement was reached on September 19, 2024, between the State and representatives of the Quilombola communities, in which the State committed to demarcate, title, and regularize 78,105 hectares, the Court still ruled on all presented controversies.

Corte IDH TV. Public hearings of the case before the IA Court (sessioned in Chile, 2023).

The Court's judgment found Brazil responsible for multiple human rights violations. These included the violation of the right to collective property, by failing to secure the Quilombola territory, issuing individual titles instead of a collective one, and restricting the use of their lands. The right to prior, free, and informed consultation was violated due to the lack of meaningful engagement with the communities regarding decisions affecting them.
The rights to judicial guarantees and judicial protection were also violated, owing to the long delays and ineffectiveness of the land titling process.
The also Court determined that the State's actions and omissions negatively impacted the communities' collective way of life, causing suffering and anguish, thereby violating rights to a dignified life, personal integrity, liberty, protection of honor and dignity, equality before the law, and access to justice.
Additionally, the resettlement and associated restrictions negatively impacted the rights to adequate food, housing, participation in cultural life, and education. The Court also found a violation of the right to equality and non-discrimination, highlighting the context of structural racism faced by the Quilombola communities.
The Court ordered a comprehensive set of reparations. These include the obligation for Brazil to delimit, demarcate, and issue a collective title for 78,105 hectares within three years, establishing a permanent dialogue table between the communities and the CLA, ensuring future consultations, publishing the judgment widely, issuing a public apology, and paying US$4,000,000 in collective compensation for material and non-material damages, alongside USD $40,000 for costs and expenses.

Corte IDH TV. Judge Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique of the IACtHR.

The Court's analysis of preliminary objections was significant. While partially upholding the *ratione temporis* objection (limiting jurisdiction to acts after Brazil recognized the Court's authority), it firmly rejected the *ratione materiae* objection, reiterating its competence to review alleged violations of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights under Article 26 of the American Convention.

The judgment contains dissenting opinions. Judges Sierra Porto and Pérez Goldberg disagreed with the finding of violations under Article 26 and the scope of the consultation obligation. Judges Ferrer Mac-Gregor and Pérez Manrique, along with Judge Gómez in a separate opinion, dissented partially, advocating for a more explicit recognition of the continuous nature of the forced displacement and a stronger affirmation of the autonomous right to a collective life project.

INTER-AMERICAN COURT HOLDS BRAZIL ACCOUNTABLE FOR FORCED DISAPPEARANCE OF RURAL WORKER AND RIGHTS DEFENDER (11 Mar. 2025)

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) has declared Brazil internationally responsible in the case *Muniz da Silva and others v. Brazil* for the forced disappearance of Almir Muniz da Silva, a rural worker and human rights defender in Paraíba.

Corte IDH TV. Norberto Muniz da Silva, brother of the late Almir Muniz da Silva.

Almir, a member of the Rural Workers Association of the Community Land of Mendonça, had accused a civil police officer of threatening rural workers in 2001. He was last seen on June 29, 2002, while returning home after leaving two relatives in Itabaiana, and the complaint was filed in João Pessoa on July 1, 2002. The investigation, hampered by insufficient resources, concluded in 2008 without gathering enough evidence, although it indicated a high probability of a crime against the rural worker.
A Parliamentary Commission for the Investigation of Executions in the Northeast, which issued its final report in 2005, also implicated the officer for his links with private militias and agrarian violence.
The Court criticized Brazil's failure to conduct due diligence in investigating the disappearance and searching for the victim. The judgment highlighted the context of militia activity and violence against rural workers at the time.
The State has acknowledged partial responsibility for judicial and protection failures affecting the victim's family.
Ordered reparations include restarting the criminal investigation, issuing a public apology, enacting legal reforms to criminalize forced disappearances, establishing a search protocol for disappeared persons, improving protection mechanisms for human rights defenders, and preparing a diagnostic report on the situation of human rights defenders amidst rural conflicts.
In their partially dissenting opinion, Judges Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot and Ricardo C. Pérez Manrique emphasized the critical need to recognize a "right to a life project" as an autonomous human right. They argued that the forced disappearance not only violated established rights such as the right to life and personal integrity but also profoundly disrupted the victim's and his family's ability to shape and pursue their life goals. According to the judges, this right encompasses more than economic compensation; it demands that the State ensure conditions that allow individuals, especially those from vulnerable communities, to fully develop their personal projects and maintain their dignity.

NICARAGUA FAILED TO INVESTIGATE SUSPECTED FEMINICIDE (04 Mar. 2025)

In *Carrión González et al. v. Nicaragua*, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights held Nicaragua internationally responsible for failing to investigate the death of Dina Alexandra Carrión González—an incident with indications of femicide.

Corte IDH TV. Aída Carrión, sister of the late Dina Alexandra Carrión González.

Dina Alexandra Carrión González was married to JCSS, with whom she had a relationship marked by violence. At the time of the events, although the

couple's relationship had ended and divorce proceedings had begun, Dina Alexandra continued to share the family home with JCSS. On the night of April 3, 2010, Dina Alexandra Carrión González was found dead in the backyard of her home with a gunshot wound to the chest.
The Court noted shortcomings not only in the investigation of the death but also in procedures related to contact between Dina Alexandra's son and his maternal grandparents, as well as in investigating threats against one of her sisters. Irregularities in evidence collection and evaluation were also highlighted.
The Court ordered a series of reparations, including reinvestigating the death and associated threats, publishing the judgment, mandating training for justice operators on investigating femicides, establishing a gender violence observatory, reintroducing reporting mechanisms, creating victim shelters, adopting specialized investigation protocols, redefining legal definitions of femicide, limiting mediation in cases of violence against women, and expediting processes for affected children.

Corte IDH TV. Neusa dos Santos Nascimento in her testimony before the Inter-American Court in 2023.

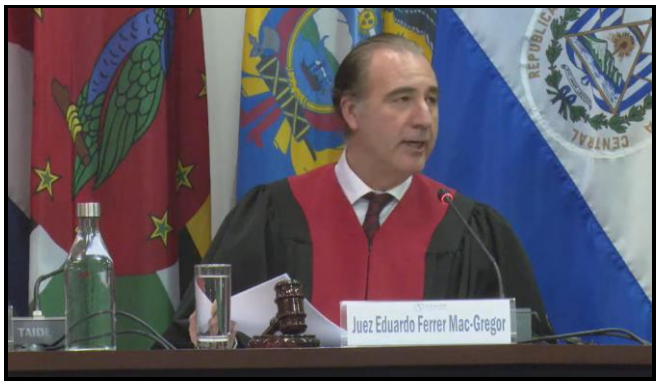
INTER-AMERICAN COURT HOLDS BRAZIL RESPONSIBLE FOR RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND DENIAL OF JUSTICE IN EMPLOYMENT CASE (DOS SANTOS NASCIMENTO AND FERREIRA GOMES V. BRAZIL) (20 Feb. 2025)

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights found Brazil internationally responsible for human rights violations against Neusa dos Santos Nascimento and Gisele Ana Ferreira Gomes, two Afro-Brazilian women who experienced racial discrimination in a 1998 job application process and were subsequently denied effective judicial recourse.
The case stems from March 1998, when Dos Santos Nascimento and Ferreira Gomes applied for a job at a health insurance company in São Paulo. A recruiter, M.T., refused to interview them or provide application forms, claiming all positions were filled. However, the women observed other, white, candidates being admitted. I.C.L., a white friend of the victims, applied later that same day, was interviewed by M.T., and immediately hired. She was told there were many vacancies and to refer "more people like her."
Dos Santos Nascimento and Ferreira Gomes filed a criminal complaint against M.T. in March 1998, alleging racial discrimination. The investigation began in August 1998. The Public Prosecutor's Office filed a formal accusation in November 1998. In October 1999, M.T. was acquitted due to insufficient evidence. The victims appealed in November 1999. In August 2004, the Court of Justice of São Paulo overturned the acquittal, convicting M.T. but also declaring the statute of limitations had expired, despite the Brazilian Constitution deeming racism imprescriptible. The Public Prosecutor's Office successfully appealed the statute of limitations decision, and the conviction was reinstated in September 2005, becoming final in June 2006. An arrest warrant was issued in October 2006. M.T. filed a habeas corpus petition, initially rejected, but later granted by the Superior Court of Justice, allowing him to serve his sentence under an open regime. In 2009, a criminal review action overturned the conviction, acquitting M.T. based on insufficient evidence. M.T. passed away in 2020.

Corte IDH TV. Gisele Ana Ferreira Gomes in her testimony before the Inter-American Court in 2023.

The Court found that the State failed to conduct a diligent investigation, exhibiting flaws in evidence gathering and assessment. Authorities downplayed the victims' claims and the testimony of I.C.L., a key witness. The Public Prosecutor's Office didn't appeal the initial acquittal, and judicial decisions

displayed inertia and errors, including the wrongful application of the statute of limitations. The Court also determined that the State's actions and omissions reproduced structural racism.
The Court concluded that Brazil violated the rights to judicial guarantees, equality before the law, and judicial protection (Articles 8.1, 24, and 25.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights), in relation to the obligation to respect and guarantee rights without discrimination (Article 1.1) and the right to work (Article 26), to the detriment of Dos Santos Nascimento and Ferreira Gomes. Brazil's failure to adequately investigate and prosecute the racial discrimination, along with the institutional racism displayed in the judicial process, led to revictimization and impacted their project of life. Consequently, the Court also found a violation of the rights to a dignified life, personal integrity, liberty, protection of honor and dignity, equality before the law, and access to justice (Articles 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 24 and 25, in relation to 1.1 and 26).



Corte IDH TV. Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor during the public hearings of the case in 2023.

The Court ordered reparations including: providing psychological and/or psychiatric treatment to the victims if they so requested; publication of the judgment; a public act of acknowledgment of international responsibility and apology; adoption of investigation protocols in the state of São Paulo for cases of alleged racial discrimination; the inclusion of specific content on direct and indirect racial discrimination in the curriculum of the Judiciary and the Public Prosecutor's Office of the state of São Paulo; adoption of measures so that members of the Judiciary notify the Public Labor Prosecutor's Office of alleged acts of racial discrimination in the workplace; design and implementation of a system for gathering data and figures on investigations, complaints, absolutions, convictions, and dismissal of judicial proceedings in the state of São Paulo; the adoption of measures necessary to ensure that companies are encouraged and guided to implement measures to prevent discrimination within their personnel recruitment processes; and payment for material and non-material damages, costs, and expenses.
Brazil partially acknowledged responsibility, accepting violations of Articles 8.1 and 25.1, but not Articles 24 and 26. The Court considered that the controversy persisted regarding the remaining facts and alleged violations, except for the lack of a reasonable time in the appeal and the undue application of the statute of limitations.

Individual Concurring and Dissenting Opinions
Judge Nancy Hernández López concurred with the majority's decision but wrote separately to emphasize that the Inter-American Court's jurisprudence has consistently treated "damage to the project of life" as an aspect linked primarily to reparations, rather than as an autonomous human right. She argued that the Court's analysis of "project of life" has focused on its impact on victims' realization and personal development, but always within the context of determining appropriate remedies. Her concurring vote reflects agreement on the outcome but a difference in legal reasoning regarding the nature of the "project of life" concept.

Corte IDH TV. Judge Nancy Hernández López during the public hearings of the case in 2023.

Judge Humberto A. Sierra Porto dissented from the majority's dismissal of the preliminary objections concerning the Court's ratione temporis and ratione materiae competence, and from the finding of a violation of Article 26 (right to work). He reiterated his position that the Court lacks jurisdiction to directly adjudicate violations of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights (ESCR) based solely on Article 26. He argued that the Court's expansive interpretation of its competence in ESCR

cases undermines the principle of non-retroactivity of treaties, alters the nature of the obligation of progressive realization, disregards the will of the states as expressed in the Protocol of San Salvador, and erodes the Court's legitimacy. He highlighted that the events constituting the alleged violation of the right to work occurred before Brazil recognized the Court's contentious jurisdiction. He also found the Court's analysis lacking in rigor, failing to adequately connect the Article 26 violation to specific facts within its temporal jurisdiction.

