

HUMAN RIGHTS INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Newsletter Editor

Dear colleagues:

We are delighted to present the latest Human Rights Interest Group (HRIG) newsletter edition.

This issue includes a guest editorial containing a commentary by Ignacio J. Álvarez Martínez, Paula Duarte and Ezequiel Curcio on a decision of the Human Rights Committee regarding the electoral fraud perpetrated by Nicolás Maduro's regime in the presidential elections of July 28, 2024. We invite you to read their valuable insights and get involved in the next issue by sharing your thoughts on human rights developments that you consider relevant.

In addition, in our traditional sections, you will find the most relevant events and debates that took place over the last few months, such as a decision of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women declaring Peru responsible for the implementation of its policy of forced sterilization during the 1990s; the Resolution No. 620 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the critical importance of equitable data access in advancing human rights, governance, and sustainable development across Africa; a decision of the European Court of Human Rights condemning Armenia for failing to protect a woman against severe domestic violence; the Resolution No 2/24 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights addressing human mobility caused by the adverse effects of climate change; and the decision of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on the case of "Beatriz v. El Salvador", a landmark decision addressing the absolute criminalization of abortion and its impact on women's rights. Furthermore, this issue contains a section on employment opportunities in the human rights field in the United Nations.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much as we enjoyed writing it. We trust in the importance of keeping up these contributions that stimulate the dissemination of current human rights problems and concerns, and that reinforce the relevance of international human rights law in each of us.

If you have ideas or suggestions for the HRIG or would like to share any information that may be relevant to the group, such as new publications, upcoming events, career opportunities, professional accomplishments, and more, please send them to ecurcio@alvarezmartinezlaw.com to include them in our next newsletter.

Best regards,

Ezequiel Curcio
Newsletter editor

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Views contained in this publication are those of the authors in their personal capacity. The American Society of International Law and this Interest Group do not generally take positions on substantive issues, including those addressed in this periodical.



I. GUEST EDITORIAL

1. **Commentary on the decision of the Human Rights Committee on the electoral fraud of Nicolás Maduro's regime in the presidential elections**

Commentary by Ignacio J. Álvarez Martínez¹, Paula Duarte² and Ezequiel Curcio³

On December 3, 2024, the CCPR registered Communication No. 4712/2024 (“Ignacio Álvarez Martínez v. Venezuela”) and granted provisional measures, in a landmark case to investigate the electoral fraud perpetrated by the regime of Nicolás Maduro in the elections of July 28, 2024⁴. The case concerns Mr. Álvarez Martínez, a Venezuelan citizen residing in the United States, who was prevented from exercising his right to vote due to restrictions imposed by the Nicolás Maduro regime on voters abroad. The complaint sought to protect Mr. Álvarez Martínez's rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, specifically his right to access public

information (Article 19(2)), to participate in genuine elections (Article 25(b)) and to take part in the conduct of public affairs (Article 25(a)), consistent with Articles 2(1), 2(3)(a) and 2(3)(b) of the ICCPR.

Particularly, the complainants alleged that multiple violations of fundamental human rights were committed in Venezuela in the context of the July 28, 2024 presidential elections. They argued that there was massive electoral fraud, as the Venezuelan National Electoral Council—the body in charge of counting the votes in Venezuela—published severely distorted results announcing Nicolás Maduro as president-elect; but which, in reality, did not reflect the will of the people at the polls. The complainants also argued that the elections were marked by an evident lack of transparency and undue restrictions on access to public information related to the results. For example, the failure of the authorities to publish key electoral information, which is contrary to the principles of transparency and maximum disclosure and impedes citizen scrutiny of the electoral process, and compromises the integrity and legitimacy of the elections. Furthermore, the complaints indicated that there was an unjustified restriction on voting abroad since millions of Venezuelans abroad, including Mr. Álvarez Martínez, were prevented from exercising their right to vote from their countries of residence, given the disproportionate requirements not foreseen in the Venezuelan electoral framework imposed to restrict the exercise of this right. Finally, they alleged the violation of Mr. Álvarez Martínez's right to access justice since Judgment 031 of 2024 of the Venezuelan Supreme Court of Justice closed any possibility of challenging the election results, depriving him from accessing an effective remedy. In this sense, the complainants expressed that the uselessness of judicial remedies was evidenced by the Venezuelan courts' lack of independence and impartiality, which rendered any judicial remedy completely ineffective.

