

IMPACTUM THE ERC PROJECT

Summer school



**HUMAN RIGHTS AND
PERSONS DEPRIVED OF
LIBERTY**

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IMPACTUM

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF URGENT MEASURES

Key information

Special focus on 6 Latin American Countries

ABOUT THE ERC PROJECT

WHAT IS IMPACTUM?

- Assessing the **IMPACT** of Urgent Measures in Protecting at-risk Detainees in Latin-America (IMPACTUM).
- A large-scale **research project** funded by the **European Research Council** (ERC) and hosted at **Ghent University** (Belgium).
- IMPACTUM is led by Prof Dr Clara Burbano Herrera who works with six researchers; Kate Murphy, Charlotte Vercammen, German Parra, Luna Negro, Alberte Hansen and Cristina Sanz. IMPACTUM is supported by an International Advisory Board.

WHAT DOES IT *PROPOSE*?

A study of **Urgent Measures (UMs)** that:

1. Considers the **context** in which UMs are enforced and **how** they are **applied** on the ground
2. Assesses the **impacts** of UMs on **detainees, legal and institutional systems and on (inter)national actors**
3. Discusses their **strengths** and **limitations**
4. Analyses their **wider learning effects**

HOW DOES IT DO THIS?

This project combines research methods including **desk research** with **(qualitative) empirical research** methods

WHAT ARE OUR *AIMS*?

- Developing a **critical normative impact framework** useful to provide a *deeper theoretical analysis*
- Providing insight into **how to formulate UMs to maximise their practical protective effects**

By doing so, it will uncover and present new knowledge on emerging issues with UMs that are currently unaddressed in academia and in practice

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1. INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A *PERSON DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY*?

According to *art. 4 of the OPCAT (2002)*, deprivation of liberty refers to ‘any form of **detention or imprisonment or placement of a person in a public or private custodial setting** which that person is not permitted to leave at will by order of any judicial, administrative or other authority’.

Thus, a **person deprived of liberty** is anyone who is **detained, imprisoned, or under the supervision of certain institutions, including** (but **not limited** to):

- Prisons
- Psychiatric facilities
- Centres for migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, stateless and undocumented persons

In this project, '**deprivation of liberty**' will be used in cases related to **arrest, detention or imprisonment**. According to the *1998 Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment*:

- '**Arrest**' is defined as 'the act of **apprehending** a person for the alleged commission of an offence or by the action of an authority'
- '**Detention**' and '**imprisonment**' relate to '**the condition**' of a person deprived of personal liberty, whether or not the deprivation of liberty follows a conviction for an offence



ICRC

According to the *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*, regardless of the reason behind their detention, '**people deprived of their liberty are, by definition, vulnerable**'. In the case of prisons, **neglect, overcrowding, and the presence of prison gangs** are some of the specific **vulnerabilities** faced by detainees, and pose a significant threat to their humane treatment.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

While all persons deprived of liberty are in a situation of vulnerability, **certain populations** face **specific vulnerabilities** and require **utmost protection**. Although these categories vary across contexts, populations in particularly vulnerable situations may be:

- Juveniles
- Women
- The LGBTQIA+ community
- Elderly
- Persons living with physical and/or mental disabilities
- Foreigners
- Ethnic minorities
- Indigenous peoples
- Prisoners under death sentence

Considering the **intersection** of these factors, detainees may face **multiple vulnerabilities** at once. Other **risk factors** include health, the reason for their detention, the authorities by whom they are being held, and their stage during any judicial or administrative process.

It should be noted that these people are **not vulnerable per se**, rather that they are in a **particular situation that renders them vulnerable**



THE NELSON MANDELA RULES

The fact that these groups require specific protection does **not imply preferential treatment nor discrimination** against the rest of detainees. As stated in *Rule 2*:

In order for the principle of non-discrimination to be put into practice, prison administrations shall take account of the individual needs of prisoners, in particular the most vulnerable categories in prison settings. Measures to protect and promote the rights of prisoners with special needs are required and shall not be regarded as discriminatory.

2. FIVE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIMINAL DETENTION IN...



COLOMBIA



GUATEMALA



ECUADOR



PERU



NICARAGUA



EL SALVADOR

5 things you should know about criminal detention in COLOMBIA in 2023

1 Prison system

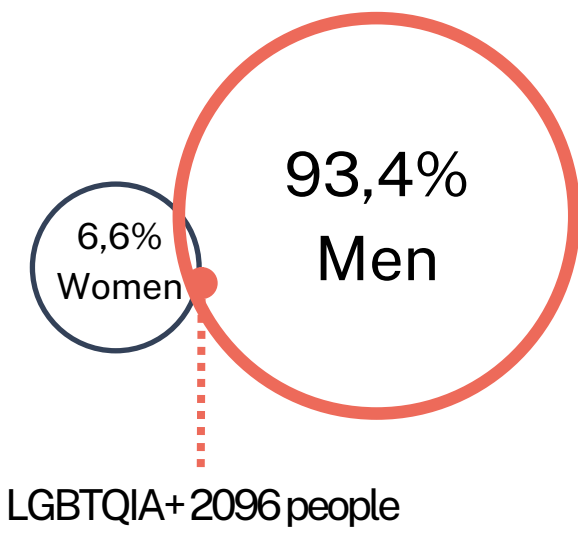
INPEC: The National Penitentiary and Jail Institute