WikiImages. Judge Humberto A. Sierra Porto.

Judge Ricardo Pérez Manrique dissented from the majority's failure to explicitly declare the violation of the "right to a project of life" as an autonomous human right. He argued that the Court's jurisprudence, starting with the *Loayza Tamayo* case, has recognized the "project of life" as encompassing an individual's aspirations and opportunities for personal, familial, and professional development. He stressed that this right is deeply connected to human dignity and freedom, and that its violation should be recognized independently of other rights violations. He emphasized that the Court's ruling should have explicitly acknowledged the autonomous nature of this right, given its fundamental importance for personal fulfillment. He also drew attention to the "intersectional" nature of the discrimination.
Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot concurred with the majority in finding Brazil responsible, but dissented in part, arguing that the Court should have explicitly recognized the "right to a project of life" as an autonomous human right. He built on the reasoning of previous concurring opinions and emphasized the close connection of the right to life with the right to construct a project of life. He highlighted the Court's growing jurisprudence acknowledging the "project of life" and argued it was time to fully recognize its autonomous nature.
Judge Patricia Pérez Goldberg concurred with the majority's finding of Brazil's responsibility for violations of judicial guarantees, equality, and judicial protection, as well as the impact on the victims' project of life.
She differed with the majority, however, on several key points, including: she maintains, in line with her past individual votes, her position regarding the lack of competence of the Court to pronounce itself on autonomous violations of Article 26 of the Convention; she found that the Court lacked competence *ratione temporis* (due to the timing of Brazil's acceptance of jurisdiction) to address the underlying discriminatory act in the hiring process itself.
Finally, she dissented regarding the need for the Court to have ordered, without a violation of art. 2, normative changes as reparations.

Corte IDH TV. Judge Patrícia Pérez Goldberg during the public hearings of the case in 2023.

Judge Verónica Gómez agreed with the majority's finding of responsibility but offered additional reflections.
She emphasized the importance of the Inter-American procedural rules in ensuring access to justice, particularly the opportunity for victims to present their cases directly before the Court, which requires that both the Commission and the Court should, in the design and implementation of their procedures, adopt all measures, including those that seem merely formal, to allow all voices to be heard. She partially dissented from the failure to explicitly recognize the violation of the right to a "project of life" as an autonomous right, consistent with her own past separate opinions and the views expressed by other judges.

BRAZIL HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR FAILING TO

INVESTIGATE THE DEATH OF A RURAL WORKER (18 Feb. 2025)

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights issued a judgment in the case of *Da Silva et al. v. Brazil*, declaring Brazil internationally responsible for the lack of due diligence and the violation of the guarantee of a reasonable time in the criminal proceedings initiated following the homicide of Manoel Luiz da Silva.

Corte IDH TV. Manoel Adelino de Lima, son of the late Manoel Luiz da Silva.

The Court also found violations of the rights to truth and personal integrity of his family members. Consequently, it declared violations of the rights to personal integrity, judicial guarantees, and judicial protection, as enshrined in Articles 5.1, 8.1, 13.1, and 25.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights, in relation to Article 1.1, to the detriment of Manoel Luiz da Silva's family members.

The case centers on the 1997 murder of Manoel Luiz da Silva, a rural worker and member of the Landless Workers' Movement (MST), in the state of Paraíba, Brazil. The investigation and subsequent criminal proceedings against two private security guards were marred by significant delays and failures to pursue crucial lines of inquiry, ultimately leading to their acquittal and impunity for the crime. The events occurred within a broader context of violence against rural workers and land rights defenders in Paraíba.

The Court found that, after Brazil's recognition of the Court's contentious jurisdiction on December 10, 1998, there was a persistent lack of due diligence throughout the criminal proceedings. This was evidenced by several key failures, including: the failure to consider other lines of investigation, including the possible involvement of state agents; the lack of efforts to identify and locate a third suspect who was allegedly the one who shot; the failure to investigate potential intellectual authorship; the absence of a confrontation between witnesses and the accused; the omission of a crime scene reconstruction; the failure to conduct forensic analysis on weapons and ammunition found near the scene; the absence of requests to complete the autopsy; the lack of statements from the police officers who first arrived at the scene, during criminal proceedings; various procedural errors that resulted in annulments; the failure to provide protection to eyewitnesses, and ignoring the context of violence against rural workers.

Regarding the right to truth (Articles 8.1, 13.1 and 25.1 of the American Convention), the Court emphasized that this right encompasses not only the family's interest but also society's, facilitating the prevention of future violations. The absolute impunity in this case, caused by the state's investigative failures, violated this right, especially given the context of violence against rural workers.

Brazil made a partial acknowledgment of responsibility during the proceedings, accepting fault for the violation of judicial guarantees and protection due to the "lack of speed in the processing of the criminal action" (violation of the guarantee of reasonable time) and for the violation of the family members' right to personal integrity due to the suffering caused by delays in the proceedings. The Court accepted this partial acknowledgment.

Corte IDH TV. Inter-American Court in session, case *Da Silva et al. v. Brazil*.

The Court ordered a comprehensive set of reparations. While it determined that reopening the criminal investigation was not appropriate, it ordered that the state should provide medical and psychological/psychiatric treatment to the victims; publish the judgment and a video of the ruling in official outlets and social media; hold a public act of acknowledgment of international responsibility and apologize; design and implement a regional system, specific to the state of Paraíba, to collect data and figures linked to cases of violence against rural

workers; and pay compensation for material and non-material damages, as well as for costs and expenses. The compensation awarded was complementary to any internal reparations already provided.

INTER-AMERICAN COURT RULES ON THE RIGHTS OF DETAINED ADOLESCENTS IN CHILE (18 Feb. 2025)

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights held Chile internationally responsible for human rights violations against adolescents detained in centers administered by the National Service for Minors (SENAME). The case involves two primary sets of circumstances: the death of ten adolescents in a fire at the "Tiempo de Crecer" Provisional Internment Center in Puerto Montt on October 21, 2007, and the inadequate detention conditions in that center and three others (Lihuén, Antuhue, and San Bernardo) affecting 271 adolescents.

The Court found that the fire, which resulted in the deaths of ten adolescents, was caused by institutional inaction and failures, specifically the lack of adequate fire prevention measures and a deficient response during the incident. The state had a special duty of care towards the detained adolescents, and its failure to take preventative measures and respond appropriately violated their rights to life, personal integrity, and the rights of the child, recognized, respectively, in Articles 4.1, 5.1, and 19 of the American Convention, in relation to Article 1.1.

Corte IDH TV. Hearings of the SENAME Case (itinerant session of the Court in Brazil, 2024).

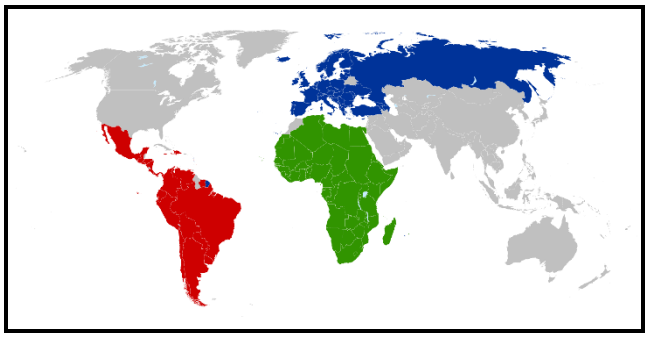
Regarding the conditions of detention in the four centers, the Court found that the adolescents were subjected to inhumane conditions, including overcrowding (specifically acknowledged by Chile in the San Bernardo center), inadequate sanitation, insufficient hygiene, lack of separation based on age, gender, and legal status (processed vs. convicted), and the use of isolation cells. These conditions violated the adolescents' rights to personal integrity, life, health, water, sanitation, education, recreation, and the rights of the child, recognized, respectively, in Articles 5, 4, 26, and 19 of the Convention, in relation to 1.1. The Court emphasized that the deprivation of liberty for adolescents should be a measure of last resort, with a focus on rehabilitation and social reintegration, and that conditions of detention must not inflict additional suffering beyond the inherent restriction of freedom. In the case of the San Bernardo center, some violations were not present during the entire period relevant to the case.

The Court also addressed the failure of judicial remedies. Four "amparo" actions (similar to habeas corpus) filed in November 2007, seeking to protect the rights of adolescents in the four centers due to the deficient conditions, were rejected by Chilean courts. The courts reasoned that these issues were within the purview of the administrative authorities, not the judiciary. The Inter-American Court found that this restrictive interpretation of the amparo remedy made it ineffective for protecting the adolescents' rights, thus violating the right to judicial protection (Article 25 of the Convention, in relation to Articles 1.1 and 19).

Regarding the criminal investigation into the fire, the Court found that, although investigations were initiated and six officials were charged with negligent homicide, the eventual application of a "conditional suspension" of the proceedings (which led to the extinction of the criminal action) did not constitute a violation of the rights to judicial guarantees and protection (Articles 8 and 25). The Court noted that the victims' representatives did not object to the application of this legal mechanism, and the investigations did identify responsibilities.

The Court ordered a comprehensive set of reparations. These included: providing psychological treatment for the victims and the families of the deceased; publication of the judgment and an official summary; measures to improve the implementation of legislation concerning adolescent criminal responsibility, including improvements to infrastructure, separation of inmates, access to education and healthcare; training for officials involved in the juvenile justice system; and payment of compensation for non-material damages.

Individual Opinions:
Judge Humberto A. Sierra Porto issued a partially dissenting opinion. He disagreed with the finding of violations under Article 26 of the Convention, related to economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights (health, education, water, and sanitation). He maintains that these rights should not be directly justiciable under Article 26 and that the violations could have been established solely through other articles of the Convention, such as Article 5 (right to personal integrity).
Judge Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot issued a concurring opinion. He emphasized the significance of the judgment 20 years after a similar case (Instituto de Reeducación del Menor Vs. Paraguay). He highlighted the importance of Article 26 of the Convention and its autonomous and direct justiciability. Also, he highlighted the importance of the declaration of the violation of the right of the child and the adolescent to recreation and to sanitation, and also of other DESCA rights.



Countries that have ratified a regional human rights instrument – *v.g.*, he European Convention on Human Rights (Council of Europe), the American Convention on Human Rights (OAS), and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (OAU) (Wiki Images).

Europe

AZERBAIJAN VIOLATED OPPOSITION FIGURE'S RIGHT TO LIBERTY (11 Mar. 2025)

The case of *Amirov v. Azerbaijan* (application no. 55642/16) concerned the pre-trial detention of Mr. Faig Amirov, an activist of the opposition Azerbaijan Popular Front Party and financial director of the *Azadliq* newspaper, following the attempted coup in Turkey in 2016. He was arrested on 20 August 2016 and subsequently charged with breaching citizens' rights on the pretext of conducting religious rites and inciting ethnic, racial, social, or religious hatred, allegedly linked to the Gülen movement. Specifically, the charges stemmed from the discovery of books and CD-ROMs about Fethullah Gülen (leader of the Gülen movement) in his car during a police stop and search. He was later, on 24 July 2017, convicted of tax evasion and incitement to ethnic, racial, social, or religious hatred.
The European Court of Human Rights (Third Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 5 § 1 (right to liberty and security) of the European Convention on Human Rights.
The Court found that the applicant's detention was unlawful because it was not based on a "reasonable suspicion" that he had committed a criminal offense. The Court determined that the mere possession of these materials, which were not banned in Azerbaijan, did not constitute a criminal act under Azerbaijani law, particularly as there was no evidence of public dissemination (a requirement for the incitement charge). The domestic courts failed to properly scrutinize the prosecution's evidence or demonstrate how the applicant's actions fulfilled the elements of the alleged crimes.
Given the finding of a violation of Article 5 § 1, the Court deemed it unnecessary to separately examine the complaint under Article 5 § 3 (concerning the lack of relevant and sufficient reasons for continued detention).

