

Guatemala

Guatemala 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, Guatemala 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. Guatemala 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 Guatemala to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, in *Oscar Manuel Gramajo López v. Guatemala*, the Commission found that Guatemala’s failure to investigate Mr. Gramajo López’s forced disappearance violated the State’s obligation to guarantee the rights to life, personal integrity, personal liberty, and judicial protection. See IACHR, Report No. 58/01, Case 9207, [Oscar Manuel Gramajo López](#) (Guatemala), April 4, 2001. In *Río Negro Massacres v. Guatemala*, the Court addressed Guatemala’s failure to investigate forced disappearance, rape, slavery, and torture during the internal armed conflict. See I/A Court H.R., [Río Negro Massacres v. Guatemala](#). Preliminary Objection, Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of Sep. 4, 2012. Series C No. 250.

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

Guatemala 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

United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Guatemala 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, Guatemala's policies and practices are monitored

Guatemala 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)

by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of two treaty bodies.

Guatemala has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the following treaties: [CAT](#), [CRC](#), and [CMW](#).

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

Guatemala has also ratified [optional protocols](#) allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR 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. Guatemala has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CEDAW, and CRPD.

On April 2001, Guatemala extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means they are welcome to conduct visits in Guatemala. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food went on a mission to Guatemala in September 2009 and published a [report](#) in January 2010.

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

Last updated: February 15, 2018