



INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUCIÓN 8/2025

Precautionary Measures No. 25-25 and 26-25
Víctor Manuel Borjas Albornoz and Manuel Alejandro Muñoz
regarding Venezuela

January 26, 2025 Original: Spanish

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. On January 10, 2025, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ("the Inter-American Commission", "the Commission" or "the IACHR") received two requests for precautionary measures presented by the *Coalición por los Derechos Humanos y la Democracia* ("the requesting party" or "the applicant"), urging the Commission to require that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (the "State" or "Venezuela") adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights to life and personal integrity of Víctor Manuel Borjas Albornoz and Manuel Alejandro Muñoz Camacho ("the proposed beneficiaries"). According to the request, the proposed beneficiaries are political and human rights activists who were arrested by Venezuelan State security authorities on January 9, 2025 during nationwide protests. Their whereabouts are currently unknown.
- 2. Pursuant to provisions of Article 25 (5) of the Rules of Procedure and the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, the IACHR requested information from the State on January 16, 2025. To date, the State has not replied to the Commission and the granted deadline has expired. The applicant submitted additional information on January 14, 2025.
- 3. Upon analyzing the submissions of fact and law furnished by the applicant, the Commission considers that the proposed beneficiaries are in a serious and urgent situation, given that their current location is unknown to date. Therefore, pursuant to Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests that Venezuela: a) adopt the necessary measures to safeguard the rights to life and personal integrity of Víctor Manuel Borjas Albornoz and Manuel Alejandro Muñoz Camacho. In particular, officially report whether they are in the custody of the State and the circumstances of their detention; or, the measures taken to determine their respective whereabouts or fate; b) establish the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiaries' detention conditions are compatible with the applicable international standards on the matter, including: i. guaranteeing regular contact with and access to their family members, lawyers, and representatives; and ii. officially report on their legal situation in the framework of the criminal process in which they are said to be involved, as well as the reasons why they have not been released to date, and whether they have been presented to a court for review of their detention; c) consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and d) report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.

II. SUMMARY OF FACTS AND ARGUMENTS

A. Information provided by the applicant

- PM-25-25 (Víctor Manuel Borjas Albornoz)
- 4. According to the applicant, the proposed beneficiary is a political and human rights activist who works as electoral coordinator of the *Voluntad Popular* Party in the municipality of Maracaibo, in the state of Zulia. They allege that on January 9, 2025, around 11:00 a.m., the proposed beneficiary was kidnapped by armed groups affiliated with the United Socialist Party of Venezuela at Plaza la República. He was then





reportedly handed over to members of the Bolivarian National Guard, who allegedly deprived him of his liberty in an arbitrary manner. Since that date, his whereabouts and the identity of the institution holding him in custody remain unknown.

- 5. The proposed beneficiary's arrest was allegedly carried out within the framework of the protests that took place at national level to demand guarantees from the National Armed Forces for swearing in Edmundo González Urrutia. The applicant alleged that the procedures leading to the arrest were conducted in violation of both conventional and constitutional processes. It also considered that the reported facts fall within the assumptions embodied in the Inter-American Convention on Enforced Disappearance of Persons. Therefore, the applicant concluded that the incident constituted an arrest and enforced disappearance, and that it allegedly intended to obstruct his work as a political activist.
- 6. On January 10, 2025, the proposed beneficiary's legal defense reportedly attempted to file a writ of habeas corpus under the category of enforced disappearance. However, the officials at the criminal justice system refused to receive it. That same day, the proposed beneficiary's family member and defense lawyers went to the headquarters of the Bolivarian National Guard to inquire about his whereabouts. However, the Guard officials refused to provide any information. The applicant noted that the proposed beneficiary is reportedly involved in a criminal proceeding, although the grounds for initiating this proceeding remain unknown.
- 7. The request warned that the risk that the proposed beneficiary faces is allegedly aggravated by the State's noncompliance. In this regard, it referred to the lack of an updated record of detentions; the failure to provide prompt information on the person's whereabouts and health; and in the event that the person is in the custody of the State, the failure to present them before the competent judicial authority within the legal terms and respecting judicial guarantees at all times.
 - PM-26-25 (Manuel Alejandro Muñoz Camacho)
- 8. According to the request, the proposed beneficiary is a political and human rights activist who works as the coordinator of the youth platform of the opposition political party Vente Venezuela. On January 9, 2025, at around 4:00 p.m., members of Venezuela's National Intelligence Service (SEBIN) deprived the proposed beneficiary of his liberty in an alleged arbitrarily manner, in the parking lot of the SAMBIL shopping mall in the Chacao municipality. The officers appeared without identification or uniforms and reportedly forced the proposed beneficiary to go with them. In addition, they reportedly deployed a tracking and surveillance protocol to identify and follow the proposed beneficiary hours before his arrest. From that date forward, his whereabouts have been unknown.
- 9. The proposed beneficiary's arrest was allegedly carried out within the framework of the protests that took place at national level to demand guarantees from the National Armed Forces upon swearing in Edmundo González Urrutia. The applicant warned that the procedures leading to the arrest were conducted in violation of both conventional and constitutional processes. It also considered that the reported facts fall within the assumptions embodied in the Inter-American Convention on Enforced Disappearance of Persons. They therefore believe that the arrest and enforced disappearance had the intention of obstructing the proposed beneficiary's work as a political activist.
- 10. The proposed beneficiary's mother and legal defense went to the courts and prosecutor's office in Caracas to file a writ of habeas corpus on the grounds of enforced disappearance. However, the competent officials refused to receive it, alleging that they had an order not to receive such actions of a judicial nature. On January 10, 2025, his relatives and defense lawyers went to the headquarters of Venezuela's National Intelligence Service and the General Directorate of Military Intelligence to inquire about the proposed beneficiary's whereabouts. On that occasion, state officials reported that they had no knowledge of his