Additionally, the complaint contained a request for provisional measures to protect the rights of Mr. Álvarez Martínez against possible violations that would render the outcome of the proceed-

1 Ignacio J. Álvarez Martínez is a lawyer graduated from Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Venezuela. He is founder and executive director of IHR Legal. He is a former Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and lawyer of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and co-chair of the Human Rights Interest Group of the *American Society of International Law* (ASIL).

2 Paula Duarte is a lawyer and political scientist from the Universidad de los Andes in Colombia. She is a consultant for IHR Legal.

3 Ezequiel Curcio is a lawyer graduated with honors from the Law School of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). He is a consultant for IHR Legal. He is the editor of the newsletter of the Human Rights Interest Group of the *American Society of International Law* (ASIL).

4 The complaint that led to the opening of the case was filed by Ignacio Javier Álvarez Martínez (former special rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights); Antonia Urrejola Noguera (former president of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights); Carlos Vicente de Roux (former judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights); José Antonio Guevara (former president of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention) and Paulo Abrão (former executive secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights), members of the firm IHR LEGAL.



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ings before the CCPR ineffective. After an initial analysis of the complaint, the CCPR decided to grant provisional measures ordering Venezuela to “refrain from destroying the electoral material of the presidential elections of July 28, 2024, including the tally sheets, as well as all the electoral material necessary for the preparation of the *Acta de Totalización, Adjudicación y Proclamación* and the *Hojas Complementarias de Totalización*”⁵. This measure was necessary since Article 169 of the 2009 Organic Law on Electoral Processes authorized the Venezuelan regime, through the National Electoral Council, to order the destruction of all the electoral material of the presidential elections of July 28, 2024.

Although the CCPR has not yet ruled on the merits of the case, the decision to grant provisional measures set a key precedent in supervising electoral processes and ensuring their compliance with international human rights standards. The Committee’s action in this case will have legal, political, and symbolic implications for the struggle for the restoration of democracy in Venezuela and in other similar contexts.

II. UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

1. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- **On December 20, 2024, the OHCHR Sudan Country Office published its latest report on the situation of human rights in El Fasher, North Darfur, Sudan, regarding the hostilities that transformed the city into a battleground.** From April 2023, hostilities and violence erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the states of Khartoum and Merowe, and later in the Darfur region. By November, the RSF had already seized control of four out of Darfur’s five states, with only parts of North Darfur, including the

capital El Fasher, remaining under SAF control. The capital is home to thousands of internally displaced people (IDP’s), most of them belonging to African tribes. The RSF, with the support of Arab militias, laid siege to El Fasher in May 2024, preventing the SAF from receiving support and supplies. Furthermore, the RSF carried out numerous attacks between May and November to gain control of the city, including the use of artillery, “suicide drones”, among many others, causing the death of civilians, destruction of infrastructure and, above all, a further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis. It is worth noting that in June 2024, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2736 (2024), which demanded the RSF lift the siege and called for an end to hostilities in and around the city. All in all, it’s been seven months of violence and hostilities that have turned the city and region into a battlefield, with a serious human rights situation. The purpose of the report is to demonstrate the violations that took place during this period, including emblematic cases.