WikiImages. Courtroom of the European Court of Human Rights.

A further complaint alleging a breach of Article 18 (limitation on use of restrictions on rights) in conjunction with Article 5 was declared inadmissible because the applicant had not raised this issue before the domestic courts (failure to exhaust domestic remedies).
Another complaint under Article 6 § 2 (presumption of innocence), relating to a public statement made by law-enforcement authorities shortly after his arrest, was also declared

inadmissible as manifestly ill-founded. The Court found that the statement did not contain wording portraying the applicant as guilty but rather provided brief information regarding the accusations against him and his arrest.
The Court awarded the applicant EUR 7,500 in respect of non-pecuniary damage and EUR 1,500 for costs and expenses. Claims for pecuniary damage (loss of earnings) were rejected due to lack of substantiating evidence.

WikiImages. Courtroom of the European Court of Human Rights (Grand Chamber).

NO EXAMINATION OF JOURNALIST'S COMPLAINT ABOUT PUBLICATION OF PRIVATE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS (11 Mar. 2025)

The case of *Aytaj Ahmadova v. Azerbaijan* (application no. 30551/18) concerned the failure of Azerbaijani authorities to examine a journalist's complaint regarding the publication of her private photographs and video-recordings on Facebook, allegedly taken from her computer. The computer had been seized and retained by State authorities during a search of the applicant's apartment, allegedly conducted without a warrant, in connection with her work for Meydan TV, an online news portal. The posts also included insults and threats directed at the applicant, such as suggestions she be "hanged by her tongue."
The European Court of Human Rights (Third Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights.
The Court found that the acts complained of were sufficiently serious to form the basis of a valid complaint under Article 8. The applicant claimed the materials had only been stored on her computer, which was in the State's possession, raising a significant concern about a potential breach of privacy by state agents.
The Court determined that the prosecuting authority had neither commenced criminal proceedings nor formally refused to do so, effectively ignoring the applicant's repeated complaints. The domestic courts rejected the applicant's complaint in a formalistic way, without making any real effort to examine the case's circumstances, such as calling the prosecuting authority to court or examining the computer in question, despite explicit requests from the applicant to conduct such examinations and call relevant witnesses.
The Court concluded that the authorities failed to comply with their positive obligations under Article 8 to protect the applicant's private life, meaning there was no protection offered against the disclosure of private information. The court awarded the applicant EUR 4,500 in respect of non-pecuniary damage, and EUR 1,000 in costs.

INSUFFICIENT SAFEGUARDS IN AGE ASSESSMENT OF GUINEAN NATIONAL CLAIMING MINOR STATUS IN BELGIUM (6 March 2025)

The case of *F.B. v. Belgium* (application no. 47836/21) concerned the termination of care for the applicant, Ms. F.B., as an unaccompanied foreign minor after an age assessment procedure. She claimed to be a Guinean national born on 15 January 2003.
The European Court of Human Rights (First Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private life) of the European Convention on Human Rights.
The applicant arrived in Belgium on 2 August 2019, claiming she had fled Guinea to escape a forced marriage. On 5 August 2019, she applied for international protection, stating she was 16 and providing a non-certified copy of her birth certificate. An Aliens Office agent immediately questioned her, doubted her age, and requested a medical examination, indicating on a pre-printed form that F.B. was informed of the doubt, given information about the test, and did not object. However, F.B. claimed she wasn't informed of the doubt or test, nor of her right to refuse.
The applicant was placed in a center for unaccompanied minors. On 19 August 2019, she underwent a "triple bone test" (radiography of hand, wrist, collarbone, and a dental scan), which concluded she was 21.7 years old (with a two-year margin of error).

On 26 August 2019, she was interviewed by a Guardianship Service official. She later submitted original identity documents, which the authorities deemed questionable.
On 11 September 2019, the Guardianship Service terminated her care as a minor, based primarily on the bone test. Her appeals to the Council of State were rejected. Later, it emerged that she had declared herself an adult with a different birthdate in Germany during transit.
The Court found that the decision-making process lacked sufficient safeguards under Article 8. The Court emphasized the crucial need for free and informed consent for medical procedures, particularly invasive ones like bone tests. However, the information presented to F.B. did not clearly express her entitlement to decline the examination. The applicant was not obligated to sign any document as a means of acknowledging she had been presented with the material, comprehended it, and was informed of her options. Furthermore, the Court stressed the importance of a properly timed interview. The critical interview with a specially trained Guardianship Service agent, where F.B.'s background and circumstances could have been explored, occurred after the bone tests.
A prior interview could have identified less intrusive methods of age verification and ensured F.B. understood her rights. Finally, the Court pointed out that medical tests should only be carried out as a last resort, given their invasive nature.
The Court did not rule on the reliability of bone tests themselves, nor did it definitively determine F.B.'s actual age. The focus was on the procedural flaws in the age assessment process.
The application concerning article 8 was declared admissible, but the rest of the application was rejected. The court determined that article 8 was violated, and 5,000 EUR was given for non-pecuniary damages. Claims concerning violations of article 13 were declared inadmissible, along with claims with respect to article 14, which were not previously raised.

NO VIOLATION IN DEATH OF ESCAPED PRISONER DURING ARREST OPERATION IN FRANCE (6 March 2025)

The case of *Garand and Others v. France* (application no. 2474/21) concerned the death of Angelo Garand during an arrest operation by a French gendarmerie intervention unit. The applicants were relatives of the deceased.
The European Court of Human Rights (Fifth Section) held, unanimously, that there had been no violation of Article 2 (right to life) of the European Convention on Human Rights.
Angelo Garand, a convicted prisoner, failed to return to prison after a period of leave in 2016. He was also suspected of involvement in burglaries and was accused of stabbing two individuals. In March 2017, authorities located him at the home of the applicants. Due to his criminal history, perceived dangerousness, and reports of him possessing a firearm and using drugs, an intervention unit (GIGN) was assigned to arrest him.
On 30 March 2017, GIGN agents arrived at the property. Garand's son alerted him, and he hid in an outbuilding. During a search, officers found Garand. According to the officers' consistent accounts, they identified themselves, ordered him to show his hands, and attempted to subdue him. Garand resisted, brandishing a knife and making threatening gestures. Two officers used tasers, but Garand pulled out the wires. He then lunged at one officer (F.D.) with the knife, reportedly aiming for his throat. Officer A.B. fired multiple shots from his handgun, and when Garand continued to pose a threat, officer B.D. fired a single shot. Garand died at the scene.
A thorough investigation was conducted, including witness statements, forensic analysis, and a reenactment. The internal investigation concluded that the officers fired in self-defense and defense of others, and the decision not to prosecute was upheld on appeal. The court found the officers to have an honest and reasonable belief.

WikiImages. The European Court of Human Rights.

The Court determined that the circumstances of the death were established through a comprehensive and procedurally sound investigation. It found no compelling reason to deviate from the domestic courts' factual findings, which were supported by

consistent witness statements and forensic evidence. The Court accepted that the officers' decision to use lethal force could be considered justified and "absolutely necessary" under Article 2 § 2 (a) (defense against unlawful violence), given the immediate threat Garand posed. No shortcomings in the planning or supervision of the arrest operation were identified. The court considered there was no disproportionate use of force.
The Court ruled that two of the applicants (the brother of Garand's stepmother and the partner of Garand's half-brother) did not have standing to claim victim status, but the remaining applicants (father, stepmother, half-sisters, half-brother) did. The application, except related to Francis Corset and Laura Flament, was declared admissible.

SLOVENIAN COURT VIOLATED IMPARTIALITY AND PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE IN ABUSE OF OFFICE CASE (6 March 2025)

The case *Gorše v. Slovenia* (application no. 47186/21) involved a Slovenian lawyer and insolvency practitioner, Mr. Brane Gorše, convicted in 2014 of abuse of office and money laundering.
The European Court of Human Rights (First Section) found violations of both Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial by an impartial tribunal) and Article 6 § 2 (presumption of innocence) of the European Convention on Human Rights.
The central issue was that the presiding judge in Mr. Gorše's trial, Judge J.G., had previously accepted guilty pleas from two co-defendants, P.K. and S.S., who admitted to *aiding* Mr. Gorše in the abuse of office and *conspiring* with him in money laundering. The judgments against P.K. and S.S., delivered *before* Mr. Gorše's trial even commenced, included detailed descriptions of Mr. Gorše's alleged criminal conduct. Crucially, they referred to him in the operative part as the "perpetrator" of the abuse of office. The Court held that this constituted a prejudgment of Mr. Gorše's guilt.
The Court emphasized that while mentioning a co-defendant's actions might be necessary when dealing with accomplices, the language in the earlier judgments went too far. It made a legal assessment of Mr. Gorše's actions and clearly implied his guilt *before* his own trial. The designation of him as the "perpetrator" was particularly problematic. Accepting guilty pleas from those charged with aiding and abetting logically meant the judge had pre-judged the guilt of the person they were accused of assisting.
Mr. Gorše's request for Judge J.G.'s recusal was denied. Higher courts, including the Supreme Court and Constitutional Court, failed to correct these procedural errors. They focused on Judge J.G.'s adherence to Slovenian law and the fact that the trial against the applicant involved new evidence. However, they didn't adequately address how the prior judgments' wording affected the presumption of innocence and the appearance of impartiality.
The Court stressed the principle that "justice must not only be done, it must also be seen to be done." The applicant had a legitimate reason to fear a lack of impartiality from the presiding judge, given his apparent predetermination of guilt in the related cases. The Court awarded the applicant EUR 2,400 for non-pecuniary damages and EUR 2,196 for costs and expenses. The applicant now has the option to request a retrial in Slovenia.

NO VIOLATION FOUND IN SUICIDE OF AFGHAN ASYLUM SEEKER IN SWEDEN (6 March 2025)

The case *Hasani v. Sweden* (application no. 35950/20) involved an Afghan national, Mr. Esmat Hasani, whose brother, A.H., also an Afghan national, committed suicide in Sweden after their asylum applications were rejected. The applicant, represented by legal counsel, alleged that Sweden violated Article 2 (right to life) of the European Convention on Human Rights by failing to protect his brother, given his known vulnerabilities.
The European Court of Human Rights (First Section) found no violation of Article 2.
Both brothers had arrived in Sweden as unaccompanied minors in 2015. A.H. had a significant visual impairment (Retinitis Pigmentosa) and documented mental health issues, including self-harm and previous suicide attempts. He was initially placed in a family home with his brother, then moved to institutional accommodation. He expressed suicidal thoughts during asylum interviews, particularly related to the possibility of being returned to Afghanistan and his deteriorating eyesight. The Migration Agency acknowledged A.H.'s needs and provided accommodation and some support, including home care visits.
The Migration Agency ultimately denied both brothers' asylum applications. A.H. was informed of the decision in person, with an interpreter present, but his legal counsel was not. He reportedly stated his intention to appeal. Two days later, he committed suicide.

The Court acknowledged A.H.'s vulnerabilities (young, unaccompanied asylum seeker, visual impairment, mental health problems) and the State's obligation to protect the lives of those within its jurisdiction. However, it determined that, while the authorities knew of A.H.'s mental health problems and past self-harm, it had not been established that they knew or ought to have known of a *real and immediate* risk of suicide in the days immediately preceding his death.
The Court emphasized that A.H. had never been diagnosed with a specific psychiatric condition requiring medication or hospitalization, despite having contact with medical professionals. While he had expressed suicidal thoughts, he hadn't shown signs of acute distress in the month before his death, after moving to accommodation closer to his brother, and there were no indications of imminent risk during the meeting where he was informed of the asylum decision. Furthermore, neither A.H., the applicant, nor anyone close to him raised alarms after A.H was given notice of the decision. The Court found that the authorities had taken some measures to address A.H.'s needs by providing housing and support.
Concluding that imposing a greater duty on the authorities in this specific situation would have been an excessive burden, the Court found no violation of Article 2. The Court did *not* rule on whether the asylum decisions themselves were flawed (although an internal review acknowledged shortcomings), focusing instead on the immediate circumstances surrounding A.H.'s death.
Three of the Judges provided a Dissenting Opinion, believing that the authorities had not fully met their duties in light of A.H.'s extreme vulnerability.

