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.


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
- 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
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.

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