The OHCHR has recorded that, since May 2024, at least 782 civilians have been killed and at least 1,143 injured amid the violence in the city and its surroundings. In this regard, the hostilities and violence have led to a range of serious consequences for the enjoyment of human rights, such as life, physical integrity, food, health and an adequate standard of living. With regard to attacks on civilians and civilian objects, the OHCHR pointed out that there have been several indiscriminate attacks and attacks on hospitals and health facilities, among others. The OHCHR found that civilians were unable to evacuate the city and that residents were forced to give money to the RSF at checkpoints. Other violations include cases of torture and ill-treatment, sexual violence, arbitrary detentions, and the recruitment and use of children by the RSF. Additionally, the country is facing a severe food insecurity crisis, with the highest number of malnutrition cases in Eastern Africa. The report can be found [here](#).

⁵ According to the Organic Law on Electoral Processes, the *Acta de Totalización, Adjudicación y Proclamación* and the *Hojas Complementarias de Totalización* is an official document used in electoral processes in Venezuela to consolidate the final results of an election.



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2. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

- **On October 30, 2024, the CEDAW decided that the policy of forced sterilization in Peru, that occurred during the 1990s', amounted to sex-based violence and intersectional discrimination.** The five authors in the case were born between 1969 and 1978: María Elena Carbajal Cepeda, Florentina Loayza Cárdenas, Rosa Loarte, Elena Rojas Caballero, and Gloria Basilio Huamán. The case takes place in a context where the “National Population Policy Law” in Peru was amended in 1995 to authorize the use of voluntary surgical contraceptives, including female and male sterilization procedures. In 1996, the Ministerial Resolution No. 071-96-SA-DM was issued, approving a program for voluntary surgical contraception. However, this program was implemented without adequate infrastructure, specialized medical personnel, or proper informed consent. It is known that more than 300,000 women, most of them indigenous, were sterilized without their consent. In this context, María Elena was sterilized at the age of 26 when she gave birth to her fourth child. Her son was hidden from her, and she was told she would only get him back if she underwent sterilization. The procedure left her traumatized, both physically and psychologically. It was only later that she realized forced sterilization is a crime. Florentina Loayza was 19 years old when she was forced to undergo sterilization under the threat that she would only receive food if she complied. She tried to escape but was unable to. Since then, she has suffered from abdominal pain and mental health issues and is now registered as a victim of forced sterilization. Rosa Loarte was 35 when she was intercepted by medical practitioners and taken to a medical center without being informed of what would happen. She was sterilized without her consent. She suffers from intense pain in her torso and spine and is now part of the official registry of victims. Elena Rojas was forcibly sterilized at the age of 30 after nurses approached her and ordered her to

get on a truck, warning that she would lose her social benefits if she refused. She received no post-operative care, developed uterine cancer six months later, and continues to experience severe pain. She lives in extreme poverty and is also registered as a victim. Finally, Gloria Basilio was 25 when she was forcibly and inhumanely sterilized after being taken by nurses. She suffers from permanent trauma and a detached uterus and is now part of the registry. Four of the five women were abandoned by their husbands due to their sterilization.

The CEDAW has stated that forced sterilization disproportionately affects women based on the perception that their primary role is reproductive and that they are incapable of making responsible decisions about their reproductive health and family planning. Additionally, most sterilizations carried out in the 1990s targeted indigenous women, those from poor or rural areas, and illiterate women. The CEDAW determined that the State violated Article 2 (prohibition of discrimination), in conjunction with Articles 3 (State obligation to ensure the full development of women), 10(h) (right to access information), 12 (State obligation to eliminate discrimination in healthcare), 14 (State obligation to address the specific challenges faced by rural women), and 24 (State obligation to adopt measures for the full realization of the rights in the Convention) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The decision also took into account the State's failure to implement a comprehensive reparation policy or to ensure a prompt and effective investigation. Furthermore, the CEDAW reaffirmed that forced sterilization, when carried out on a widespread or systematic scale, constitutes a crime against humanity under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Finally, it issued a series of recommendations, including the implementation of an adequate and comprehensive reparation program. The decision (in Spanish) can be found [here](#) and the press release [here](#).

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- **On October 25, 2024, the CEDAW published its latest General Recommendation No. 40 on women's equal and inclusive representation in decision-making.** The document states that women have the right to equal and inclusive representation in all decision-making systems on an equal footing with men. Furthermore, it outlines the obstacles and necessary measures to ensure that women's right to equal and inclusive representation is recognized and guaranteed in all decision-making systems.