Council of Europe. The European Court of Human Rights.

NO VIOLATION IN SWISS REFUSAL TO AUTHORIZE ADOPTION OF ETHIOPIAN CHILD (6 March 2025)

The case *T.A. v. Switzerland* (application no. 13437/22) involved a Swiss national, T.A., originally from Ethiopia, who sought to adopt a child she had found abandoned in Addis Ababa in 2016. She brought the child to Switzerland in 2017, despite having been previously refused the required authorization by the Swiss authorities in 2016. Although Ethiopian authorities had approved the adoption, Swiss courts ultimately refused to recognize it, leading the applicant to allege a violation of her right to family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.
The European Court of Human Rights (First Section) unanimously held that there had been no violation of Article 8.
While the applicant had obtained an adoption order from an Ethiopian court in 2017, Swiss authorities found irregularities in the Ethiopian procedures. Furthermore, Switzerland had, at the time, suspended issuing suitability certificates for adoptions of Ethiopian children due to fraud concerns. The applicant, nevertheless, had brought the child to Switzerland without Swiss authorization.
Swiss authorities granted the applicant legal guardianship of the child, allowing them to live together, but refused the adoption. The Swiss courts cited the applicant's age (exceeding the usual maximum age difference with an adopted child, although exceptions are possible), precarious financial situation (relying on social benefits), health issues, and, significantly, the fact that she had circumvented legal procedures by bringing the child to Switzerland without prior authorization.
The European Court recognized the established "family life" between the applicant and the child. However, it found that the refusal of adoption did *not* constitute a disproportionate interference with this right. The Court emphasized that the refusal didn't separate the applicant and child; they could continue living together under the guardianship arrangement. The Swiss Courts had also appropriately applied Swiss law regarding adoption requirements. The Court accepted the Swiss authorities' argument that upholding proper legal adoption procedures was a legitimate public interest, and allowing the applicant to bypass these rules would set a dangerous precedent. The applicant had knowingly brought the child to

Switzerland illegally, bypassing the required authorization process, and the Court agreed with the Swiss courts view that this could not be justified by claiming it was in the child's best interests. The judgment reiterates each countries' right to determine policy regarding international adoption.
The Court concluded that Switzerland had struck a fair balance between the applicant's right to family life and the public interest in upholding proper adoption procedures and found no violation of Article 8.

NO ACCESS TO REASONS FOR ACQUITTAL OF FORMER MINISTER VIOLATED JOURNALIST'S RIGHTS (6 March 2025)

The case *Girginova v. Bulgaria* (application no. 4326/18) concerned a Bulgarian journalist, Ms. Galina Girginova, who worked for Sadebni Reportazhi, an online media outlet specializing in judicial reporting. She was denied access to the reasoning behind a court's decision to acquit former Minister of Internal Affairs, Tsvetan Tsvetanov, of criminal charges. Those charges related to his alleged failure to prevent the unlawful use of covert surveillance by his subordinates. The entire criminal case had been classified as secret, and therefore, the judgment, including the reasoning for the acquittal, was not made public as Bulgarian law would usually require.
The European Court of Human Rights found a violation of both Article 10 (freedom of expression, specifically the freedom to receive information) and Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the European Convention on Human Rights.
The Court determined that Article 10 applied because the applicant, as a journalist, sought the information for a legitimate journalistic purpose – to report on a matter of significant public interest. The refusal to grant access to the court's reasoning constituted an interference with her freedom of expression.
While the Court acknowledged that the refusal was "prescribed by law" (Bulgarian law permits classification of information) and pursued the legitimate aim of protecting national security (potentially preventing the disclosure of sensitive surveillance methods), it found the interference was *not* "necessary in a democratic society."
The Court's reasoning emphasized:
The case involved a former high-ranking official accused of serious misconduct, specifically the misuse of surveillance powers. The public had a strong interest in understanding the reasons for his acquittal, particularly given existing, wider concerns in Bulgaria about unlawful surveillance.
The Court also found that the reasons of judgments is a way of ensuring transparency and accountability of the judicial system.
The authorities refused access to the *entire* reasoning of the judgment. The Court stressed that even when national security concerns exist, there are ways to balance those concerns with the public's right to know. Courts can redact sensitive information or provide a partially classified judgment, releasing a public version with sensitive details removed. The Bulgarian courts made no such effort, despite the availability of such an option.
The applicant's attempts to challenge the refusal through judicial review were ineffective. The courts failed to properly assess the proportionality of the complete denial and did not meaningfully address the applicant's Article 10 arguments.
The Court concluded that Switzerland had failed to justify the interference on the applicant's article 10 rights. The domestic courts did not adequately assess the balance between, in particular, the need to maintain the secrecy of the methods and means used to carry out covert surveillance, on the one hand and the applicant's exercise of her freedom of expression on the other, which includes, as a journalist, the freedom to receive and impart information. This made the interference disproportionate, and therefore a breach of article 10.
The Court awarded the applicant EUR 2,750 for costs and expenses. The applicant made no claim for pecuniary or non-pecuniary damages.

NORTH MACEDONIA FAILED TO PROTECT TEENAGER FROM SEXUAL ABUSE (4 March 2025)

The case of *K.M. v. North Macedonia* (application no. 59144/16) concerned the alleged failure of the State to protect the applicant, a fourteen-year-old girl at the material time, from sexual abuse. The case stemmed from an incident in 2013 where an adult male (Gj.K.), a telecommunications company employee, allegedly caressed the applicant's leg, touched her breast and shoulders, and made sexually suggestive comments while at her home to repair the internet connection.
The European Court of Human Rights (Second Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a

violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights.
The Court found that the domestic legal framework, as applied by the authorities, did not afford the applicant effective protection. The criminal law at the time did not cover non-consensual sexual acts against individuals over the age of 14 *unless* force or threats were used. The prosecutor, while acknowledging the acts might constitute "insult," noted that this offense had been decriminalized, leaving only a civil avenue. The applicant's civil claim for compensation under the Insults and Defamation Act was dismissed, with the courts finding that the acts did not constitute "insult" under that Act and that no other statutory provision covered her claim.
The Court emphasized that serious acts like sexual abuse require a criminal-law response. Because the existing criminal law did not cover the applicant's situation (due to her age and the absence of force/threats), and because the civil remedies, as applied, provided no redress, the State failed to meet its positive obligation to protect her physical and psychological integrity. The court explicitly stated that "the domestic legal framework, as applied by the domestic authorities, did not afford the applicant effective protection against the alleged violation of her personal integrity."
The Court rejected the Government's arguments that the application was out of time or that domestic remedies had not been exhausted. The civil claim, while unusual, was deemed a reasonable attempt in a specific context, due to the limited scope of the criminal statutes and a comment of the public prosecutor.
The Court awarded the applicant EUR 4,500 in respect of non-pecuniary damage.

RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES VIOLATED JOURNALISTS' RIGHTS AFTER THREATS OVER CHECHNYA REPORTING (4 March 2025)

The case of *Milashina and Others v. Russia* (application no. 75000/17) concerned verbal threats made by senior Chechen public officials and religious leaders against *Novaya Gazeta*, a Russian national newspaper, and three of its journalists: Yelena Milashina, Dmitriy Muratov (a 2021 Nobel Peace Prize co-winner), and Sergey Kozheurov. These threats followed the April 2017 publication of articles by Ms. Milashina exposing a large-scale campaign of abduction, arbitrary detention, torture, and murder of individuals perceived to be gay by Chechen authorities.
The European Court of Human Rights (Third Section) held, unanimously, that Russia violated both Article 10 (freedom of expression) and Article 8 (right to respect for private life) of the European Convention on Human Rights.
Regarding Article 10, the Court found the threats, which included those from unidentified persons, constituted a concerted campaign of intimidation. This created a climate of fear that unlawfully and disproportionately interfered with the applicants' professional journalistic activities and had a chilling effect on their freedom of expression. The Court emphasized that Russian authorities failed to thoroughly investigate the widely publicized threats, take preventative measures, or criminally pursue those responsible. The Court also affirmed that the applicant company, *Novaya Gazeta*, had victim status, as it was directly targeted and its work affected.
Regarding Article 8, the Court determined that the Russian authorities effectively condoned the repeated statements by Chechen officials, exposing the journalists to potential violence and intimidation. The Court also found the criminal investigation into the threats to be ineffective. The applicants had relied also in Article 2, but it was considered more appropriate to examinate the complaint under article 8.
The applicants also relied on the violation of Article 14.
The Court awarded EUR 7,500 in non-pecuniary damages to *Novaya Gazeta* and EUR 9,800 to each of the individual applicants. Additionally, EUR 5,585 was awarded jointly for costs and expenses.

FRANCE VIOLATED ARTICLE 2 (RIGHT TO LIFE) IN DEATH OF PROTESTER RÉMI FRAISSE (27 Feb. 2025)

The case of *Fraisse and Others v. France* (applications nos. 22525/21 and 47626/21) concerned the death of Rémi Fraisse, a 21-year-old student, on the night of 25-26 October 2014. He was killed by the explosion of an OF-F1 concussion grenade, a blast-effect dispersal weapon, thrown by Staff Sergeant J. during violent clashes between protesters and mobile gendarmes at the Sivens dam construction site (Lisle-sur-Tarn, France), where a protest camp ("zone to defend") had been set up.
The applicants were the deceased's father, mother, sister, and grandmother. They alleged a violation of

Article 2 (right to life) of the European Convention on Human Rights, under both its substantive and procedural aspects.
The European Court of Human Rights (Fifth Section) unanimously found a violation of the substantive aspect of Article 2, but no violation of the procedural aspect.
Regarding the *substantive* violation, the Court acknowledged the violence of the clashes and that circumstances might justify use of force, it did not remove the responsibility from the State. However, the Court found that the State failed to uphold its positive obligations under Article 2 to protect life. This failure stemmed from multiple deficiencies. First, the legal and administrative framework governing the use of force at the time was deemed inadequate, as regulations, specially about the OF-F1 concussion grenades, were incomplete, unclear, and not precise enough to ensure a truly graduated and proportionate response. Second, the Court identified shortcomings in the operation's preparation and supervision, particularly noting the lack of clear instructions to officers and the absence of a civilian authority on-site during the crucial period of escalating violence. The combination of these factors meant the "requisite level of protection" to minimize risks to life during a potentially lethal force situation was not guaranteed.
Concerning the *procedural* aspect of Article 2, the Court found no violation. It determined that the subsequent investigations (both judicial and administrative) were thorough, independent, and effective in establishing the facts and circumstances of Rémi Fraisse's death. Although no individual criminal responsibility was assigned. The fact that the authorities took steps to correct legal and administrative errors.
The Court awarded non-pecuniary damages of EUR 5,600 each to the mother (Véronique Voiturier) and father (Jean-Pierre Fraisse), EUR 10,400 to the sister (Chloé Fraisse), and EUR 16,000 to the grandmother (France Voiturier), minus any sums already awarded by the domestic courts. The Court also awarded the costs and expenses jointly.

