
Third National Seminar on the Friendly Settlement Mechanism in Bolivia

September 3 and 4, 2014, the Third National Seminar on the Friendly Settlement Mechanism was organized in Santa Cruz and La Paz, Bolivia.

the list of state representatives invited to the seminar included the Human Rights Committee of the Plurinational Legislative Assembly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Economy and Public Finance, the Ministry of the Interior, the Plurinational Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Office of the Prosecutor General, the Office of Assistance for Victims and Witnesses, the Forensic Investigations Institute, the College of Prosecutors and Judges, the Bureau of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, the Human Rights Bureau of the Bolivian Police, the General Command of the Bolivian Police, the Ombudsman's Office, the Council of the Magistracy, the Autonomous Departmental Government of Santa Cruz, the Institutional Coordination Bureau, the Plurinational Public Defender Service, the District Representative of the Council of the Magistracy, the Office of the Departmental Prosecutor, the Bureau of Gender and Generational Affairs, the Governorship of Santa Cruz, the National Committee for Disabled Persons (CONALPEDIS), the Civil Registration Service (SERECI), the Personal Identity Service (SEGIPI), the Autonomous Municipal Government of Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Santa Cruz Municipal Council, the Office of the Attorney General, Santa Cruz Bar Association, National Statistics Institute (INE) Santa Cruz, the Office of the Government Attorney for Children and Adolescents, the Departmental Human Rights Bureau of the Bolivian Police, the Departmental Court of Justice of Santa Cruz, the Family Protection Brigade of the Department of Santa Cruz, the Departmental Education Bureau, the Departmental Health Service (SEDES), amongst others.

The list of invited civil society organizations included the following: Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos de Bolivia, Casa de la Mujer, CEJIS Santa Cruz, Pastoral Social Caritas, Coordinadora de Pueblos Étnicos de Santa Cruz, Organización Técnica para el Desarrollo, Confederación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas Indígenas Originarias de Bolivia " Bartolina Sisa" (CNMCIQB-B.S.), Apoyo Para El Campesino-Indígena Del Oriente Boliviano (APCOB), Boliviana Red Cross (CRB), Centro de Promoción Agropecuaria Campesina, Plan Internacional Inc. Bolivia, UNAVIPO, Confederación de Pueblos Indígenas de Bolivia (CIDOB), Centro de Estudio y trabajo de la Mujer (Cochabamba), Fundación Construir, Asociación Civil de Desarrollo Social y Promoción Cultural (ADESPROC), Capítulo Boliviano de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo (CBDHDD), Instituto de terapia e investigación sobre las secuelas de la tortura de la violencia estatal (ITEI), Escuela de Altos Estudios Nacionales (EAEN), Instituto de Estudios Internacionales de Bolivia, amongst others.

The seminars started with a presentation made by Emilio Álvarez Icaza, Executive Secretary of the IACHR, on the mandate and functions of the IACHR, the friendly settlement procedure, and other general matters. That was followed by a presentation on "International Experiences in Human Rights" given by Denis Racicot, a representative of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Bolivia. Next there was a panel discussion on "Bolivian Experiences, Their Scope, and Challenges" moderated by Héctor Enrique Arce Zaconeta, Attorney-General of Bolivia. In addition, the seminar in La Paz included a panel discussion on "Petitioners' Experiences in Friendly Settlements" moderated by Julieta Montaña, the victim's representative who worked on the friendly settlement

agreement in the MZ case. The seminars concluded with an open discussion to identify challenges in the friendly settlement mechanism, which yielded a rich exchange on lessons learned, best practices, and suggestions.