The CEDAW views equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making as a transformative solution and emphasizes that increasing parity is essential to facilitate joint decision-making. However, women continue to be structurally and significantly underrepresented, particularly in conflict prevention and crisis management. As an example, in 2022, women held only 16% of representative positions, a lower percentage than in 2021 and 2020. Additionally, women constitute only a third of participants in international forums where critical issues—such as nuclear threats and the weaponization of new technologies—are debated. In the labor market, they occupy just 28.2% of managerial positions. Although climate change and disasters exacerbate discrimination against women and girls, in 2020, women held only 15% of ministerial positions in the environmental sector, despite their leadership in climate and environmental activism, particularly among young women.

The CEDAW outlined seven key pillars for achieving equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems: full parity (50/50) between men and women; effective youth leadership with parity as a requirement; intersectionality and the inclusion of women in all their diversity; a comprehensive approach to decision-making across all spheres; equal power and influence; structural transformation; and representation of civil society. Additionally, States have various obligations to achieve these goals, including ensuring non-discrimination and substantive equality. Temporary special measures,

such as affirmative action, must also be implemented. Finally, the CEDAW issued numerous recommendations to States, including amending their Constitutions and legislative frameworks to institutionalize full parity, integrating an intersectional gender perspective at all levels of decision-making, and combating stereotypes. It also urged States to promote parity in sports and artistic expression as part of broader efforts to achieve equal representation in decision-making. The general recommendation can be found [here](#) and the press release [here](#).

3. Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

- **On October 7, 2024, the CRC decided that Finland violated the rights of Sámi Indigenous children to culture and land, by granting mineral exploitation permits on their territory without an impact assessment or an adequate participation process.** The applicants in this case are M.E.V. (born in 2005), S.E.V. (born in 2007), and B.I.V. (born in 2008), three sisters from the Sámi People and members of the Kova-Labba Siida, a community of reindeer herders. The Kova-Labba Siida represents the Sámi reindeer herding culture in Finland, which engages mostly in semi-nomadic herding with predominantly small herds. The authors argued that their way of life is being threatened by external factors, such as mining, tourism, wind farms, and the rapidly changing environment. They are deeply immersed in the Sámi way of life, a tradition their family has upheld for centuries. They possess their own earmark, which has been passed down through generations, have learned to sing in the traditional Sámi style (used to scare off predators), and know how to craft their own traditional clothing and fur boots, among other cultural practices.

In 2014, the Geological Survey of Finland—an agency under the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment—proposed mineral exploration in the region, targeting gold, copper, and iron. The project involved deep drilling between 100 and 300 meters into the ground at 20 sites

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across a 390-hectare area of reindeer herding land. The State mining authority invited the Sámi Parliament and the Käsivarsi Reindeer Herders' Cooperative to participate in discussions. However, both entities opposed the plan, arguing that it would cause significant harm. They also pointed out that the State had failed to obtain the Sámi's free, prior, and informed consent, and that the necessary impact assessments had not been properly conducted. Despite these objections, permission for exploration was granted in 2016, with operations scheduled to take place during the winter—the most critical season for reindeer survival. Recognizing the severe consequences this would have on their community, the cooperative appealed the decision in 2016, but the appeal was dismissed in 2018. A subsequent appeal in 2019 was also rejected in 2021, with the ruling stating that “consultation with the Sámi was sufficient for the purposes of the Mining Act.”

