



Communique Committee of Experts

Committee of Experts of the MESECVI Expresses Concern over Reports of Harassment and Disproportionate Use of Force During Demonstration on Honduran Women's Day

Washington, DC, February 27, 2026. The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women "Belém do Pará Convention" (MESECVI) expresses its deep concern over reports by civil society organizations concerning acts of violence, including harassment, intimidation, and disproportionate use of force by State agents against women participating in a demonstration held on January 25 in Tegucigalpa, in the framework of Honduran Women's Day.

The alleged incidents took place during the commemoration of the 71st anniversary of the recognition of women's right to vote in Honduras, when various women's organizations and feminist groups held a demonstration in the city of Tegucigalpa to denounce impunity in cases of violence against women and demand guarantees for the full exercise of their rights.

According to information received by the Committee of Experts (CEVI), during the demonstration, security forces restricted its progress by blocking streets and deploying riot police and military personnel, as well as through acts of harassment and intimidation, including the carrying of heavy weapons and the use of tear gas to disperse participants, among whom were women with their children, girls, and elderly women.

In response to the reported incidents, the CEVI calls on the State to ensure the strict respect and protection of women's rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and participation in public life. In this regard, the Committee recalls that the Belém do Pará Convention, to which Honduras is a State Party, enshrines in Article 5 the right of every woman to freely and fully exercise her civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. The Committee emphasizes that acts of violence against women impair and nullify the free and full exercise of these rights and erode the broader foundations of equality and justice within society.

Likewise, the Committee recalls that, pursuant to Article 7(a) of the Convention, the State has the obligation to refrain from any action or practice of violence against women and to ensure that its authorities, officials, personnel, and public agents act in strict compliance with

this obligation. Therefore, Article 8 indicates that States have a duty to adopt specific measures to foster awareness and observance of women's right to have their human rights respected and protected.

In this context, the Committee refers to its recent [Country Report](#) on Honduras, adopted within the framework of the Fourth Multilateral Evaluation Round on the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention. In this report, the Committee acknowledged the State's efforts to strengthen the normative framework, as well as the development of plans, policies, and measures aimed at addressing violence against women. Despite these advances, the CEVI also identified persistent challenges in the effective implementation of the treaty related to women's access to justice and the need to continue consolidating comprehensive institutional responses to guarantee the right of women and girls to a life free of violence.

For all these reasons, the Committee of Experts calls upon the authorities of the Honduran State to investigate the reported events with due diligence, in order to clarify what occurred and to adopt the pertinent measures of sanction and non-repetition. This is essential to ensure the full exercise of women's rights to freedom of expression, peaceful protest, and participation in public life, free from violence and discrimination, and to continue strengthening comprehensive institutional responses to prevent, punish, and eradicate violence against women.

The Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention, through its Committee of Experts, is at the disposal of the State of Honduras for any technical support they may require in this area.

The Committee of Experts is the technical body of the MESECVI, responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the implementation process of the Convention of Belém do Pará. It is made up of independent Experts, appointed by each of the States Parties from among their nationals, who perform their duties in a personal capacity.