- Founded in 1992
- Head of the prison system
- It follows policy instructions of Ministry of Justice and Law



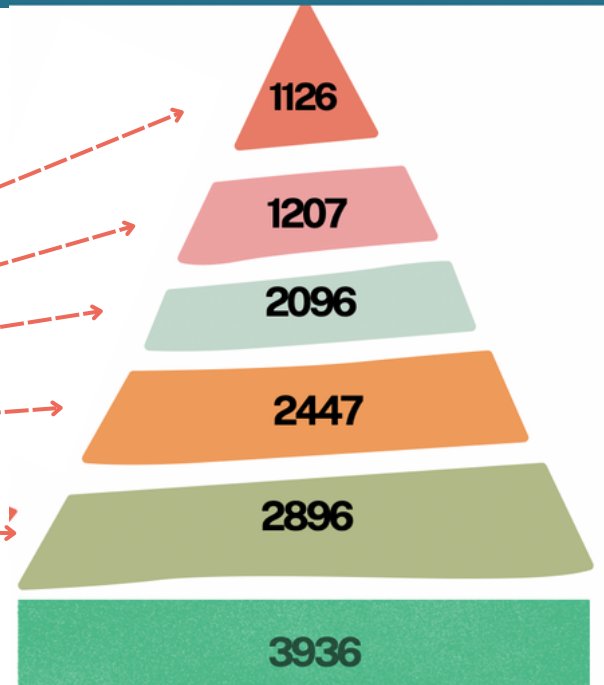
2 Prison population

- Total of 99 264 detainees in 127 prisons
- 194 detainees/100 000 people of the national population
- Overcrowding level 121%
- Predominantly masculine and young (18-45 years)
- Women represent 6,6% of the total prison population



3 Groups and individuals in situation of higher vulnerability in detention

- Members of Indigenous communities
- Persons with disabilities
- LGBTQI+
- Foreigners
- Elderly people
- Afro Colombians



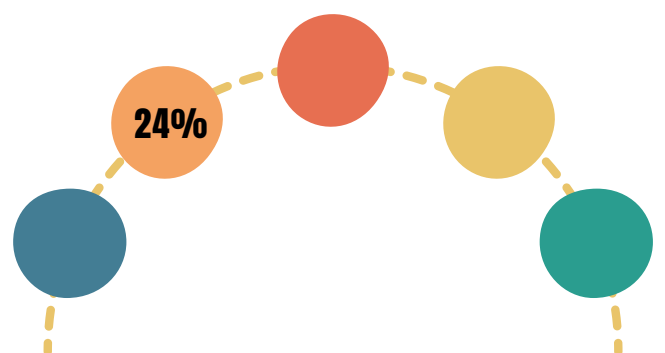
4 The perspective of the constitutional court since 1998

- Prison overcrowding, precarious infrastructure and lack of health, education and vocational programs, violate the rights of dignity and integrity of detainees
- The Court gave orders to Colombia to improve prison conditions and reform criminal policies according to human rights standards

5 Pre-trial detention

In relation to the criminal process, 24% of detainees are on pre-trial detention

Pre-trial detention



5 things you should know about criminal detention in GUATEMALA in 2023

1 Prison system

Organised by: Dirección General del Sistema Penitenciario

- The regulation of detention centers (including remand centers) is governed by the Law on the Penitentiary Regime, Legislative Decree 33-2006



2 Prison population

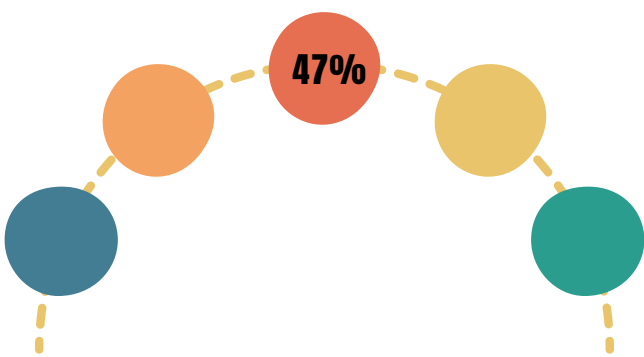
- Total of 24 134 detainees (including pre-trial detainees and remand prisoners) as of May 2023
- Almost half of those detained are pre-trial detainees (47%)
- Overcrowding level 293,2%
- According to World Prison Brief Data, Guatemala has some of the worst overcrowding rates in the world
- Women represent 11,7% of the total prison population

3 Human Rights Bodies Perspectives on Guatemalan Prisons

- In her 2021 report on Guatemala, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights raised concern as to the increasing practice of 'detaining people (...) for unreasonable periods of time without formal custody orders'
- Ms. Bachelet also warned about the increase in the misuse of criminal law against human rights defenders