The CRC found that the fundamental rights of the Sámi children under the Convention on the Rights of the Child had been violated. First, the CRC held that the decision adopted by the Geological Survey of Finland would cause irreparable harm to the Kova-Labba Siida community, depriving the victims from the ability to pass down the Sámi way of life (Article 30), maintain their cultural identity (Article 8), and sustain their traditional economy based on reindeer herding (Article 27). The CRC emphasized that the integrity and survival of a culture are intrinsically linked to the ability to maintain its traditional lifestyle and the use of traditional lands and resources. Additionally, the CRC determined that the State had violated Articles 8, 27, and 30 of the Convention, read in conjunction with Article 12 (the child's right to express their views), as it failed to demonstrate how the decision-making process had adhered to human rights standards for Indigenous participation. These violations were also found in relation to Article 2.1 (the obligation to respect the rights enshrined in the Convention), as the applicants had been entirely excluded from the decision-making process regarding the mining project. The decision can be found [here](#) and the press release [here](#).

III. AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

1. African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACtHPR)

- **On November 13, 2024, the ACtHPR ruled that Benin violated the right to equality by maintaining discriminatory provisions in its family law.** These provisions granted fathers the exclusive right to pass their surnames to their children, effectively excluding mothers from this decision. The applicant argued that this system perpetuated gender-based discrimination, violating the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The ACtHPR ruled that the law contravened the African Charter by reinforcing patriarchal norms and undermining the equal role of women in parental decisions. The ACtHPR stressed that gender equality is a fundamental principle that must be enshrined in domestic laws, noting that these discriminatory provisions perpetuated inequality and failed to align with the values of a modern, rights-respecting society. The ACtHPR concluded that Benin had violated Article 3 (right to equality) of the African Charter. The violation stemmed from a legal framework that denied women equal rights in family matters, particularly regarding the transmission of surnames. In its ruling, the ACtHPR ordered Benin to amend its legislation to ensure that mothers and fathers have equal rights to pass their surnames to their children, bringing the law in line with international human rights standards. The judgment can be found [here](#) and the judgment summary can be found [here](#).

2. African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

- **On November 17, 2024, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) adopted Resolution No. 620 addressing the critical importance of equitable data access in advancing human rights, governance, and sustainable development across Africa.** In its resolution, the ACHPR highlighted the transformative power of data in strengthening democracy, public participation, and innovation while

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promoting transparency and accountability. It recognized data's crucial role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives of Agenda 2063: *The Africa We Want*. At the same time, the ACHPR underscored the risks of data misuse, including privacy violations, discrimination, and unequal access, as well as the need to address biases in automated decision-making processes. The resolution reaffirmed key principles, including the *Model Law on Access to Information for Africa* and the *Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa*. The ACHPR stressed the importance of aligning data practices with ethical standards and international human rights laws, ensuring that marginalized and vulnerable communities gain equitable access to data to prevent deepening existing social, economic, and political inequalities. It called on States to ensure that data collection, processing, and access practices remain transparent, accountable, and compliant with regional and international standards. The ACHPR emphasized that publicly held data, as well as data managed by private entities where public interest is paramount, should be accessible by default, with restrictions limited to legitimate human rights concerns. The resolution further urged investments in data quality, literacy, and capacity-building initiatives to empower individuals and stakeholders in navigating the evolving data landscape. As part of its commitments, the ACHPR mandated the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa to develop normative standards on data collection, deployment, and access through broad consultations across the continent. The Commission also reaffirmed its support for initiatives that promote equitable data access while safeguarding human rights in the digital era. The resolution can be found [here](#).

- **On December 17, 2024, the ACHPR issued a press release expressing its grave concern over the escalation of human rights violations in the Republic of Niger, following a series of terrorist attacks targeting the civilian population.** The ACHPR expressed deep alarm at the terrorist attacks perpetrated since the beginning of