MOLDOVA FAILED TO PROTECT WOMAN WITH DISABILITY FROM TRAFFICKING, FORCED LABOR, AND SEXUAL ABUSE (27 Feb. 2025)

The case of *I.C. v. the Republic of Moldova* (application no. 36436/22) involved a Moldovan woman with a moderate intellectual disability. In 2013, she was removed from a State-run neuropsychiatric institution and placed with a family on a farm as part of a "deinstitutionalization" procedure. The applicant alleged that, during the five years she lived on that farm, she was subjected to unpaid forced labor and was raped and sexually abused by the farm owner. After escaping, she reported this to the authorities, but the couple was ultimately acquitted.
The European Court of Human Rights (Fifth Section) unanimously found multiple violations of the European Convention on Human Rights.
The Court found violations of both the substantive and procedural aspects of Article 4 (prohibition of slavery, servitude, and forced labor). Substantively, Moldova failed to uphold its positive obligations to protect the applicant. The legal and administrative framework for deinstitutionalizing individuals with intellectual disabilities who lacked legal capacity was inadequate at the time. This framework lacked safeguards, support services, and monitoring, creating a significant risk of exploitation. The authorities knew or should have known of the risk, given the circumstances of her placement, yet failed to take protective measures. Procedurally, the investigation into the applicant's trafficking and labor exploitation allegations was ineffective. Obvious lines of inquiry were not pursued, and the applicant's vulnerability was not properly assessed.
The Court also found violations of Articles 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) and 8 (right to respect for private life) because of the failure to effectively investigate the allegations of rape and sexual abuse. The domestic proceedings lacked procedural accommodations for a vulnerable victim making sensitive complaints. The courts' assessments were deficient, showing a lack of sensitivity and exposing the applicant to further victimization.
Furthermore, there was a violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination), taken in conjunction with Articles 3, 4, and 8. The authorities' actions demonstrated discriminatory attitudes toward the applicant as a woman with an intellectual disability. This was part of a broader pattern of institutional passivity and lack of awareness concerning violence against women with disabilities in Moldova.
The Court, having already found violations, did not examine articles 6 and 13. The Court awarded the applicant EUR 35,000 for non-pecuniary damage and EUR 8,587 for costs and expenses.

WikiImages. Piece of Berlin Wall in front of the European Court of Human Rights.

SLOVAKIA DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ROMA PUPIL IN SPECIAL EDUCATION PLACEMENT (27 Feb. 2025)

The case of *Salay v. Slovakia* (application no. 29359/22) concerned the enrolment and schooling of Mr. Adrián Salay, a Roma individual born in 1998, first in a preparatory class ("Year Zero") and subsequently in special classes for children with mild intellectual disabilities at Plavecký Štvrtok Primary School (PSPS).

The European Court of Human Rights (First Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the European Convention on Human Rights, taken in conjunction with Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 (right to education).

The Court found that the Slovak authorities had failed to provide adequate safeguards to ensure that the special educational needs of Roma pupils, as members of a disadvantaged group, were properly taken into account. The diagnostic tests used to determine the applicant's intellectual capacity were potentially culturally biased, and his placement in special classes, which followed a more basic curriculum, effectively became permanent. There was no systematic retesting to monitor his progress and assess the possibility of transferring him to mainstream education, even though a 2011 test indicated his development was within the normal range.

The Court noted the disproportionately high number of Roma children in special education in Slovakia, a fact recognized by various international and domestic bodies. It concluded that the domestic legislation, as applied at the material time, had a disproportionately prejudicial effect on the Roma community. The State failed to demonstrate, in what amounted to a *prima facie* case of indirect discrimination, that it provided the necessary guarantees to prevent misdiagnosis and the inappropriate placement of Roma pupils in special education. The domestic courts failed to sufficiently address, shift, and examine the burden of proof in the applicant's anti-discrimination action.

The Court awarded the applicant EUR 3,000 in respect of non-pecuniary damage but dismissed the claim for costs and expenses.

CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES VIOLATED BRITISH WOMAN'S RIGHTS IN RAPE INVESTIGATION (27 Feb. 2025)

The case of *X v. Cyprus* (application no. 40733/22) concerned the investigation of a British woman's rape allegations in Ayia Napa, Cyprus, in 2019. The applicant claimed that Cypriot authorities failed to properly investigate her report of being raped by multiple men.

The European Court of Human Rights (First Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Articles 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) and 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights, under their procedural aspect.

The Court found significant shortcomings in the investigation and prosecution of the applicant's rape allegations. The hotel room where the alleged rape occurred was not immediately cordoned off. It was also unclear whether fingerprints from the condom wrappers were pursued. Furthermore, authorities failed to test text messages of suspects, to search for condoms outside the bedroom, and to trace or interview key witnesses. The authorities exhibited a biased assessment of evidence, relying on the victim's prior consensual sexual activity with one of the suspects as a factor and focusing on minor inconsistencies in her statements while overlooking the suspects' inconsistencies, all without considering the circumstances under which her statements had

been taken. The applicant was subjected to numerous and lengthy interviews, without the presence of a lawyer for the first two, and her credibility was undermined by the use of prejudicial gender stereotypes and victim-blaming, which indicates re-victimization. In addition, the forensic pathologist's report was subpar and his conclusion that there had been no rape, vague. The investigation was also prematurely closed based on the applicant's retraction statement, which the Supreme Court later deemed inadmissible. Crucially, the authorities failed to thoroughly consider the issue of whether the applicant had consented to sexual activity with the multiple men involved.
The Court stressed that, although a legal framework for the protection of the victims of sexual violence exists in Cyprus, it was not appropriately applied in practice. These failures, the court determined, indicated a systemic issue, reflecting biases against women that hinder effective protection for victims of gender-based violence. Although the Cypriot Supreme Court later overturned the applicant's conviction for public mischief (making a false report), acknowledging flaws in the investigation, this did not deprive her of victim status. The Attorney General's subsequent decision not to prosecute, despite available evidence, was also found to be problematic.
The Court rejected claims to dismiss the applicant's complaint on the grounds of non-exhaustion of domestic remedies and lack of victim status.
As reparation, the Court awarded the applicant EUR 20,000 for non-pecuniary damage and EUR 5,000 for costs and expenses.

VIOLATION OF REASONABLE TIME FOUND IN CASE OF UK MURDER CONVICTION AFTER FIVE TRIALS (25 Feb. 2025)

The case of *Ezeoke v. The United Kingdom* (application no. 61280/21) concerned the criminal proceedings against Mr. Obina Christopher Ezeoke, who was ultimately convicted of two counts of murder after standing trial five times. The proceedings spanned five years and one month, from his arrest in September 2016 to the final dismissal of his appeal in October 2021.
The European Court of Human Rights (Fourth Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair hearing within a reasonable time) of the European Convention on Human Rights.
The Court acknowledged that the repeated retrials were due to factors outside the control of either the prosecution or the defense: the first trial ended due to the judge's illness; the second and third trials ended because the juries could not reach verdicts; and the fourth trial was aborted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Court found that, given the applicant was detained in a high security prison during this period, two delays were problematic: the almost one year between the third and fourth trials, and the twelve months between the application for permission to appeal and the refusal of the permission to appeal. The Court determined these delays meant the proceedings failed the standard of keeping the delay to the absolute minimum.
The Court, however, found no violation of Article 6 § 1 concerning the *fairness* of the proceedings. It noted that the fourth trial judge had observed the applicant giving evidence and was satisfied that he could adequately present his case. The judge also considered the impact of delay on the applicant's alibi witness, CG, but took into account that she had not spoken to the police until several months after the crime had occurred. Crucially, the applicant's counsel had conceded that a fifth trial would not be oppressive if it followed quickly after an aborted fourth trial. The Court of Appeal, in reviewing the case, also found no evidence that the delay had prejudiced the defense case.
The applicant did not ask for compensation, so, no award was made by the court.

NO VIOLATION FOUND IN CASE OF PRE-TRIAL DETENTION AND DENIAL OF COMPENSATION AFTER ACQUITTAL (25 Feb. 2025)

The case of *Gomes Costa v. Portugal* (application no. 34916/16) concerned the pre-trial detention of Mr. Manuel Paulo Gomes Costa for eight months and twenty-one days, in the context of criminal proceedings for rape, from which he was ultimately acquitted. It also concerned the subsequent denial of compensation for damages he claimed to have suffered as a result of his detention.
The European Court of Human Rights (Fourth Section) held, unanimously, that there had been no violation of Article 5 § 3 (right to liberty and security – reasonable length of pre-trial detention) of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court held, by six votes to one, that there was no violation of Article 6 § 2 (presumption of innocence).
First, The Court find no violation of Article 5. The pre-trial detention's length was not, on its face, excessive.

Second, The Court considered that the domestic authorities had relevant and sufficient reasons to deny the applicant's release, as those reasons consistently referred back to the original justifications for his detention. While the applicant argued he should have been released upon submission of a preliminary medical report, the Court emphasized that this report required further elements and referenced a final report clarifying that lack of physical evidence did not equate to absence of sexual abuse.
Third, concerning the claim that compensation was unjustly denied, the Court applied the second aspect of Article 6 § 2, concerning respect for the presumption of innocence after the conclusion of the criminal case. The domestic courts rejected the compensation claim because the applicant's situation did not fit within the enumerated grounds for compensation under Article 225 § 1 of the Portuguese Code of Criminal Procedure. The domestic courts did not deem the detention unlawful (Article 225 § 1 (a)), nor did they find a gross error justifying detention (Article 225 § 1 (b)). Crucially, regarding Article 225 § 1 (c), which allows for compensation if the accused *proves* they did not commit the offense or acted justifiably, the domestic courts found this condition unmet. The applicant had been acquitted based on a lack of proof of guilt (benefit of the doubt), not on established proof of innocence. The domestic courts did not find any violation of the presumption of innocence: this refusal to grant compensation did not impute criminal responsibility to the applicant. The Courts, in their reasoning and language, did not suggest that the outcome of the criminal proceedings should have been different.

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The Court declared inadmissible, by unanimity, the claim based on Article 5 § 1 (c) (no arbitrariness in the detention itself) as manifestly ill-founded. The complaint under Article 5 § 5 (right to compensation for unlawful detention) was deemed incompatible *ratione materiae* because no violation of other paragraphs of Article 5 was found.
Judge Lado Chanturia dissented on the Article 6 § 2 finding. He believed the domestic courts, in requiring the applicant to prove he did *not* commit the offense to obtain compensation *after* acquittal, violated the presumption of innocence. He found that this constituted an imputation of criminal responsibility, by reversing the burden of proof.

NO VIOLATION FOUND IN CASE OF ROMANIAN POLICE OFFICERS' DEFAMATION CLAIM (25 Feb. 2025)

The case of *Toth and Crișan v. Romania* (application no. 45430/19) concerned a defamation lawsuit brought by two police officers, Mr. Zoltán-Ovidiu Toth and Mr. Alin Crișan, against a private individual, C.T., for a post she made on Facebook. The post included a photograph of the officers taken in a public street while they were performing their duties (fining C.T. and her mother), and it mentioned the second applicant's name. C.T.'s post described the officers' conduct in a negative light.
The European Court of Human Rights (Fourth Section) held, unanimously, that there had been no violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private life) of the European Convention on Human Rights.
The Court found that, although C.T. had disseminated the applicants' photograph and the second applicant's name without concealing their faces or obtaining their consent, Article 8 was applicable because the attack on the officers' reputation reached the required level of seriousness. It would impact their social and professional reputation.
The Court concluded that the Romanian domestic courts had adequately balanced the competing rights at stake (the officers' right to private life and reputation versus C.T.'s right to freedom of expression) in accordance with the criteria established in the Court's case-law. The post concerned a matter of public interest – the conduct of police officers in the performance of their duties. Although not "public figures" in the same way as politicians, the officers were public servants, and the limits of acceptable criticism were wider than for private individuals. The photograph was taken in a public place while the officers were performing their duties, and was not taken covertly or in a way that presented the applicants in a negative light. The post expressed C.T.'s opinion and dissatisfaction with the

officers' conduct but did not contain personal insults or unsubstantiated allegations, although it did allege misconduct, that was later acknowledged by the national courts. While some third-party comments were offensive, C.T. could not be held responsible for them, as there was no evidence she encouraged the comments, and she even stated she did not intend to defame the officers. There was no proof that C.T was the administrator of the Facebook Group, nor any concrete negative impact on the applicant's private or professional life.
The Court emphasized that attributing liability solely to C.T. could have a chilling effect on freedom of expression on the internet, especially for private individuals raising matters of public concern. Because the domestic courts appropriately performed the balancing act, the ECtHR saw no reason to override their decision.