Pre-trial detention



4 Pre-trial detention

In relation to the criminal process, almost half of all detainees (47%) are on pre-trial detention

5 Gang Violence in Prison

- In May 2021, several inmates were killed, most beheaded in gang violence in Cantel Prison, Quetzaltenango
- Cantel Prison houses inmates from both the Mara, Salvatrucha and their rival Barrio 18 gang
- Built to house hundred inmates, at that time the prison housed over 4 times that number. These extreme numbers of overcrowding continue



5 things you should know about criminal detention in ECUADOR in 2023

1 Prison system

Dirección Nacional de Rehabilitación Social

- Prison administration
- It follows policy instructions of Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Religion

SNAI: National Prison Management System

- Founded in 2018
- National Service of Attention to Adults Deprived of Liberty



2 Prison population

- Total of 31 260 detainees in 52 prisons
- 171 detainees/100 000 people of the national population
- Overcrowding rate 112,5%
- Women represent 5,8% of the total prison population
- The majority is male and young (18-29)

3 Factors of the prisons crisis

- Weakening of the Institutional Framework
- Incarceration and Drug Policy
- Overcrowding
- Creation of Mega Prisons
- Exclusive use of Pre-trial detention
- Legal and Administrative obstacles
- Poor prison conditions

Result: violence between groups for control of the prisons & incapacity of government security forces to intervene (complicit in weapon and drug trafficking)



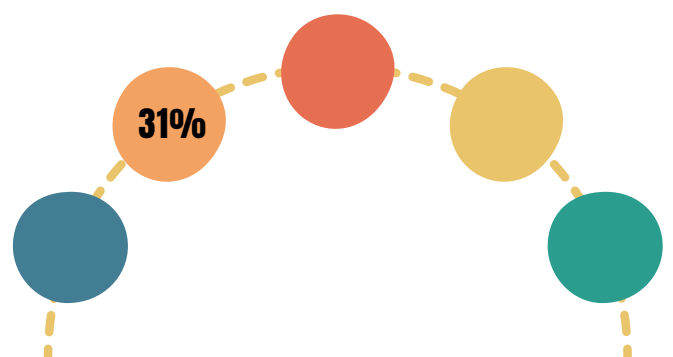
4 Prison Observatory

- Founded in March 2023
- Aim: develop a multifactor explanation on the prison crisis
- Responds to the violence of prison environments and amplifies the voices that might humanize those who are - or have been - incarcerated
- Generates reliable data in collaboration with inmates and their families, using indicators of human rights violations, prison violence that will supplement official statistics and administrative records

5 Pre-trial detention

In relation to the criminal process, 31% of detainees are on pre-trial detention

Pre-trial detention



5 things you should know about criminal detention in PERU in 2022

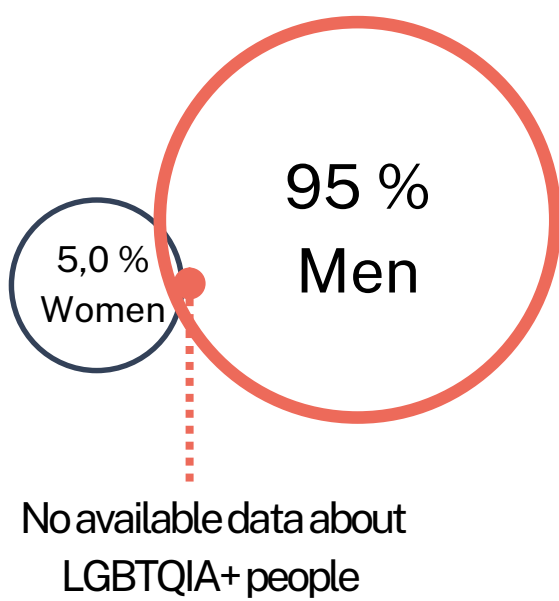
1 Prison system

INPE

- National Penitentiary Institute
- Founded in 1985
- Government agency charged with incarcerating convicts and suspects charged with crimes
- Affiliated with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights



INSTITUTO NACIONAL PENITENCIARIO
HUMANIZAR Y DIGNIFICAR PARA RESOCIALIZAR



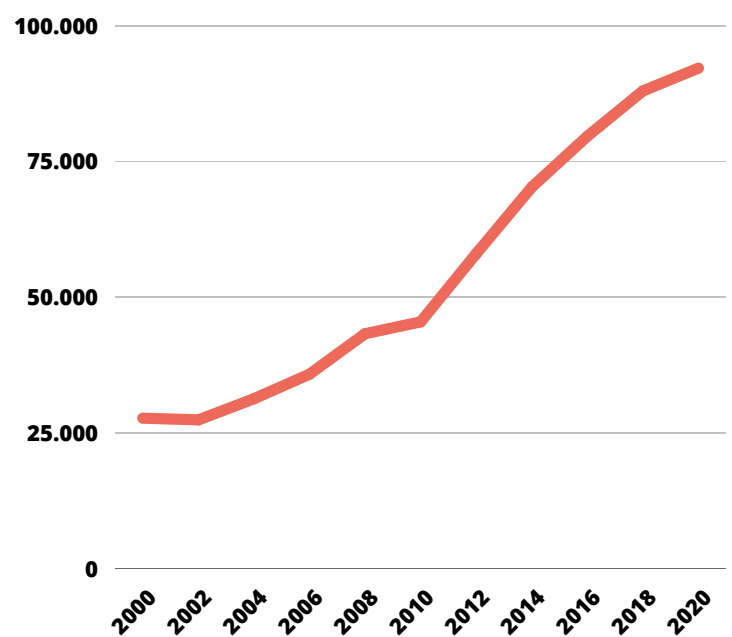
2 Prison population

- Total of 89 877 detainees in 69 prisons
- 262 detainees/100 000 people of the national population
- Overcrowding rate 219,1%
- Women represent 5,0% of the total prison population

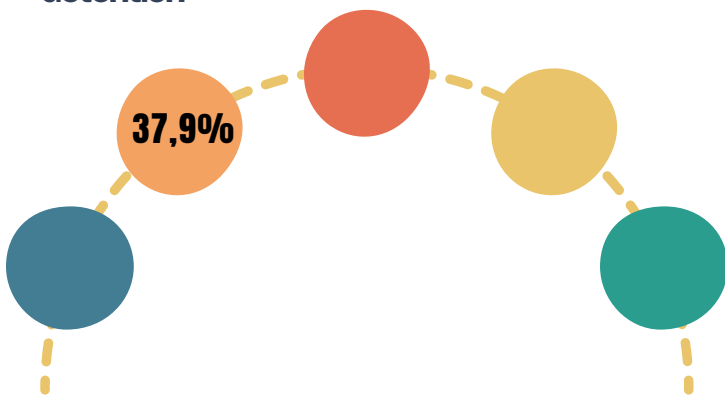
3 Prison population trend

- The figure gives an indication of the prison population trend in the years up to 2020

→ Prison population total/year



Pre-trial detention



4 Pre-trial detention

In relation to the criminal process, 37,9% of detainees are on pre-trial detention

5 What is happening in Peru?

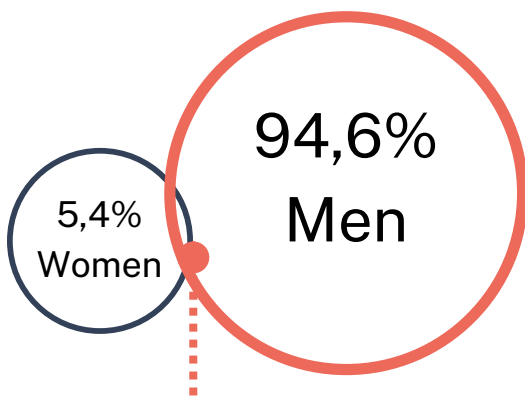
- Since the 7th of December 2022 Peru has been embroiled in a political crisis with almost daily demonstrations up until now against the government of Dina Boluarte and the Congress of Peru
- Former President Pedro Castillo was detained in December and replaced by President Dina Boluarte
- Many of the protesters in impoverished and rural areas are Castillo's supporters
- Critics have condemned Peru's security forces for using deadly force to suppress the demonstrations, leading to human rights violations or death
- Over 600 protestors have been detained by the police since the 7th of December, adding to the chronic problem of overcrowding that affects the prison system in Peru



5 things you should know about criminal detention in NICARAGUA

1 Prison system

- Organised by:** Sistema Penitenciario Nacional
- **Headed by:** Dirección General del Sistema Penitenciario Nacional (in accordance with Ley No. 473 adopted in 2003)
 - **Responsible for:** The implementation of prison policies, the management and control of prison activities, the enforcement of criminal sanctions and precautionary measures of deprivations of liberty issued by the competent judicial authorities



No available data about LGBTQIA+ people

*Figure from 2016

2 Prison population *

(data from 2018)

- Total prison population including pre-trial detention: 20 918
- Rate of overcrowding: 177, 6%

3 Worrying trends

- Since 2018, national and international human rights organisations have condemned the use of institutions to intimidate, punish, eradicate and form political opposition against the defence of human rights
- In March 2023, a UN Group of Experts on Nicaragua issued its report finding a consistent pattern of incommunicado arrests and detentions
- The report also found the use of penal law by the government to persecute opposition voices, with arbitrary detention processes being used to detain many critics of the government



