

El Salvador

El Salvador 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, El Salvador 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. El Salvador 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 El Salvador to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, the Commission confirmed that El Salvador violated the rights to life, to a fair trial, and to effective judicial protection by failing to investigate, try, and punish State agents responsible for the extrajudicial execution of Monsignor Romero, the Archbishop of San Salvador. See IACHR, Report No. 37/00, Case 11.481, [Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez v. El Salvador](#) (El Salvador), April 13, 2000. In *Case of Massacres of El Mozote and Nearby Places v. El Salvador*, the Court addressed massacres and other violations committed within the context of the country's internal armed conflict. See I/A Court H.R., [Case of Massacres of El Mozote and Nearby Places v. El Salvador](#). Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of October 25, 2012. Series C No. 252.

Additionally, the Commission and Court have issued [precautionary measures and provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in El Salvador.

El Salvador 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 Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (“Convention of Belem do Pará”)
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture

United Nations System

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

El Salvador 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)

El Salvador has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the following treaties: [ICCPR](#), [CEDAW](#), [CRPD](#), and [CMW](#).

El Salvador 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. El Salvador has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body associated with the treaties El Salvador has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps El Salvador has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

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

On February 9, 2010, El Salvador extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means they are welcome to conduct visits in El Salvador. For example, the thematic Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples visited El Salvador in August 2012 and published a [report](#) in June 2013.

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

Last updated: February 15, 2018