December 2024 in several localities in the western region of the country, which have caused significant loss of human lives. Between December 12 and 14, 2024, the ACHPR was dismayed to learn that 39 civilians, including many women and children, were killed in the localities of Libiri and Kororou due to attacks by armed groups. This tragic event followed an earlier assault on December 5, 2024, in which 21 civilians were murdered in an attack on a goods convoy in the “three borders” zone between Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso. The ACHPR strongly condemned these attacks, which resulted in the violation of several human rights enshrined in the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights. It reiterated that terrorism constitutes a grave violation of human rights and poses a significant threat to peace, security, and democracy. The ACHPR urged African states to take all necessary measures to protect their populations from terrorist activities and called on the African Union and the international community to intensify efforts to combat terrorism. It also stressed the need to support initiatives aimed at preventing and addressing terrorism in Niger and other countries in the Sahel region. Furthermore, the ACHPR underscored the importance of ensuring that counter-terrorism measures align with human rights obligations. It called for strict adherence to the *Principles and Guidelines on the Protection of Human and Peoples' Rights while Countering Terrorism in Africa* (2015), emphasizing that security efforts must not come at the expense of fundamental rights and freedoms. The press release is available [here](#).

IV. EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

1. European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)

- **On December 3, 2024, the ECtHR found Croatia internationally responsible for the collateral death of a twelve-year-old victim in a shooting incident in the case “Svrtan v. Croatia”.** The applicants in the case, Zeljko and Biljana Svrtan, were Croatian nationals. In October 2003, the applicants' son was riding on his bicycle past the house of a man named S.K.,

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who was firing shots at his former brother-in-law. Tragically, the applicants' son was caught in the firing line and shot in the head. He died later in the hospital. S.K.'s ex-brother-in-law was killed on the spot. Investigations revealed that S.K. had been reported to the police months before the incident for illegal possession of weapons and for randomly firing shots in his neighborhood. It was further established that he had exhibited dangerous behavior after his wife left him, making threats against her, his mother, and his grandmother. Additionally, S.K. had a history of alcohol abuse and violent behavior. During the criminal proceedings, S.K. pleaded guilty and admitted that he had come into the weapon—an automatic rifle—during the war in Croatia. He also stated that the police had previously searched his house but failed to find the firearm. In March 2004, he was convicted of murdering his ex-brother-in-law, of committing a serious criminal offense against public safety, specifically the applicants' son, and of the unauthorized possession of weapons and explosives. He was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment. The applicants filed a civil claim for damages, arguing that the State has been responsible for their son's death because of the police's failure to find the weapon. While the first-instance court ruled in their favor, the decision was overturned on appeal.

The ECtHR found a violation of Article 2 (right to life) of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), concluding that the authorities had failed to take all necessary measures to ensure public safety and protect the applicants' son. The ECtHR highlighted a series of failures, including the lack of effective action despite serious reports of S.K.'s violent behavior and illegal firearm possession, the inadequate search of S.K.'s house (which lasted only 30 minutes and failed to locate the weapon), and the failure to interview key witnesses, such as S.K.'s ex-wife. Additionally, the ECtHR noted that shortly after the initial search, the police were ordered to conduct another search for weapons but refused, claiming that the case was already closed. These shortcomings reinforced the ECtHR's conclusion that the authorities had not fulfilled their duty to protect life, resulting in a violation of Article 2.

The judgment can be found [here](#) and the press release [here](#).

- **On December 12, 2024, the ECtHR condemned Armenia for failing to protect a person from severe domestic violence, claiming systemic shortcomings that perpetuated impunity and exposed the victim to further harm.** The case concerned allegations of domestic violence and the Armenian authorities' failure to provide adequate protection, impose proportionate punishment on the perpetrators, and ensure effective remedies for the victim. The applicant, Ms. Khachatryan, endured years of severe physical and psychological abuse from her former spouse, culminating in violent incidents in 2013. Despite her repeated attempts to seek help, the domestic legal framework and law enforcement failed to provide effective protection or adequately address her complaints.