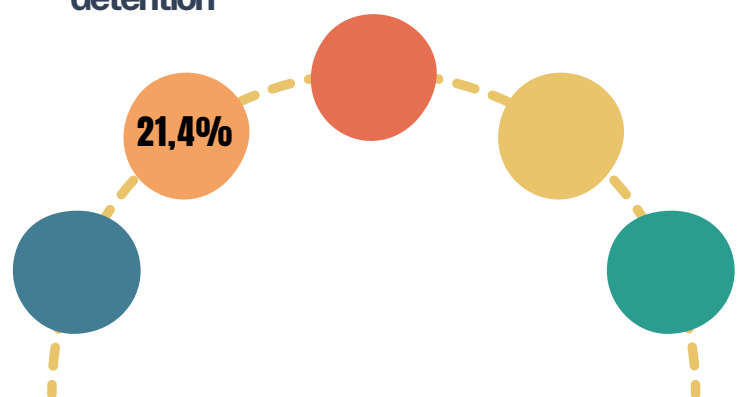
4 The conditions

- Many assumed political opposition forces were detained in "La Esperanza" or "La Modelo" prisons
- UN reports detainees were subjected to ill-treatment and discrimination
- The prisoners were allegedly subjected to beatings and threats, prohibited from communicating with other detainees, and lacked access to adequate food, medical attention, water and sunlight
- Various detainees were also reported to be held in solitary confinement, with cells of 3x2 square meters

5 Pre-trial detention

- From the latest available figures - 2016 - World Prison Brief reports 21,4% of detainees were in pre-trial detention
- This year, a UN expert working group on Nicaragua reported the "excessive and arbitrary use of pre-trial detention" by tribunals

Pre-trial detention



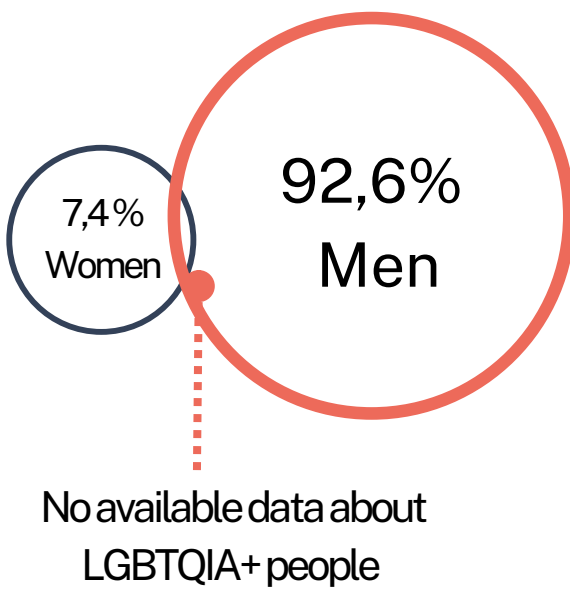
5 things you should know about criminal detention in EL SALVADOR

in 2022-2023

1 Prison system

DGCP (Dirección General de Centros Penales)

- Head of the prison system
- It follows policy instructions of Ministry of Justice and Security



2 Prison population

- 71 000 detainees in 25 prisons
- 1086 detainees/100 000 people of national population. Prison population grew almost twice compared to 2021
- Overcrowding rate 236,7%
- By 2023, more than half of detainees are suspected or accused of being members of gangs
- Women represent 7,4% of the total prison population

3 A state of emergency in 2023

- March 27, 2023: the National Assembly declared a state of emergency that has extended every month ever since. 75 000 persons have been arrested, 3 000 released and 90 deaths have taken place in custody
- The authorities announced the construction of a new prison facility (center for confining terrorism) with capacity for 43 000 detainees

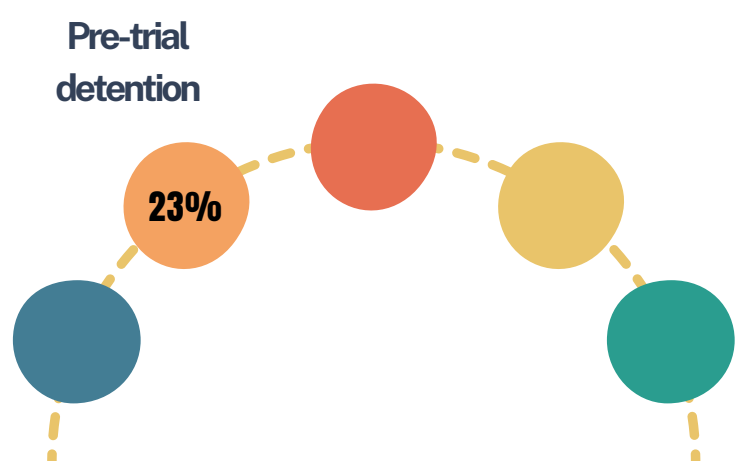


4 The perspective of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice in 2016

- The Court held that critical overcrowding, insanitary conditions, lack of access to health, proclivity to violence and lack of control of authorities over detainees are contrary to the constitutional legal order
- Overcoming such situations requires action by different authorities and compliance with international and domestic law

5 Pre-trial detention

23% of detainees are on pre-trial detention. This number increased due to the massive arrests after the decree of state of emergency in march 2022



3. REAL CASES: EXAMPLES

-
- *Example 1:* Opening the pathway to equality in **Colombian** prisons: Marta Lucía Álvarez Giraldo vs. Colombia
 - *Example 2:* The criminalisation of human rights defenders in **Guatemala**: the case of Bernardo Caal Xól
 - *Example 3:* Torture and death in custody in **Ecuador**: the case of Gustavo Washington Hidalgo
 - *Example 4:* A case of extradition in **Peru**: Nazira María Ugalde Alvaro
 - *Example 5:* Precautionary measures in **Nicaragua**: the case of Rolando José Álvarez Lagos
 - *Example 6:* Obstetric violence, intersectionality, and punishment in **El Salvador**: Manuela and others vs. El Salvador