NO VIOLATION FOUND IN CASE OF SON'S DEATH DURING A DEMONSTRATION IN TÜRKIYE (25 Feb. 2025)

The case of *Öner v. Türkiye* (application no. 8875/22) concerned the death of the applicants' son, Mr. Şahin Öner, who was run over by an armored vehicle during a demonstration in Diyarbakır in 2013.
The European Court of Human Rights (Second Section) held, unanimously, that there had been no violation of Article 2 (right to life) of the European Convention on Human Rights, under its substantive or procedural limbs.
Regarding the *substantive aspect* of Article 2, the Court found the claim that the death resulted from the deliberate inaction of police officers, who found him lying seriously injured on the ground, unsubstantiated. The applicants argued that officers in armored vehicle no. 45 intentionally failed to assist their son and delayed medical intervention. However, the Court found no evidence of deliberate intent by police to cause harm. Evidence, including radio communication transcripts, showed police requested an ambulance, but it was unable to reach the scene due to ongoing attacks by demonstrators. The officers then transported the victim to a police station to expedite medical care. The five minute delay, was reasonable.
Concerning the *procedural aspect* of Article 2, the Court concluded that the criminal investigation was adequate, prompt, and thorough, demonstrating a genuine effort to uncover the facts and punish those responsible. The authorities collected all relevant evidence, such as an autopsy, crime scene visit, taking witness statements (including police officers and civilians), communication analysis. The investigation promptly looked into multiple possible causes, including whether a molotov cocktail has exploded. Although a "no prosecution" decision was reached regarding one officer (R.Ü., driver of vehicle no. 45), this, in itself, did not undermine the effectiveness of the investigation. Furthermore, the applicants had sufficient access to information and participation in the proceedings.
The part of the application that alleged that the driver of armored vehicle no. 75 had deliberately ran over the applicants' son was declared inadmissible for non-exhaustion of internal remedies as the criminal procedure related to this allegation was still pending.

Council of Europe. The European Court of Human Rights.

RESTITUTION AND COMPENSATION ORDERED FOR AZERBAIJANI DENIED ACCESS TO THEIR LAND (18 Feb. 2025)

The case of *Alasgarov and Others v. Azerbaijan* (application no. 32088/11) concerned State authorities' unlawful interference with the applicants' peaceful enjoyment of their property, specifically by erecting a wall that restricted access to their plots of land. The original judgment, delivered on 10 November 2022, found a violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property) of the European Convention on Human Rights. This judgment addresses the issue of just satisfaction under Article 41, as it was not ready for decision at the time of the principal judgment.
The European Court of Human Rights (Third Section) held, unanimously, that several applicants had died before the principal judgment, and confirmed the standing of their heirs (applicants nos. 3 and 4, and Ms. Seadet Alasgarova for Mr. Alasgar Alasgarov; applicants nos. 8 and 10-12 for Ms. Zuleykha Gadirova; applicants nos. 14-16 for Mr. Naghi Naghiyev; and applicant no. 18 for Mr. Aydin

Ramazanov) to pursue the application in their stead.
The Court determined that the most appropriate form of redress was *restitutio in integrum* – restoring the situation as it existed before the violation. Specifically, the Court ordered the removal of all obstacles (the wall) unlawfully restricting the applicants' free access to their land.
Although restitution was ordered, the Court recognized that this did not fully compensate for the damage suffered since 2008 due to the restricted access. Because the applicants provided no expert valuation of their land as of 2008 (the start of the interference), and the Government's valuation was as of 2023, the Court calculated pecuniary damages based on the value indicated in the original title deeds. Awards were made to the family groups. The Court also awarded each family EUR 3,000 for non-pecuniary damage, ruling on an equitable basis.
The Court dismissed the claims for costs and expenses. The applicants' original representative had died, and while they appointed a new legal representative, they did not submit invoices of this representative's fees. The invoices provided from the previous representative did not contain enough information.
In essence, the Court prioritized restoring the applicants' access to their land. The monetary awards were intended to compensate for the period during which their access was unlawfully restricted, but the Court relied on limited valuation information due to the applicants' failure to provide adequate documentation.

Council of Europe. The European Court of Human Rights.

RADIO LICENSE REFUSAL IN AZERBAIJAN VIOLATED FREE EXPRESSION (18 Feb. 2025)

The case of *Objective Television and Radio Broadcasting Company and Others v. Azerbaijan* (application no. 257/12) concerned the National Television and Radio Council's (NTRC) 2011 refusal to grant a radio broadcasting license to the applicants following a call for tenders for the 103.3 FM frequency. The applicants were Objective Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, and two of its founders, journalists Mehman Aliyev and Emin Huseynov, and the fourth applicant was struck out of the list of cases
The European Court of Human Rights (Third Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 10 (freedom of expression) of the European Convention on Human Rights.
The Court determined that while the relevant domestic law (including selection criteria) was sufficiently accessible and precise, the NTRC's procedure lacked adequate safeguards against arbitrary interference with freedom of expression. The NTRC failed to provide a duly reasoned decision for its refusal, sending only an extract from the meeting minutes without detailed justification. The full minutes, obtained later during court proceedings, also did not demonstrate a comprehensive and objective evaluation of the bids. The NTRC's stated reason (preferring a news-focused station) was not among the pre-announced selection criteria, indicating a very broad and virtually unlimited discretionary power was exercised by the licensing authority.
Furthermore, the Court found a serious conflict of interest involving NTRC member S.V., whose relative founded the winning company, Golden Prince LLC, and whose son was later presented as the director of the station. This was not disclosed during the process and was only discovered after the fact through investigative journalism, severely undermining the NTRC's impartiality.
Because the interference was not "prescribed by law" (lacking sufficient safeguards against arbitrariness and exhibiting a serious conflict of interest), the Court did not assess the "legitimate aim" or "necessity" requirements of Article 10.
The application of the fourth applicant was struck out because of a friendly settlement.

GEORGIA VIOLATED LAWYER AND HUSBAND'S RIGHTS IN TELEPHONE INTERCEPTION (18 Feb. 2025)

The case of *Romanchenko and Kharazishvili v. Georgia* (application nos. 33067/22 and 37832/22) concerned the interception and recording of telephone conversations between a lawyer, Ms. Ana Romanchenko, and her husband, Mr. Nika Kharazishvili, as part of a criminal investigation into the unlawful sale of excisable goods. The surveillance

was authorized by a court order, but the applicants challenged its legality.
The European Court of Human Rights (Fourth Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private life and correspondence) of the European Convention on Human Rights in respect of both applicants.
The Court found that the procedure used to authorize the covert investigative measure did not effectively guarantee that the surveillance was genuinely necessary and proportionate for each applicant. The court order authorizing the interception lacked relevant and sufficient reasons, failed to provide specific details about facts and circumstances of the case showing reasonable suspicion, and did not consider the first applicant's status as a practicing lawyer, which should have triggered heightened protection for lawyer-client confidentiality. The domestic law, as applied by the Georgian courts, did not provide reasonable clarity regarding the scope and manner of the exercise of discretion by public authorities and failed to provide safeguards againts abuses. The post factum justification of surveillance can not compensate for the lack of detailed reasoning when such measures are being ordered.
The Court declared the rest of the complaints inadmissable.
The Court awarded each applicant EUR 1,500 in respect of non-pecuniary damage and jointly awarded the applicants EUR 73 for costs and expenses.

UKRAINE VIOLATED RIGHTS IN COVERT SURVEILLANCE CASES (13 Feb. 2025)

The case of *Denysyuk and Others v. Ukraine* (applications nos. 22790/19, 23896/20, 25803/20, and 31352/20) concerned covert audio and video monitoring of the first applicant (Mr. Denysyuk) and the interception of telephone communications of the second and third applicants (Mr. Beylin and Mr. Berezkin) during criminal investigations. The fourth applicant (Mr. Kulchytskyy), a lawyer, complained about structural deficiencies in the legal framework protecting lawyer-client communications.
The European Court of Human Rights (Fifth Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence) of the European Convention on Human Rights in respect of all applicants.
The Court found that the interference with the applicants' rights was not "in accordance with the law". The applicants were denied access to the judicial decisions authorizing the surveillance, and the Court, also lacking access to these decisions (due to the Government's refusal to provide them), could not conclude that proper and detailed judicial scrutiny, including a "necessity" assessment, had taken place. The implementation of the covert measures lacked sufficient safeguards, specifically, detailed rules and procedures for handling accidentally intercepted lawyer-client communications, and an independent oversight authority. The applicants also lacked effective domestic procedures to challenge the lawfulness and necessity of the measures after their completion, being denied access to key documents, and the available legal remedies were ineffective. The legal remedies were theoretical and illusory.
Additionally, the Court found that the Ukrainian Government had failed to comply with its obligations under Article 38 of the Convention by refusing to submit the requested documents (judicial authorizations).
The complaint that Article 13 (right to an effective remedy), in conjunction with Article 8, had been breached, was declared admissible. However, having regard to the reasons that led the court to its finding of a violation of Article 8, the Court considered that it was not necessary to examine the complaint under Article 13 separately.
The Court considered that finding violations of the applicants' Convention rights constituted sufficient just satisfaction. The Court also awarded EUR 6,000 to be jointly paid to the second and third applicants, covering costs under all heads.

NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ARREST OF ARMENIAN PROTESTER FOUND (13 Feb. 2025)

The case of *Ishkhanyan v. Armenia* (application no. 5297/16) concerned the arrest of Mr. Hovhannes Ishkhanyan following the dispersal of a sit-in demonstration on Baghramyan Avenue in Yerevan on 23 June 2015. The demonstration was part of the "Electric Yerevan" protests against a rise in electricity prices. The applicant, along with over two hundred other protesters, was taken to a police station after police used water cannons to break up the demonstration, which had blocked a major public road.
The European Court of Human Rights (Fifth Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 5 § 1 (right to liberty and security) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Court found that the applicant had been under the exclusive control of the police for over seven hours, which amounted to a deprivation of liberty. The Court concluded that there was no justification for the arrest under Article 5 § 1 (b), because, the applicant was arrested after the dispersal of the sit-in, when he was leaving the area. The Court determined that the arrest fell under the scope of Art 5 §1(c). However, the Court found that the arrest did not fulfill the conditions of said paragraph because it was conducted *en masse*, without an individualized assessment of any criminality in the applicant's actions, and without a reasonable suspicion of him having committed an offence. The authorities initially claimed the applicant was suspected of hooliganism, but he was later questioned as a witness, and no charges were ever brought. Furthermore, his placement in police custody did not follow a procedure prescribed by law, as no arrest record was drawn up for the period he was a *de facto* arrestee, despite a legal requirement to do so. The documents pertaining to the applicant's deprivation of liberty were inconsistent and did not clearly state legal grounds.
The Court declared inadmissible the applicant's complaint under Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) regarding being kept in wet clothes without rest, finding that it did not reach the severity threshold. The applicant's claim under Article 11 (freedom of assembly) was found to be inadmissible for failure to exhaust domestic remedies, specifically the option of lodging an "acknowledgement claim" under Armenian administrative law.
The Court awarded the applicant EUR 4,600 in respect of non-pecuniary damage and EUR 1,500 for costs and expenses.