The ECtHR found that Armenia had violated Article 3 of the ECHR, which prohibits inhuman or degrading treatment. The ECtHR emphasized the state's duty to establish and effectively implement a legal framework addressing all forms of domestic violence and providing adequate safeguards for victims. It criticized the Armenian authorities for their formalistic and cavalier approach, noting that the author's charges were reclassified as misdemeanors, an amnesty exempted him from serving time, and no comprehensive risk assessment was conducted to prevent further violence. Moreover, the ECtHR held that the applicant lacked a mechanism to claim compensation for non-pecuniary damages, exposing gaps in Armenia's legal system. The judgment underscored that combating domestic violence requires proactive measures, including thorough investigations, victim-centered risk assessments, and accessible legal avenues to secure justice and compensation. The ECtHR stressed the urgent need for Armenia to implement systemic reforms, such as amending its legal framework to ensure effective protection to the victims of domestic violence and providing remedies aligned with the ECHR's standards. The judgment can be found [here](#) and the legal summary [here](#).



V. INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

1. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

- **On October 29, 2024, the IACHR adopted Resolution No. 2/24, addressing human mobility caused by the adverse effects of climate change.** The resolution highlights the compounded vulnerabilities faced by populations disproportionately affected by climate change, particularly those contributing minimally to greenhouse gas emissions. It emphasizes that phenomena such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation exacerbate preexisting inequalities, especially for women, children, indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups. The IACHR identified various forms of climate-induced human mobility, including forced displacement, voluntary migration, and planned relocation. It also noted the plight of “immobile” populations unable or unwilling to move due to cultural, social, or economic barriers. The resolution underscored the multicausal nature of mobility, often intertwined with violence, insecurity, and systemic inequality. The IACHR emphasized that this phenomenon transcends borders, often requiring coordinated international responses. The resolution provides guidelines for States to develop comprehensive and human rights-based policies. It calls for measures to protect the rights of displaced people, ensure access to basic resources, and implement mechanisms to address the root causes of displacement. The IACHR stressed the need for integrating gender, intersectional, and community-based approaches into climate adaptation strategies, while promoting transparency, participation, and access to justice for affected populations. The resolution (in Spanish) can be found [here](#) and the press release [here](#).

2. Inter-American Court on Human Rights (IACtHR)

- **On December 2, 2024, the IACtHR delivered its judgment in the case of Henrique Capriles Radonski v. Venezuela, a case regarding violations of political rights, freedom of expression, the principle of legality, and judicial**

guarantees during the 2013 Venezuelan presidential elections. Henrique Capriles, a leading opposition candidate, claimed that his right to participate in elections on equal terms was systematically undermined. He faced administrative sanctions for his public statements during his campaign, while state-controlled media outlets heavily favored the ruling party candidate, Nicolás Maduro. Furthermore, Capriles argued that Venezuela failed to provide judicial recourse to protect his political rights, amplifying the lack of electoral fairness.

The IACtHR examined the broader context of the case, including the progressive deterioration of the Judiciary and the politicization of the electoral process in Venezuela. It found that the Venezuelan State had violated Capriles’ rights under the American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR), including the right to political participation (Article 23), freedom of expression (Article 13), and judicial guarantees (Articles 8 and 25). It stressed that free and fair elections require a “level playing field” in which all candidates can compete on an equal footing. The IACtHR underscored the lack of impartiality in the electoral authority, which was heavily influenced by the ruling government. Additionally, it emphasized that State-controlled media provided Nicolás Maduro with 90% of electoral coverage, mostly positive, while Henrique Capriles received only minimal and predominantly negative coverage. Furthermore, Capriles faced punitive sanctions for his public statements, which were deemed an attempt to stifle his freedom of expression during the campaign. The judgment stressed that States have a duty to ensure not only the formal existence of electoral processes but also their substantive fairness and integrity. By denying Capriles effective judicial remedies to address these irregularities, Venezuela failed to meet its obligations under the ACHR. The IACtHR ordered Venezuela to adopt measures to restore the integrity of electoral processes, including institutional reforms to ensure impartiality in electoral administration and judicial independence. The decision highlighted the critical role of fair elections in safeguarding



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democracy and underscored the importance of addressing systemic barriers that undermine electoral equity. The decision (in Spanish) can be found [here](#) and the press release [here](#).

