



## SUMMARY

### **PETITION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES DUE TO THE JUDICIAL REFORM**

This petition has been submitted by individuals who served (and some who continue to serve) as judges within the Federal Judiciary of Mexico and were directly affected by the Judicial Reform implemented in Mexico beginning on September 15, 2024. The petition was filed through the representation of the *Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice*, a New York City Bar Association program.

This reform introduced unprecedented structural changes, including the mass removal of judges and the establishment of a system of popular elections for judicial positions. Although it appears neutral, the reform constitutes a mechanism for politicizing and capturing the judiciary. The scale, nationwide scope, and immediate impact of the reform make a response from the Inter-American Human Rights System imperative.

This reform constitutes a mechanism for the politicization of the judiciary. Rather than seeking to strengthen judicial independence, it undermines all the standards developed under international human rights law on this matter. Mexico could have pursued a constitutional reform debated in good faith, aimed at strengthening the justice system and complying with international standards, even while implementing a system of popular elections. This did not occur: the judicial reform lacks a technical foundation and relies solely on political arguments without any supporting assessment.

The petitioners have been victims of multiple rights violations protected under the American Convention on Human Rights within a broader context of public stigmatization, systematic delegitimization of the judiciary, and institutional weakening driven by the Executive Branch. The reform presented two options to sitting judges: (i) to abstain from participating in the new appointment process and, as a result, resign from their positions, or (ii) to submit to a randomized and politicized selection process that contravenes fundamental principles of the Inter-American Human Rights System for judicial appointments, such as merit, objectivity, and transparency.

The reform violated judicial independence by eliminating the guarantee of irremovability and replacing merit-based selection mechanisms with highly politicized procedures, undermining the judiciary's autonomy and role as a guarantor of a democratic rule of law. Furthermore, the state infringed upon the right to work through arbitrary dismissals, forcing judges to participate in elections that lacked even the minimum guarantees.

The reform also violated the principles of equality and non-discrimination by affecting individuals who had obtained their judicial positions through public selection processes incorporating a gender perspective and affirmative action measures, resulting in a setback



for the participation of women in the judiciary. In addition, high-ranking officials from the Executive Branch undermined the honor and dignity of judges by publicly accusing them of corruption and nepotism without evidence, due process, or access to an effective judicial remedy, as all avenues for constitutional or conventional review were effectively closed.

It is important to note that this petition does not seek to reverse the effects of a judicial reform so sweeping that, by the time a decision is issued, it will have already been fully implemented and irreversibly altered the institutional structure of the judiciary in Mexico. The petitioners primarily seek comprehensive reparation for human rights violations resulting from the judicial reform. Furthermore, this petition aims to strengthen the standards of judicial independence within the Inter-American Human Rights System, reaffirm the essential role of the judiciary as a guarantor of the rule of law, and prevent the consolidation of authoritarian practices under unproven narratives of "corruption" or "privilege," which undermine checks and balances and human rights in the region.

For all these reasons, the petitioners respectfully request that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights admit this petition, proceed with its evaluation, and expedite the process to establish Mexico's international responsibility and issue reparations, including guarantees of non-repetition.