

Belize

Belize is a Member State of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: Inter-American System



As a Member of the OAS, Belize is held to the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission may decide [complaints](#) against the State and may also hold [hearings](#) or issue [reports](#) on the human rights situation there. Belize has not accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Belize to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, in *Maya Indigenous Communities of the Toledo District*, the Commission found that Belize had violated the right to property of the Maya people by not taking measures to recognize their communal property right to the lands they had traditionally occupied and used. Belize further violated their property rights by granting logging and oil concessions to third parties to use the property and resources without consulting with or obtaining informed consent from the Maya. See IACHR, Report No. 40/04, Case 12.053, [Maya Indigenous Communities of the Toledo District](#) (Belize), October 12, 2004, para. 193-194.

Additionally, the Commission has issued [precautionary measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Belize.

Belize has ratified the following **regional human rights treaty**:

- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (“Convention of Belem do Pará”)

United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Belize is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Belize's policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of one treaty.

Belize has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)
- Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)

Belize has submitted reservations that modify its obligations under the [ICCPR](#).

Belize has ratified optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Belize has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body associated with the relevant treaty Belize has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps it has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Belize has also ratified the [Optional Protocol](#) allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of CEDAW. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Belize has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT.

Belize has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups must seek specific invitations from Belize to conduct a visit within the State. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons went on a mission to Belize in December 2013 and published a [report](#) in June 2014.

For more information on Belize's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/LACRegion/Pages/BZIndex.aspx>.

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