- **On December 20, 2024, the IACtHR ruled on the case of “Beatriz v. El Salvador”, a landmark decision addressing the absolute criminalization of abortion and its impact on women’s rights.** Beatriz, a 22-year-old woman with lupus and other severe health conditions, became pregnant in 2013 with a fetus diagnosed with anencephaly, a condition incompatible with life. Medical professionals warned that continuing the pregnancy posed a significant risk to Beatriz’s health and life. However, due to El Salvador’s total abortion ban, her doctors were unable to provide the necessary termination, and her appeals to Salvadoran courts and authorities were dismissed. As a result, Beatriz endured months of severe suffering before undergoing a cesarean section, after which the newborn died shortly after birth as a consequence of her anencephalic condition.

The IACtHR held El Salvador responsible for violating Beatriz’s rights to personal integrity (Article 5), health (Article 26), private life (Article 11), and judicial protection (Article 8 y 25) under the ACHR, as well as its obligations under the Convention of Belém do Pará. The judgment emphasized that the State’s absolute prohibition on abortion created a chilling effect on medical professionals, who feared criminal prosecution and were, therefore, unable to provide the urgent care Beatriz required—care that could have alleviated her suffering and preserved her dignity. It also underscored the structural discrimination inherent in the absolute criminalization of abortion, which disproportionately impacts vulnerable women. The ruling reaffirmed the State’s duty to prioritize women’s health, dignity, and autonomy, sending a strong message to other States in the region about the urgent need to reform restrictive abortion laws that endanger women’s lives. The decision (in Spanish) can be found [here](#) and the press release [here](#). ■

INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

This section of the newsletter presents a list of some open human rights positions at the United Nations that may be of interest to you. It should be noted that neither

the HRIG nor ASIL are part of the election processes for these positions, and therefore this listing is for informational purposes only.



1. High-level positions requiring nomination by a State

This category lists the upcoming elections for members of treaty bodies within the United Nations System. These are honorary and part-time positions. When the term of office of one or more of the members of these bodies is about to expire, the Secretary-General sends a note verbale to the States Parties to the respective treaty, inviting them to

submit their nominations by note verbale by a specified deadline. Thus, to apply for one of these positions, it is necessary to be nominated by a State Party to the respective treaty. After States submit their nominations, their representatives meet in a scheduled session to vote and elect the new members.

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Information On Employment Opportunities —continued from page 10

Position available	Number of positions available	Elections	Application deadline	Website
Committee on Enforced Disappearance (CED)	5	2025	Not yet available	When available, it will be published here .
Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW)	7	2025	Not yet available	When available, it will be published here .
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)	9	2025	Not yet available	When available, it will be published here .
Committee against Torture	5	2025	Not yet available	When available, it will be published here .

2. Mid-level and entry-level positions

This category presents a list of some positions available at the United Nations, that do not relate to membership as experts in treaty bodies or the Special Procedures of

the Human Rights Council, but are related to human rights issues. The application for these positions is conducted freely and online.

Position available	Department	Functions	Application deadline	Website
Internship (I1)	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	Reviews legal documents, including Service Level Agreements on technical cooperation projects with Member States; assists in the compilation of a register of issues related to UN privileges and immunities and host country agreements; supports the review of host country agreements; conducts legal research on issues related to international law and other areas of specialization using multiple research resources, among others.	February 27, 2025	Find it here .
Internship (I1)	United Nations Human Settlements Programme	Assists in conducting research and studies on various urban law and governance topics; provides support to ongoing and upcoming projects; contributes to written outputs, draft background papers, reports, and studies, and actively participate in developing publications; assists in the population and maintenance of the UrbanLex database; contributes to the creation of communication materials and updates for the Section's websites; organizes expert group meetings, consultative sessions, conferences, and other events, among others.	February 27, 2025	Find it here .
Legal Assistant (G6)	Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance	Conducts basic research on assigned issues, including on human resources policies and processes; and verifies facts, identifies citations, precedents, issues to be addressed, and drafts summaries of submissions of the parties for review by Legal Officers, among others.	March 18, 2025	Find it here .