MARTA LUCÍA ÁLVAREZ GIRALDO VS COLOMBIA



*The case that opened the pathway
to equality in Colombian prisons*

FACTS

- Marta, a Lesbian woman from Colombia, was deprived of liberty for almost 10 years (1994-2003).
- Marta was denied access to conjugal visits because of her sexual orientation.
 - The prison system argued that same sex relationships were not allowed and that such visits would affect discipline and morality.
- Marta was transferred from one prison to another as a way to restrict her conjugal visits.
- After 8 years of requesting conjugal visits, she was finally authorised to have it, in her last year of detention.

Commission

- In 1996, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) received a petition from Marta.
- In 1999, the IACHR held that the prison system violated Marta's rights to personal integrity, equality, privacy and judicial protection.
- The IACHR recommended Colombia to:
 - Fully redress Marta, adopt a protocol to ensure conjugal visits for women and lesbians, reform prisoner internal procedures to guarantee non-discrimination based on sexual orientation, train prison officials and disseminate among detainees the IACHR's decision and legal framework on right to conjugal visits.

Colombia

- Colombia implemented IACHRs' recommendations.
- Colombia made a public recognition of responsibility.
- Colombia made an apology to Marta in the prison El Buen Pastor in Bogota, Colombia in 2017.

**Want to know more about
Marta's story?**

Take a look at the book she wrote, a story told from her own perspective



Interested in more? [Click here](#) for references

CRIMINALISING INDIGENOUS HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The case of Bernardo Caal Xól



FACTS

- Bernardo Caal Xól is a 50-year-old indigenous teacher, trade unionist and leader of the peaceful resistance of Cahabón, a collective of 38 Maya Q'eqchi' communities in the northern department of Alta Verapaz in northern Guatemala.
- On 30 January 2018, he was wrongfully imprisoned for his work defending the rights of the Maya Q'eqchi' communities. He was sentenced to 7 years in prison. As he waited in pre-trial detention, his appeal was suspended several times.
- Mr. Caal Xól's health deteriorated in prison and UN experts warned of the prison's poor infrastructure, food and health services; urging the Guatemalan Government to take immediate and effective measures to protect his health and safety.

4 years too late

- Mr Bernardo Caal Xól was released after more than 4 years of imprisonment, punished for his work defending human rights and the environment.
- Amnesty International considers him a 'prisoner of conscience' and just the tip of the iceberg of Guatemala's 'common tactics' of using unfounded criminal prosecutions to obstruct the work of human rights defenders, particularly environmentalists and indigenous people.



Interested in more? Click [here](#) for references

TORTURE AND DEATH IN CUSTODY

Gustavo Washington Hidalgo

30 March 2022

FACTS

- Gustavo Hidalgo was detained by police officers during a public party, allegedly for being drunk and according to witnesses he was the victim of beatings and violence.
- Mistreatment of Gustavo during the transfer to the police station.
- Gustavo was detained in a dungeon and subsequently executed that same night.
- According to the autopsy, Gustavo had died from physical injuries → The aggressions suffered by the victim met the three constituent elements of **torture**.

Commission

- On 30 March 2022, the IACHR submitted the case of Gustavo before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR), concerning the torture and extrajudicial execution of Gustavo and the lack of due diligence in the investigation of the facts.
- Ecuador violated the rights of Gustavo → Commission recommended Ecuador to:
 - Adopt measures of material and non-material reparation for the victim's next of kin
 - Provide the physical and mental health care measures necessary for the rehabilitation of Gustavo's next of kin
 - Reopen the criminal investigation within a reasonable time in order to clarify facts, identify possible responsibilities and impose the corresponding sanctions
 - Provide non-repetition mechanisms; training for prosecutors and judicial agents

Ecuador

- Ecuador violated Gustavo's right to life, integrity and judicial protection.
- Ecuador did not provide any explanation to establish that the use of force was legitimate in light of necessity and proportionality.
- Ecuador did not provide a satisfactory explanation for the death in custody of the victim.
- Ecuador failed to comply with the obligations contained in the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture for the lack of Investigation (articles 1, 6 and 8).



Interested in more? Click [here](#) for references

EXTRADITION

UNITED NATIONS - PERU

Nazira María Ugalde Alvaro (8 september 2016)
Precautionary Measures

FACTS

- Nazira María Ugalde, a woman with a Costa Rican nationality, deprived of liberty in the Chorrillos prison.
- According to the petitioner:
 - Nazira was at risk as a result of the fact that on October 15, 2014, she was notified that she would be extradited to the United States on charges of first-degree murder and insurance fraud offenses for which she could suffer the death penalty.
 - There were a series of due process violations regarding the lack of an adequate analysis on the diplomatic assurances provided by the United States, which could have an impact on the protection of her right to life and personal integrity due to the possibility of the application of the death penalty.

