

# Bolivia

Bolivia 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, Bolivia 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. Bolivia has accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which may issue binding [judgments](#) concerning alleged abuses.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Bolivia to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, before the Inter-American Court, Bolivia partially acknowledged its responsibility for enforced disappearances committed under the military dictatorship of Hugo Banzer Suárez in the 1970s. The Inter-American Court held that Bolivia had violated the American Convention and ordered the State to *inter alia* conduct a diligent investigation into the disappearance within a reasonable period of time. See I/A Court H.R., [Case of Ibsen Cárdenas and Ibsen Peña v. Bolivia](#). Merits, Reparation, and Costs. Judgment of September 1, 2010. Series C No. 217, para. 237.

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

Bolivia has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- American Convention on Human Rights
- Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (“Protocol of San Salvador”)
- Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities
- Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (“Convention of Belem do Pará”)
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture
- Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons

## United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Bolivia 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, Bolivia's policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of seven treaty bodies.

Bolivia 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)
- Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- 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 (ICMW)

Bolivia has submitted a reservation, declaration, or understanding that modifies its obligations under the [ICCPR](#).

Bolivia has also ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty, and optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Bolivia has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Bolivia has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps it has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Bolivia has ratified [optional protocols](#) and made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, CEDAW, CAT, CRPD, CERD, CESC, and CRC. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Bolivia has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CED, CEDAW, CRC, and CRPD.

On February 10, 2010, Bolivia extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means they are welcome to conduct visits in Bolivia. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food went on a mission to Bolivia in 2007 and published a [report](#) in 2008.

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

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