EMAIL CONTENT USED FOR CONVICTION VIOLATED PRIVACY, BUT THE TRIAL WAS FAIR (13 Feb. 2025)

The case of *Macharik v. the Czech Republic* (application no. 51409/19) concerned the criminal conviction of Ms. Michaela Macharik, which was primarily based on the content of her email communications with another convict. These emails were obtained by the police through a judicial order issued under Article 88a of the Czech Code of Criminal Procedure, authorizing the transfer of data from a third party's (M.P.'s) mailbox to which the applicant's emails had been forwarded. The order was issued in the context of a tax evasion investigation.
The European Court of Human Rights (Fifth Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private life and correspondence) of the European Convention on Human Rights, but no violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial) of the Convention, and that no separate issue arises under Article 13 in conjunction with Articles 6 § 1 and 8 of the Convention.
Regarding Article 8, the Court found that the interference with the applicant's right to privacy was not "in accordance with the law." The judicial order was issued under a provision that, according to the domestic courts' own later interpretations, related to *communications data* (operational and location data), not the *content* of communications. Furthermore, domestic law at the time did not allow communication service providers to *store* the content of such communications, yet the provider complied with the order to provide it. The domestic courts' interpretation and application of the law lacked clarity and consistency, making the interference unforeseeable.
As for Article 6, despite the unlawful acquisition of the email evidence under Article 8, the Court found that the overall fairness of the applicant's trial was *not* violated. There was no indication of bad faith by the police. The evidence was deemed accurate and reliable (the applicant did not contest its authenticity). The applicant had ample opportunity to challenge the admissibility of the evidence before four levels of domestic courts. While the email content was decisive for her conviction, the strong and reliable nature of the evidence mitigated the need for additional corroborating evidence.
Concerning the complaint under article 13, the court considered that it was aimed at the outcome of the investigation and that it was a restatement of the complaints under article 6 and 8. Therefore, it concluded that no separate issue arises under article 13 of the convention.
In terms of remedy, the Court held that the finding of a violation of Article 8 was sufficient just satisfaction for non-pecuniary damage, and awarded EUR 2,500 to the applicant for costs and expenses.

POLAND FAILED TO PROTECT MOTHER'S CUSTODY AND CONTACT RIGHTS (13 Feb. 2025)

The case of *L.D. v. Poland* (application no. 12119/14) concerned the Polish authorities' failure to effectively enforce a mother's (the applicant's)

custody of, and contact with, her son, B., after the father, P., refused to return the child in March 2011. The mother had been granted custody, but enforcement was unsuccessful, and subsequent proceedings re-awarded custody to the father.
The European Court of Human Rights (First Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court found that the Polish authorities had failed to fulfill their positive obligations to protect the applicant's family life.
The Court identified several key shortcomings. The first-instance court took eleven months to issue a ruling on custody, during which time the child remained with the father. The initial ruling wrongly favored the father, disregarding an expert report. This delay contributed to the ultimate failure to return the child. Despite a court order to return the child to the mother, enforcement attempts were delayed and ultimately unsuccessful. The authorities lacked foresight in preparing for the return, given the father's known history of non-compliance and the child's alienation from the mother. The court belatedly ordered family therapy, but without a time-limit, rendering it ineffective. The applicant's attempts to establish contact were hampered by jurisdictional disputes between courts, long delays (months) in addressing interim applications, and failure to enforce existing contact orders. The authorities did not adequately respond to the father's obstruction of contact. A guardian was assigned late. Splitting child's residence, custody and contact rights was problematic.
The Court emphasized that while the father's uncooperative behavior presented challenges, the authorities had a duty to take measures to reconcile the parents' conflicting interests and prioritize the child's best interests. The repeated delays and lack of effective action contributed to the complete breakdown of the mother-child relationship.
The Court awarded the applicant EUR 10,000 in respect of non-pecuniary damage and EUR 2,469 for costs and expenses.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION FOUND IN CASE OF TEACHER'S DISMISSAL OVER SEXUALLY EXPLICIT BLOG (13 Feb. 2025)

The case of *P. v. Poland* (application no. 56310/15) concerned the disciplinary dismissal of a secondary school teacher, Mr. K.P., for, among other reasons, maintaining a public blog on a website aimed at homosexual men that included sexually explicit text and images. The teacher had also brought his same-sex partner on two school trips without proper authorization.

CtEHR. The European Court of Human Rights.

The European Court of Human Rights (First Section) held, by four votes to three, that there had been a violation of Article 10 (freedom of expression) of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court concluded that the interference with the applicant's freedom of expression was not "necessary in a democratic society."
The Court recognized that teachers hold a position of public trust and have a responsibility to shape students' moral attitudes. However, the Court determined that the domestic authorities failed to provide "relevant and sufficient reasons" for the dismissal. The applicant's blog was not directly targeted at students, nor did he actively disseminate the content to them, and the website required an affirmation of adulthood for access. There was a lack of evidence showing the blog had negatively impacted students, who actively sought access to it. Similar or more explicit content was commonly available online. The applicant's conduct did not intrude upon educational policies or parental decisions concerning ethics and sexuality. Furthermore, the dismissal, while not the harshest possible disciplinary action, was considered disproportionate given the applicant's positive record and absence of prior disciplinary actions, it was in fact, more severe than initially requested. The authorities failed to adequately acknowledge that the applicant's actions were not illegal. And the analysis performed by domestic authorities was not deep.
The Court underscored that while teachers have "duties and responsibilities," these must be weighed against their right to freedom of expression, particularly when the expression takes place outside the school environment and is not directly aimed at students. The applicant's employment was

characterized by a neutral legal relationship, as a teacher, not based on religious grounds.
The Court found the complaints under Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life), both alone and in conjunction with Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination), inadmissible. It determined that the central issue was not the applicant's sexual orientation, but the content of his blog. The claim under Article 14, in conjunction with Article 8, was declared manifestly ill-founded.
The complaints regarding the violation of Article 10, both alone and in conjunction with Article 14 (discrimination), were declared admissible.
The claim concerning the violation of Article 14, read in conjunction with Article 10, did not give rise to a separate issue.
The Court awarded the applicant EUR 2,600 for non-pecuniary damages.
Judges Krzysztof Wojtyczek, Péter Paczolay, and Alena Poláčková issued a joint dissenting opinion. They contended that the blog *was* accessible to minors despite the adult declaration, that proving negative impact on students is challenging in disciplinary proceedings, and that the domestic authorities appropriately focused on the arguments presented by the parties. They believed the interference was justified to safeguard the rights of minors and parents and that the majority's approach weakened the principle of subsidiarity. They also found the content vulgar and the sanction's impact on the applicant's life to be limited.

CtEHR. The European Court of Human Rights.

ITALY FAILED TO INVESTIGATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASE (13 Feb. 2025)

The case of *P.P. v. Italy* (application no. 64066/19) concerned domestic violence and harassment suffered by the applicant, Ms. P.P., from her ex-partner, A.B., between 2007 and 2009. The applicant complained that the criminal investigation was ineffective and lacked the required procedural safeguards, as the offenses were time-barred, and that the authorities failed to act with the necessary promptness and diligence. She also alleged that the national authorities, in conducting the criminal investigation, failed to take into account the specific problem of domestic violence, given that the offense of stalking did not exist until 2009.
The European Court of Human Rights (First Section) held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) of the European Convention on Human Rights, under its procedural aspect.
The Court found that Italy had failed in its positive obligation to conduct an effective investigation into the domestic violence allegations. A.B. enjoyed total impunity due to the unjustified delay in the criminal proceedings against him, which ultimately ended due to the statute of limitations. The Court observed the judicial authorities' passivity in light of the serious nature of the violence, in particular their slowness to take measures to protect her in the course of the criminal investigation. The Court criticized the authorities for not taking into account the specific problem of domestic violence and for not responding in a proportionate manner.
The Court noted with concern the combined consequences of the peculiarities of the national system regarding statutes of limitations and the delays in the proceedings, and that these factors were incompatible with the requirements of the Convention.
While a civil court in 2024 ordered A.B. to pay the applicant compensation, that decision was not yet final and no money had been paid. Furthermore, the Court reiterated that civil action, resulting only in payment of damages, is not sufficient to meet the State's procedural obligation under Article 3 to investigate acts of domestic violence. The criminal proceedings should aim for the pursuit and punishment of the perpetrator.

Council of Europe. The European Court of Human Rights.

Academic & Professional Opportunities

2025 SUMMER ACADEMY ON AFRICAN UNION LAW AND PUBLIC LAW OF AFRICA, AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The African Institute of International Law offers a two-week Summer Academy on African Union Law and the Public Law of Africa. Apply by July 10, 2025.

GLOBAL HEALTH LAW STUDENT WRITING COMPETITION, ASIL GLOBAL HEALTH LAW INTEREST GROUP (GHLIG) & JOURNAL OF GLOBAL HEALTH LAW

The ASIL GHLIG and the Journal of Global Health Law invite submissions for their Global Health Law Student Writing Competition. The winning paper will receive a certificate, a one-year ASIL membership, mentorship, and potential publication in the Journal of Global Health Law. Apply by August 31, 2025.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: THICKER NOTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITIES CLOSING CONFERENCE

The Future Proofing Human Rights research project invites abstracts for its closing conference, "Thicker Notions of Human Rights Accountabilities," to be held in Brussels, Belgium, from November 19-21, 2025. Contributions from various disciplines are welcome. Apply by April 20, 2025.

CALL FOR PAPERS: SPECIAL SECTION OF TORTURE JOURNAL: ISRAEL & OCCUPIED PALESTINE

Torture Journal invites submissions for a special section on torture, ill-treatment, and associated human rights violations in Israel and Occupied Palestine. Interdisciplinary papers are encouraged. Submit by April 30, 2025.

CALL FOR PAPERS: YALE JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (YJIL) ONLINE

YJIL Online accepts submissions for Features Essays (5,000-10,000 words, practitioners/scholars only), Forum Pieces (500-2,000 words, current law students only), Book Reviews, and Symposia Pieces (5,000-10,000 words, invited scholars only). Current law students can submit Forum Pieces at four deadlines: April 1, June 1, August 1, and October 1, 2025.

CALL FOR PAPERS: ESIL INTEREST GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ANNUAL WORKSHOP

The ESIL Interest Group on International Business and Human Rights invites paper proposals for its annual workshop at the 20th ESIL Annual Conference in Berlin (September 10-13, 2025; workshop on September 11). The workshop theme is "Reconstructing International Law: Structural Shifts Under the UN Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights". Apply by April 15, 2025.

CALL FOR PAPERS: KABARAK LAW REVIEW, VOLUME 4

The Kabarak Law Review, Volume 4 (December 2025), focuses on the 25th anniversary of the African Union's Constitutive Act. The journal invites submissions on topics including the Act's historical evolution, AU institutions, regionalism, reforms, emerging challenges (AI, climate change, pandemics), comparative regional governance, peace and security, financing, and justice for Africans. Full-length articles by April 30, 2025. Other submissions by July 31, 2025.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: ASSOCIATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTES (AHRI) CONFERENCE 2025

The AHRI Conference 2025, "Protecting human rights from the global spread of organized crime," will be held in Lima, Peru, from September 11-13, 2025 (hybrid format). The conference invites proposals for papers and panels. Apply by March 30, 2025.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: JUSTICE PROGRAMME (JUST) ACTION GRANTS FOR TRANSNATIONAL JUDICIAL TRAINING PROJECTS

The European DG Justice and Consumers invites proposals for action grants under the Justice Programme (JUST) to support transnational projects focusing on training justice professionals in civil law, criminal law, or fundamental rights. Apply by March 26, 2025.

ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIPS FOR MASTER DEGREES

Rotary awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for master degrees or professional development

certificates in peace and conflict studies at Rotary Peace Centers worldwide. Master's degree programs (15-24 months) are available at universities in Asia, Australia, Europe, and the U.S., while certificate programs (one year) are offered in Africa and Türkiye. Fellowships cover tuition, fees, room and board, transportation, and internship /field study expenses. Apply by May 15, 2025.