Commission

- In 2015, the commission received a request for Precautionary Measures requesting that the IACHR require Peru to protect the life and personal integrity of Nazira.
- After analysing the allegations of fact and law presented by the parties, the Commission considered that the information presented demonstrated that Nazira María Ugalde Alvaro could be at risk, in accordance with Article 25 of the IACHR's Rules of Procedure.
- The commission requested Peru to refrain from extraditing Nazira until the IACHR rules on the petition pending before the IACHR.
- In 2022, the precautionary measures in favor of Nazira were lifted
 - The Commission evaluated the measures adopted by Peru and identified a factual change in the circumstances surrounding Nazira.
 - The commission considered that it was not possible anymore to identify a situation of imminent risk in the terms of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure.

The Extradition Treaty between Peru and the United States of America

- Treaty signed at Lima, Peru on July 26, 2001.
- The Contracting States agree to extradite to each other, pursuant to the provisions of this Treaty, persons whom the authorities in the Requesting State have charged with, found guilty of, or sentenced for, the commission of an extraditable offense.



Interested in more? Click [here](#) for references

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

Rolando José Álvarez Lagos, bishop of Matagalpa, held at the Jorge Navarro National Penitentiary System



FACTS

- On the 9th of February 2023, officers from the Directorate of Special Police operations took Mr. Rolando José Álvarez Lagos, bishop of Matagalpa, to the Jorge Navarro National Penitentiary System ("La Modelo").
- The OAS considers Mr. Álvarez Lagos as one of the most critical voices against the circumstances and serious human rights violations in Nicaragua.
- Since his arrest, Mr. Álvarez Lagos has reportedly been held in isolation without access to a lawyer or his family.
- State authorities continuously refused to disclose his whereabouts.
- His family is allegedly denied the delivery of their parcels containing food that Mr. Álvarez Lagos requires due to his medical condition.

Commission

- The IACHR refers to information it collected on detention conditions in Nicaragua including its 2021 annual report which indicated "overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, dispossession of belongings, mistreatment, application of maximum security regimes (...) and a lack of adequate and timely medical attention" persisted in "La Modelo".
- On the 13th of April 2023, the Commission considered that the facts, the lack of challenge to them by Nicaragua and the overall context, were likely to seriously affect the rights to life and personal integrity of Mr. Álvarez Lagos and his family, requiring the adoption of urgent measures.
- The Commission granted precautionary measures for the protection of Mr. Álvarez Lagos and requested Nicaragua to follow up on any action taken within 15 days.

What Now?

- Since the granting of the precautionary measures there has yet to be follow up by the Commission.
- Mr. Rolando José Álvarez Lagos is currently still being detained in Nicaragua.



Interested in more? Click [here](#) for references

CASE MANUELA AND OTHERS VS EL SALVADOR

*A case dealing with obstetric emergencies,
intersectionality and criminal punishment*

FACTS

- Manuela was a poor and illiterate woman living in a rural area of El Salvador.
- In 2008, she suffered an obstetric emergency after a fall.
- She was taken to the hospital after considerable blood loss and unconsciousness.
- A doctor reported her to the authorities claiming she committed abortion (which is illegal in El Salvador).
- The authorities inspected her house and claimed to have found the body of a newborn in a septic tank.
- Manuela was detained in 2008 and handcuffed to her bed.
- A week later, Manuela was discharged from the hospital and immediately transferred to a police station → pre-trial detention.
- 6 months later Manuela was convicted to 30 years of prison for the commission of aggravated homicide.
- In 2009, Manuela was diagnosed with Hodgkin Lymphoma and nodular sclerosis for which she did not receive periodic medical treatment.
- In 2010, Manuela died after 3 months of hospitalisation.

The Court ruled

- The court ruled that El Salvador violated Manuela's rights to:
 - Personal liberty
 - Presumption of innocence
 - Defense and to be judged with impartiality
 - Be informed of reasons of detention
 - The obligation not to apply laws in a discriminatory manner
 - The right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment
 - The obligation to ensure that the purpose of a prison sentence is social rehabilitation and reform
 - Life, personal integrity, privacy, health and equality before the law

The Court ordered

- To modify criminal procedure regarding mandatory pre-trial detention to a fixed list of crimes.
- The Court considered that pre-trial detention should only be imposed when there is a risk of flight or obstruction to justice.
- To adopt a protocol for treating obstetric emergencies.
- To train the judiciary, public defenders and medical staff on discriminatory nature of the use of presumptions and gender stereotypes in investigation and persecution.
- To regulate medical secrecy, protection of medical records and exceptions.
- To amend criminal law so punishment for infanticide is not disproportionate.
- To adopt a sexual and reproductive education program in schools.



Interested in more?

