

OAS



**THE VIOLATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IN EL
SALVADOR**



Moderator | **Barbara Gonzalez**

Director | **Cecilia Zavala**

Committee | **Organization of American States (OAS)**

Topic | **The Violation of Human Rights in El Salvador**

I. Letter to Delegates

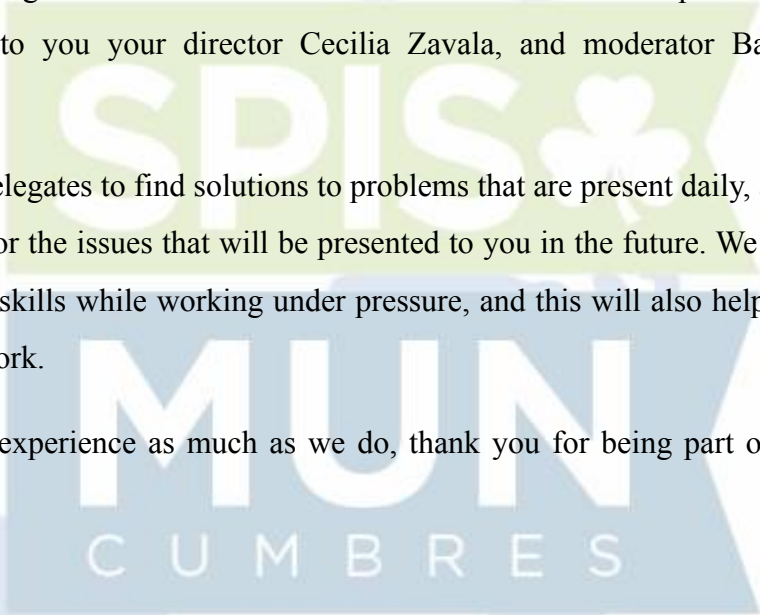
Dear delegates, it's an honor to welcome you to the SPISMUN 2024 edition.

In this event, you will be part of the Organization of American States Committee. As a part of this committee, we would like to present to you your director Cecilia Zavala, and moderator Barbara Gonzalez.

This Model United Nations challenges delegates to find solutions to problems that are present daily, and it will be your job to find these solutions for the issues that will be presented to you in the future. We can't wait to see you develop your leadership skills while working under pressure, and this will also help with your ability to speak out loud and teamwork.

We genuinely hope that you enjoy this experience as much as we do, thank you for being part of this wonderful event.

Good luck!



II. History of Committee

The Organization of American States (OAS) is a multilateral regional body focused on human rights, electoral oversight, social and economic development, and security in the Western Hemisphere. While the organization is recognized by many foreign policy experts as an important forum for regional diplomacy, critics say ideological divisions among its members have hampered its efforts to promote democratic principles.

The OAS has come under renewed focus in recent years for criticizing the democratic decline in Nicaragua and persistently condemning Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. Since the 2021 killing of Haiti's president, Jovenel Moïse, the country's deteriorating security climate has also posed a challenge for the bloc, and Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine has proved to be yet another divisive issue. While President Donald Trump showed his ambivalence toward the OAS by becoming the first U.S. president to skip its headline meeting, President Joe Biden has signaled his administration's desire to renew U.S. leadership in the Western Hemisphere.

Its primary functions are promoting democracy, coordinating security and law enforcement operations, providing technical and financial assistance for development projects, and monitoring human rights through the inter-American legal system.

The United States and 20 other Western Hemisphere governments signed the OAS charter in 1948 to enhance regional security and trade cooperation. Additionally, the United States hoped that the new organization would serve as a bulwark against the spread of communism.

The OAS is led by Secretary General Luis Almagro, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay who took office in 2015. It consists of three main bodies: the General Assembly, the main decision-making body; the Standing Council, which manages daily affairs; and the Secretary-General, which implements policies developed by the other two agencies.

III. History of Topic

Human rights abuses were rampant during the decade-plus Salvadoran Civil War, including the El Mozote Massacres, the murder of Archbishop Óscar Romero in 1980, the Zona Rosa attacks, and the 1989 murders of six Jesuit priests.

An amnesty law passed by the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador five days after the release of the Truth Commission report prevented judicial prosecution of perpetrators of human rights abuses. In 1993, the last of the 103 officers identified by this commission as responsible for human rights violations were retired, and the U.N. observer mission declared the government in compliance with the Ad Hoc Commission recommendations. Also in 1993, the Government of El Salvador and the UN established the Joint Group to investigate whether illegal, armed, and politically motivated groups continued to exist after the signing of the peace accords.

IV. Introduction Topic

Salvador's prison system faces serious challenges, including overcrowding. The indiscriminate use of pretrial detention violates the right to liberty and the right to trial or release within a reasonable time. El Salvador currently has the highest incarceration rate in the world, with more than 1.5% of the population detained.

Many women start working at a young age, which exposes them to abuse and violence. Female journalists and women involved in politics also face threats and harassment. There are cases of violence against women that have not yet been investigated. Organizations such as Amnesty International have drawn attention to human rights violations and the government's failure to meet human rights commitments.