COSS-USYD JOINT PHD SCHOLARSHIP - LEGITIMATING CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Glasgow Law School and Sydney Law School offer a joint PhD scholarship examining the interplay between criminal responsibility, AI, and the state. The research explores the philosophical, legal, and policy implications of AI in criminal law. Apply by March 31, 2025.

ARC DISCOVERY PROJECT PHD SCHOLARSHIP FOR MODERN SLAVERY IN INDO-PACIFIC FISHERIES, UNSW LAW & JUSTICE

UNSW Law & Justice offers a PhD scholarship for research on remedies for victims of modern slavery in Indo-Pacific fisheries. Apply by March 31, 2025.

BRANDON RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP 2025-2026, LAUTERPACHT CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Lauterpacht Centre for International Law (University of Cambridge) invites applications for the 2025-2026 Brandon Research Fellowship. The fellowship provides a research base in Cambridge for legal practitioners and academics. Apply by April 4, 2025.

JENNINGS RANDOLPH SENIOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE (USIP)

USIP seeks a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow for an eight-month fellowship (January-August 2026) at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. The fellowship focuses on the intersection of security cooperation and conflict prevention, with a monthly stipend of $15,000. Register by March 20, 2025, and apply by April 8, 2025.

DOCTORAL RESEARCH POSITIONS (12 POSITIONS), IDP BHR

The International Doctorate Program Business and Human Rights is accepting applications for 12 doctoral research positions. Positions are based at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, University of Bayreuth, or University of Würzburg, starting November 1, 2025. Funding is provided for four years. Apply by June 1, 2025.

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER, SCIENCES PO

Sciences Po Law School invites applications for a one-year postdoctoral position (with possible extension) on "New Legal Theories for the Digital," starting September 2025. Apply by May 1, 2025.

GORDON F. HENDERSON POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

The Human Rights Research and Education Centre at the University of Ottawa offers the Gordon F. Henderson Postdoctoral Fellowship (CAD$45,000 plus benefits) for researchers with promising projects in human rights. Apply by March 31, 2025.

HUMAN RIGHTS INTERN, OHCHR

OHCHR Bangkok is seeking an Intern to support human rights monitoring, research, and engagement with UN mechanisms in Southeast Asia. Apply by October 7, 2025.

HUMAN RIGHTS INTERN, OHCHR

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is offering internships in Geneva, supporting the Human Rights Treaties Branch. Apply by March 30, 2025.

HUMAN RIGHTS INTERN, OHCHR

OHCHR Geneva is offering internship assignments within the Human Rights Treaties Branch. Apply by April 2, 2025.

INTERN, SPECIAL PROCEDURES BRANCH, OHCHR

OHCHR Geneva is seeking an Intern for its Special Procedures Branch. Apply by December 30, 2025.

LEGAL INTERNSHIP (GENEVA), CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (CIEL)

CIEL offers a paid, in-person legal internship at its Geneva office for LLM students or those pursuing similar legal qualifications. Apply by April 30, 2025.

INTERN, SRI LANKA ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT, OHCHR

OHCHR Geneva is seeking an Intern for the Sri Lanka Accountability Project (OSLap). The intern

will assist with research on accountability frameworks for sexual violence, gather information, and support project activities. Apply by April 8, 2025.

INTERN, OHCHR
OHCHR Geneva is seeking an Intern for the Civic Space Unit. Apply by April 14, 2025.

LEGAL AFFAIRS INTERNS, OLA
The Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) in New York is recruiting interns for its six divisions. Interns will gain experience in international law, ocean affairs, and other legal areas. Apply by March 29, 2025.

INTERNSHIP - HUMAN RIGHTS (FACT-FINDING MISSION FOR THE SUDAN) - 2 POSITIONS, OHCHR
OHCHR's Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan (based in Nairobi) is seeking two Interns to support investigations of human rights violations and abuses in Sudan. Apply by April 16, 2025.

OPEN SOURCE INVESTIGATOR AND TRAINER (CONFLICT), BELLINGCAT
Bellingcat seeks an open source investigator and trainer for its Human Rights and Conflict Monitoring Team. The position is fully remote, with occasional travel. Apply by April 6, 2025.

SENIOR CAMPAIGNER (17-MONTH FIXED TERM), AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA
Amnesty International seeks a Senior Campaigner to lead the design and implementation of human rights campaigns. This is a 17-month, fully remote, fixed-term union position. Apply by April 11, 2025.

PRINCIPAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, UNVMC
The United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC) in Bogota is seeking a Principal Political Affairs Officer (D-1). The officer will manage the Sentences Verification Office, advise on the transitional justice system, and liaise with stakeholders. Apply by March 28, 2025.

PROJECT COORDINATOR - 2025 INTERNATIONAL LAW SEMINAR, UNOG
The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) is seeking a Project Coordinator for the 59th International Law Seminar (ILS), to be held from June 30 to July 18, 2025. Apply by March 30, 2025.

HUMAN RIGHTS JURIST (HUNGARIAN LAW), COUNCIL OF EUROPE
The Council of Europe seeks a Human Rights Jurist specializing in Hungarian law, based in Strasbourg. Apply by April 3, 2025.

HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER (GREEK LAW), COUNCIL OF EUROPE
The Council of Europe seeks a Human Rights Lawyer specializing in Greek law, based in Strasbourg. Apply by April 3, 2025.

HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER (TJO), OHCHR
OHCHR Geneva is hiring a temporary Human Rights Officer (P-3) for the Women's Human Rights and Gender Section. This is a temporary position for six months. Apply by April 3, 2025.

HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER, OHCHR
OHCHR Geneva is hiring a Human Rights Officer (P-3) for the Groups and Accountability Section, Special Procedures Branch. Apply by April 23, 2025.

HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER, OHCHR
OHCHR Geneva is hiring a Human Rights Officer (P-3) for the Protection, Religion, Accountability, and Human Security Section, Special Procedures Branch. Apply by April 13, 2025.

HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER, OHCHR
OHCHR Nairobi, Kenya is seeking a Human Rights Officer (P-3). Apply by April 2, 2025.

GENDER AFFAIRS OFFICER, UNVMC
The United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC) in Bogota is seeking a Gender Affairs Officer (P-4). Apply by March 29, 2025.

HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER (TJO), OHCHR
OHCHR Geneva is hiring a temporary Human Rights Officer (P-4) for the Women's Human Rights and Gender Section. Apply by April 3, 2025.

HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER, OHCHR
The Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh is hiring a Human Rights Officer (P-4). Apply by April 4, 2025.

News from the Facts and Norms Institute

FACTS AND NORMS INSTITUTE SUBMITS AMICUS BRIEF IN FORCED STERILIZATION CASE (27 Feb. 2025)

SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA –The Facts and Norms Institute has submitted an Amicus Curiae brief to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the case of *Ramos Durand and others v. Peru*. Coordinated by Leonel Lisboa, the Institute's submission was developed in collaboration with assistant researcher João Fernando Posso and invited researcher Dr. Tainá Garcia Maia (Center for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany).
The Amicus brief provides a comprehensive legal analysis of the case, focusing on violations of reproductive rights, gender discrimination, and the right to informed consent.

Key Arguments of the Amicus Brief
Violation of Rights: The Institute argues that the forced sterilizations represent a clear violation of internationally recognized reproductive rights, including the right to autonomy, bodily integrity, and informed consent. The brief emphasizes that a signed consent form, obtained under duress or without full understanding, does not constitute genuine consent. The brief cites relevant international jurisprudence, including cases from the European Court of Human Rights (*V.C. v. Slovakia, Y.P. v. Russia*) and the Inter-American Court itself (*I.V. v. Bolivia*).
Gender, Class, and Racial Discrimination: The brief highlights the discriminatory nature of Fujimori's population control program, which disproportionately targeted women, particularly indigenous women and those living in poverty. It uses Fredman's multidimensional framework of substantive equality to demonstrate how the program reinforced harmful gender stereotypes and exacerbated existing inequalities. It argues that this constitutes a form of gender-based violence.
State Responsibility: The Institute argues that the Peruvian state is responsible for the human rights violations committed under the Fujimori regime, including the failure to protect women from forced sterilization, the lack of adequate investigation and prosecution of those responsible, and the failure to provide full reparations to victims.
Reparations: The brief calls for comprehensive reparations for the victims, including financial compensation, access to medical and psychological care, and measures of memory and recognition. It also stresses the importance of non-repetition measures, including mandatory human rights training for healthcare professionals and strengthening support mechanisms for victims of reproductive rights violations.
Relevance of Brazil: The amicus curiae also uses, as a historical example, the evolution of the reproductive laws and policies in Brazil.

About the Facts and Norms Institute
The Facts and Norms Institute is a Global South-based academic institution with a strong record of promoting human rights education and conducting legal research. The Institute has extensive experience collaborating with international bodies, including the United Nations and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, through *Amicus Curiae* submissions and research projects on various human rights issues. The Institute has a proven track record of influencing IACHR jurisprudence, as demonstrated by the citation of its *Amicus* brief in the Court's recent *Leite de Souza and others v. Brazil* decision.

Significance of the Case
Ramos Durand and others v. Peru could set a significant precedent for addressing forced sterilization and other reproductive rights violations in the Americas. The IACHR's decision will have implications not only for Peru but also for other countries in the region where similar practices have occurred.

CLIMATE ACTION INEFFECTIVE WITHOUT HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS, INSTITUTE ARGUES IN UN REPORT (23 Feb. 2025)

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND – The Facts and Norms Institute has submitted a comprehensive report to the *United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development* outlining crucial steps for integrating climate justice into global climate negotiations.
The submission, authored by Professor Henrique Napoleão Alves, emphasizes the critical link between human rights and climate change, arguing that a rights-based approach is essential for achieving fair and effective climate action.
Titled "Climate Justice, Sustainability, and the Right to Development: Input to the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development," the Institute's report draws on legal research, literature reviews, and document analysis to present a robust case for prioritizing human rights in climate-related discussions and policies.

Key Highlights of the Submission
Human Rights as the Foundation of Climate Justice: The report argues that human rights provide a concrete framework for understanding and operationalizing climate justice. It highlights the obligations of states to mitigate climate change, ensure adaptation capacity, guarantee accountability, mobilize resources for sustainable development, and promote international cooperation.
Overcoming Barriers in Climate Negotiations: The Institute identifies key obstacles to integrating human rights into climate talks, including the technical focus of negotiations, limited capacity of delegations, liability concerns, and, in some cases, outright rejection of certain human rights principles. The report proposes practical solutions, such as targeted training, inter-agency collaboration, strategic framing of issues, and building broader coalitions to advocate for a rights-based approach.
Calls for a "Human Rights Economy". The report advocates for a "human rights economy". This approach would utilize existing human rights laws to influence budget priorities, decrease inequalities, encourage progressive fiscal policies, and guarantee transparency in financial decision-making.
The importance of access to Information. The report underscores access to Information as a cornerstone of Climate Justice, and examines how corporate denial is a recurring phenomenon where industries systematically deny or downplay the harms of their activities.
Actionable Recommendations: The submission offers concrete recommendations, including promoting a "human rights economy" that centers human rights in economic decision-making and improving access to information on climate change and its impacts.
In the words of Professor Alves,

> "*Integrating human rights into climate negotiations isn't just a moral imperative; it's a practical necessity for achieving effective and equitable climate solutions.*
> *By addressing the root causes of vulnerability and ensuring that the voices of those most affected are heard, we can build a more just and sustainable future for all.*"

The Facts and Norms Institute's submission builds upon its extensive work in human rights research and advocacy, including collaborations with the United Nations and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Institute's ongoing commitment to promoting human rights-based solutions to global challenges positions it as a key voice in the ongoing dialogue on climate justice.

About the Facts and Norms Institute
The Facts and Norms Institute is an independent academic institution based in the Global South. The Institute's mission is to promote education, justice, human rights, and the pursuit of peace. The Institute has extensive experience collaborating with international bodies, including the United Nations and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, through *Amicus Curiae* submissions and research projects on various human rights issues.