



IACHR issues precautionary measures to protect the life of Ruth López, victim of political persecution in El Salvador

Guatemala City, September 24, 2025. — The resolution issued by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in favor of Ruth López **confirms the serious risk to her life and personal integrity that Cristosal has been denouncing.** The human rights defender is a victim of arbitrary detention and is being held in absolute incommunicado detention, as part of a policy of persecution and criminalization promoted by President Bukele's regime against human rights defenders and critical voices in El Salvador.

This important human rights protection body **determined that the incommunicado detention imposed on Ruth López constitutes a cruel and inhumane condition that undermines the procedural guarantees of every detained person.** By keeping her isolated from the outside world, she has been deprived of contact with the national and regional civic space in which she actively participated, effectively silencing her critical voice.

As Cristosal has maintained, Ruth's detention was arbitrary and unjust; the criminal proceedings against her have been riddled with violations of judicial guarantees, and she has been denied her right to a public trial and to actively participate in her defense. **Absolute incommunicado detention is a form of torture and creates a serious risk of enforced disappearance.**

In its resolution, the Commission, which grants precautionary measures to Ruth, recognizes **"the seriousness and urgency of Ruth's situation in facing irreparable harm to her life, personal integrity, and health,"** and requests that the Government of El Salvador:

1. Adopt measures to protect her rights and ensure detention conditions in accordance with international standards.
2. Immediately end her incommunicado detention.
3. Guarantee regular contact and access for her family members and lawyers.
4. Review the continuation of pretrial detention, including the possibility of evaluating alternative measures.

This resolution also **sets an important precedent for the State to end the practice of total incommunicado detention imposed on persons deprived of liberty, as well as the misuse of pretrial detention without sufficient legal grounds.** Both illegal and systematic practices are being applied under the state of exception.

The IACHR also issued precautionary measures for lawyer Enrique Anaya, likewise, requesting that his incommunicado detention be immediately lifted and that his pretrial detention be reviewed. Therefore, **we demand respect for the judicial guarantees of Ruth, Enrique, and other persons arbitrarily detained in El Salvador for political reasons.**