Experts have found that thousands of people are detained without meeting legal conditions, without an administrative or judicial arrest warrant, and without being arrested for a flagrant crime. application simply because the authorities consider them to have been identified as criminals in a discriminatory context.

This is an example of a speech by President Bukele's government: "Because they have tattoos, have been accused by a third party of having gang ties, are related to someone in a gang, have a criminal record, or simply because they live in areas under gang control." These are precisely those areas that have high levels of social marginalization and have been historically abandoned by the state.

V. Key Players

El Salvador: President Nayib Bukele's and the majority in the Legislative Assembly have systematically dismantled the democratic separation of powers. In September, he announced that he would seek re-election in 2024, despite the constitution prohibiting immediate re-election. In March, parliament declared a state of emergency and suspended fundamental rights in response to gang violence. Authorities committed widespread human rights violations, including mass arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, abuses in custody, and due process violations. Gangs continue to control some areas and extort residents.

Guatemala: Guatemala has played a role in combating human rights violations in El Salvador. During the civil war in El Salvador (1980–1992), Guatemala participated in discussions and initiatives aimed at promoting human rights and peace in the region. It is important to note that the specifics of Guatemala's intervention to combat human rights violations in El Salvador were not widely covered in the findings. However, it is known that regional organizations, such as the United Nations, have been involved in monitoring and verifying the human rights situation in El Salvador and Guatemala. Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that Guatemala has faced its own challenges due to human rights violations in the past, especially during its own civil war. The country has made efforts to address its history of human rights abuses and reconcile, which could influence its stance on human rights issues in the region.

Nicaragua: During this period, Nicaragua's relationship with the armed opposition in El Salvador was considered a violation of the principles of non-intervention and prohibition of the use of force. However, this was not an armed attack that justified the right to self-defense. It is important to note that at this time, international attention was largely focused on the internal conflict in El Salvador, with various countries and organizations involved in efforts to resolve the situation. human rights in this country. The United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) has played an important role in monitoring and verifying aspects of the peace agreements, including human rights issues.

Honduras: Amnesty International notes the response of the Xiomara Castro government to the continued increase in murders in Honduras and the killing of at least 46 women in prison in June. The militarization of security and the suspension of rights in the Central American region under such circumstances have led to human rights violations such as deaths in state custody, arbitrary imprisonment, mistreatment, and violations of due process. litigation, discrimination, restrictions on practice, freedom of expression, and even crimes under international law such as torture and forced kidnapping.

United States: The United States established several diplomatic relations with El Salvador in 1863, continuing with the country's independence from Spain and the subsequent dissolution of the Confederation of Central American Nations. After signing a peace agreement in 1992, their fragile democracy was strengthened through a series of democratically elected governments. The United States aims to work with El Salvador to promote democratic institutions, the rule of law, and inclusive economic development. Additionally, more than 3 million people of El Salvadoran descent live in the United States, making it the third-largest Hispanic population in the United States after Mexicans and Puerto Ricans.

VI. UN-Actions

The United Nations has played an important role in both supporting peace negotiations and peace implementation. UN observers were deployed to El Salvador ahead of the ceasefire to monitor the Human Rights Agreement. The United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) was then tasked with verifying all aspects of the ceasefire and subsequent peace agreements. ONUSAL also contributed to creating a new national civil police force and a new armed reserve system, helping to clear minefields and monitor the situation of veterans.

The UN Human Rights Office has provided technical and legal support and assistance to state institutions and officials, civil society organizations, and others in El Salvador since 2016.

VII. Current Status

One notable development in El Salvador is the decrease in crime rates. President Nayib Bukele's administration has taken various measures to combat gang violence and organized crime. These efforts have resulted in a significant reduction in murders and other violent crimes. El Salvador, once known as the "murder capital of the world," has seen a decline in murders since President Bukele took office in 2019.

Over the next year, the murder rate in El Salvador dropped by a staggering 60%. In May, the government recorded the lowest monthly total of murders ever recorded.

Some human rights groups worry about Bukele's authoritarian instincts. In January, he briefly sent troops into the opposition-controlled parliament amid a conflict over security budgets. But Salvadorans largely support his efforts to break the political monopoly of the parties that have ruled the country since the end of a brutal civil war in 1992. Still, there are big questions about the real reason for the dramatic turnaround in crime and whether it's sustainable.

Bukele says his crime-fighting success comes from both an iron fist and an outstretched hand. He's boosted law-enforcement budgets, encouraged officers to use lethal force, and cracked down on gang activity in prisons. At the same time, he's invested more in education and sports programs in some of the country's most violent communities. All of this is part of what he calls a "territorial control plan" that focuses on 22 high-crime cities and towns

VIII. Guiding Questions

- How was your country involved in the topic?
- How did it affect your country?
- Has your country's delegation directly helped solve the problem?
- What strategies did your country use to prevent problems without causing a big deal?
- How can they be implemented on an everyday basis?
- What sanctions could be imposed on the country?
- Is your delegation in favor of or against the decisions taken by the country?

Delegates I'm really grateful you are able to participate in this committee in SPISMUN 2024, I hope you have a great time participating here, and if you have any doubts or comments, please feel free to contact us anytime by my email "barbaragonzalezgza_a@sanpatricio.edu.mx"

Have a good day and good luck!

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