



CARLOS RODRÍGUEZ MEJÍA

PROFILE

Colombian lawyer with more than 40 years of professional experience, 20 of which have been in the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights (ISHR) where he has served as: representative of victims before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/ACHR) and the Inter-American Commission (IACHR), participant in forums and thematic hearings at the IACHR, and expert witness before the I/ACHR Court.

Director of the master's degree in Defense of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law before International Organizations, Tribunals and Courts of the Universidad Santo Tomás, Colombia. Professor of international systems for the protection of human rights in postgraduate law courses at several Colombian universities for 15 years.

Litigating lawyer in Colombia and Spain, affiliated to the Bar Associations of Madrid, Alcalá de Henares, and San Sebastián; he has also been human rights advisor to the Mayor's Office of Bogotá and Co-Judge of the National Electoral Council.

CARLOS RODRIGUEZ MEJÍA'S VISION OF THE CHALLENGES FACING THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS (I/ACHR)

The candidate considers that the joint action of the Court and the States, through the political bodies of the OAS, are fundamental for the Court's follow-up to have results and for the States to fully comply with its decisions.

The candidate states that one of the main challenges facing the I/ACHR is the total compliance of the judgments, of the contentious cases, on the part of the States.

Likewise, to preserve the acceptance of the majority of the States in the region regarding the binding nature of provisional measures and advisory opinions. Although most States have accepted the binding nature of the American Declaration on Human Rights, there are still some that have only partially complied with it.

Carlos Rodríguez Mejía considers that the universal, indivisible, and interrelated nature of human rights, as proclaimed at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna (1993), must continue to be the objective of the States of the continent, for which the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court is an indispensable guide.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

He represented victims before the Inter-American Court in the cases of Las Palmeras (judgment of December 6, 2001), 19 Comerciantes (judgment of July 5, 2004), Pueblo Bello (judgment of January 31, 2006) and the Ituango Massacre (judgment of July 1, 2006).

He also represented victims before the IACHR in the cases of the extermination of the Unión Patriótica political party (petition December 16, 1993) and in the murder of human rights defender Jesús María Valle Jaramillo (petition August 2, 2001).

He was part of the legal team that represented the then Mayor of Bogota, Gustavo Petro Urrego before the IACHR and the IACHR Court.

He participated in Amici Curiae interventions before the Inter-American Court in two requests for Advisory Opinions; one, proposed by Panama, to include legal entities as beneficiaries of the system and the other, requested by Colombia, on human rights obligations when a State denounces the Pact of San José and the OAS Charter.

He was an expert witness before the Inter-American Court in the cases Yarce and others (presented June 26, 2015), and Vereda la Esperanza (presented June 21, 2016).

Also exercised as adviser of rights humans of the Mayor office of Bogota (2015) and has been Co-Judge of the National Electoral Council (2017 to 2022).

ACADEMIC ACTIVITY

TEACHING ACTIVITY

He was Director of the master's degree in Defense of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, before International Organizations, Tribunals and Courts (2017 to January 2023) at the Faculty of Law of Universidad Santo Tomás of Bogota. He has also been professor of international systems for the protection of human rights in Human Rights Program at the National University of Colombia (2014 to 2022); in the Human Rights Program at the University of Magdalena (2012 to 2022); and in the Human Rights Master's Program at the Industrial University of Santander (2014 and 2022).

STUDIES

The candidate holds a Doctor of Law Sciences degree (summa cum laude) from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana of Bogota (1980).

He has postgraduate studies in Constitutional Law and Political Science from the Center of Constitutional Studies of Madrid (1984-1986) and in Criminal Law from the School of Legal Practice of the Universidad Complutense of Madrid (1987-1988).

He was a fellow of the International Human Rights Internship Program of the Institute of International Education of Washington D.C. as Visiting Scholar at the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies of the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, United States (July-December 1999).

THE CANDIDATE AND THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Due to his academic background and experience with the Inter-American system, the candidate has a deep knowledge and understanding of the important role that the Human Rights Protection system has in the consolidation of the rule of law and democracy in the hemisphere.

Additionally, he values and promotes the jurisprudential developments of the Inter-American Court on new situations that broaden the recognition and strengthening of economic, social, and cultural rights by applying rules of the OAS Charter that were previously omitted. It also highlights its jurisprudence on the interrelationship between the environment preservation and the fulfillment of other human rights recognized in inter-American instruments.

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

Rodríguez-Mejía, C. (2015). Module on the Introduction of International Human Rights Law (Original title: Diplomado de Derechos Humanos con énfasis en prevención de riesgo e implementación de la Ley de Víctimas (pp. 4-32). Universidad Santo Tomás de Bogotá - Ministry of the Interior Directorate of Human Rights.

Participation of the victims in the Peace and Justice's Process (Original title: Participación de las Víctimas en el Proceso de Justicia y Paz), co-authored with others, Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bogotá, December 2013.

Patiño González, M., & Rodríguez-Mejía, C. (2012). Organization of American States. Seminar on Strengthening the Inter-American System. (Original title: Seminario del fortalecimiento del Sistema Interamericano) Washington.
https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/consulta/docs/l.es.58.doc_1.doc.

Rodríguez-Mejía, C. (2009). Are the Decisions of the ILO Supervisory Bodies Mandatory in Colombia? (Original title: ¿Son Obligatorias en Colombia las Decisiones de los Órganos de Control de la OIT?) (C. Rodríguez-Mejía, & J. Romero, Edits.) Bogotá: Opciones gráficas.

Gallón Giraldo, G., & Rodríguez-Mejía, C. (1997). Application of Humanitarian Law in Colombia, Possibilities and Difficulties. In Colombia, Human Rights and Humanitarian Law: 1996 (pp. 199-223). Bogotá: Colombian Commission of Jurists.

Rodríguez-Mejía, C. (1997). The State of Emergency in the reform (Original title: Los Estados de Excepción en la Reforma. In Reforma Constitucional. Bogotá: Ministry of the Interior and Escuela Superior de Administración Pública.

Gallón Giraldo, G., & Rodríguez-Mejía, C. (1996). Humanitarian Agreement for Colombia. In Decentralization and Human Rights in Colombia. (Original title: Acuerdo Humanitario para Colombia. En Descentralización y Derechos Humanos en Colombia). Cali: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, CENCOA and Comisión Andina de Juristas - Seccional Colombiana.

Rodríguez-Mejía, C. (1996), Why is IHL not applied in Colombia? (Original title ¿Por qué no se aplica el DIH en Colombia?) In Humanizar la Guerra, Una Opción Urgente. Bogotá: CINEP, ICRC, Colombian Red Cross.

Rodríguez-Mejía, C. (1993). Amnesty, pardon and other similar measures (original title: La amnistía, la gracia y toda otra medida similar.) No to impunity, yes to justice. International Commission of Jurists, Geneva 1993 and in Bulletin No. 35 of the Andean Commission of Jurists, Lima, December 1992 (English and French versions available).

Rodríguez-Mejía, C. (1993). Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (Original Title: La Subcomisión de Prevención de la Discriminación y Protección de las Minorías). In Espacios Internacionales para la Justicia Colombiana (Vol. 2, pp. 28-60). Bogotá: Andean Commission.