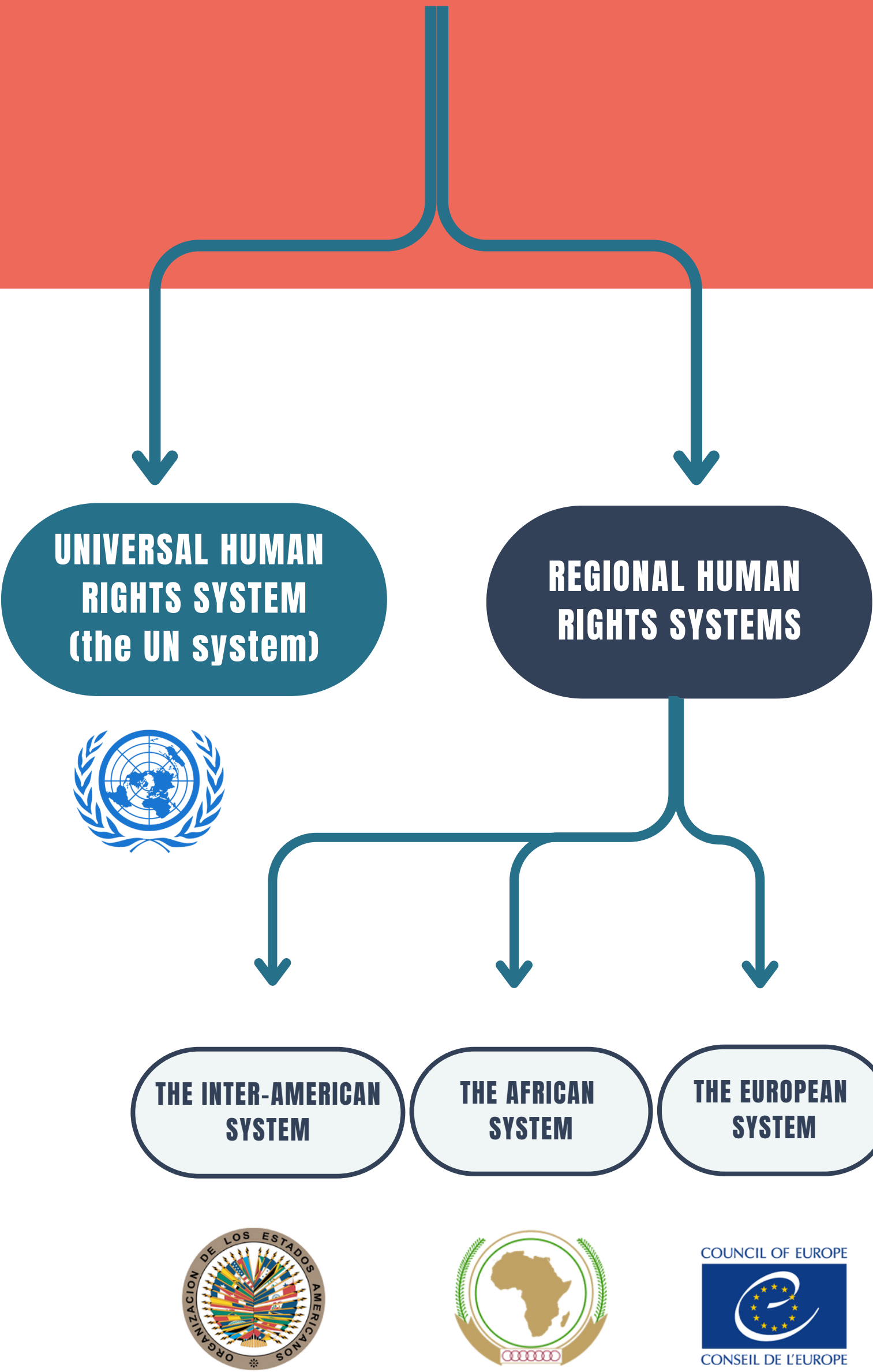
See the hearing of this case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPOkQEQugkk>



Click [here](#) for references

4. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTS



UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

Under International Law, **all persons deprived of their liberty** must be treated **humanely** (i.e., with respect for their inherent dignity and human rights) by the detaining authorities and **without discrimination**.

To ensure that the rights of people deprived of their liberty are respected and guaranteed, there are several **international legal instruments**, which are found throughout the UN human rights system as well as in regional human rights systems.

THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM



- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)
- The International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols (1966 and 1989)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)
- The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (1984 and 2002)
- The Body of Principles for the Protection of all Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (1988)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
- The Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (1990)
- United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures. 'The Tokyo Rules' (1990)
- The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. 'The Nelson Mandela Rules' (1955 and 2015)
- United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders. 'The Bangkok Rules' (2011)

REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEMS

THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM



- American Convention on Human Rights (1969)
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture (1985)
- The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention Belém do Pará) (1994)
- Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (1999)
- Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Rights of Older Persons (2015)
- Principles and Best Practices on the Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas (2008)
- Inter-American Convention Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance (2013)

THE AFRICAN SYSTEM



- African Charter on Human and People's Rights (1981)
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990)
- Guidelines and Measures for the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Africa (2002)
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights of Women in Africa. 'Maputo Protocol' (2003)

THE EUROPEAN SYSTEM



- European Convention on Human Rights (1950)
- European Social Charter (1961)
- European Convention on the Prevention of Torture, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment (1987)
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