whereabouts. The request alleged that, to date, there is no information about any judicial process against the proposed beneficiary.

11. Lastly, it was warned that the risk that the proposed beneficiary faces is allegedly aggravated by the State's noncompliance. In this regard, it mentioned the lack of an updated record of detentions; the failure to provide prompt information on the person's whereabouts and health; and in the event that the person is in the custody of the State, the failure to present them before the competent judicial authority within the legal terms and respecting judicial guarantees at all times.

B. Response from the State

12. The IACHR requested information from the State on January 16, 2025. To date, no response has been received from Venezuela, and the granted deadline has expired.

III. ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS OF SERIOUSNESS, URGENCY, AND IRREPARABLE HARM

- 13. The precautionary measures mechanism is part of the Commission's function of overseeing compliance with the human rights obligations set forth in Article 106 of the Charter of the Organization of American States. These general oversight functions are provided for in Article 41(b) of the American Convention on Human Rights, as well as in Article 18(b) of the Statute of the IACHR. The mechanism of precautionary measures is set forth in Article 25 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. In accordance with that Article, the Commission grants precautionary measures in serious and urgent situations in which these measures are necessary to avoid irreparable harm to persons.
- 14. The Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ("the Inter-American Court" or "I/A Court H.R.") have repeatedly established that precautionary and provisional measures have a dual nature, both protective and precautionary.¹ Regarding the protective nature, these measures seek to avoid irreparable harm and protect the exercise of human rights.² To do this, the IACHR shall assess the problem raised, the effectiveness of state actions to address the situation described, and how vulnerable the persons proposed as beneficiaries would be left in case the measures are not adopted.³ Regarding their precautionary nature, these measures have the purpose of preserving legal situations while under the study of the IACHR. Their precautionary nature aims at safeguarding the rights at risk until the petition pending before the inter-American system is resolved. Their object and purpose are to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of an eventual decision on the merits and, thus, avoid any further infringement of the rights at issue, a situation that may adversely affect the useful effect (effet utile) of the final decision. In this regard, precautionary or provisional measures enable the State concerned to comply with the final decision and, if necessary, to

¹ I/A Court H.R., <u>Matter of the Yare I and Yare II Capital Region Penitentiary Center</u>, Provisional Measures regarding the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Order of March 30, 2006, considerandum 5; Case of Carpio Nicolle et al. v. Guatemala, Provisional Measures, Order of July 6, 2009, considerandum 16 (Available only in Spanish).

² I/A Court H.R., <u>Matter of Capital El Rodeo I and El Rodeo II Judicial Confinement Center</u>, Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of February 8, 2008, considerandum 8; <u>Case of Bámaca Velásquez</u>, Provisional measures regarding Guatemala, Order of January 27, 2009, considerandum 45; <u>Matter of Fernández Ortega et al.</u>, Provisional measures regarding Mexico, Order of April 30, 2009, considerandum 5; <u>Matter of Milagro Sala</u>, Provisional measures regarding Argentina, Order of November 23, 2017, considerandum 5. (Available only in Spanish)

³ I/A Court H.R., <u>Matter of Milagro Sala</u>, Provisional Measures regarding Argentina, Order of November 23, 2017, considerandum 5 (Available only in Spanish); <u>Matter of Capital El Rodeo I and El Rodeo II Judicial Confinement Center</u>, Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of February 8, 2008, considerandum 9; <u>Matter of the Criminal Institute of Plácido de Sá Carvalho</u>, Provisional Measures regarding Brazil, Order of February 13, 2017, considerandum 6 (Available only in Spanish).





implement the ordered reparations.⁴ In the process of reaching a decision, according to Article 25(2) of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission considers that:

- a. "serious situation" refers to a grave impact that an action or omission can have on a protected right or on the eventual effect of a pending decision in a case or petition before the organs of the inter-American system;
- b. "urgent situation" refers to risk or threat that is imminent and can materialize, thus requiring immediate preventive or protective action; and
- c. "irreparable harm" refers to injury to rights which, due to their nature, would not be susceptible to reparation, restoration or adequate compensation.
- 15. In analyzing those requirements, the Commission reiterates that the facts supporting a request for precautionary measures need not be proven beyond doubt; rather, the information provided should be assessed from a *prima facie* standard of review to determine whether a serious and urgent situation exists.⁵ Similarly, the Commission recalls that, by its own mandate, it is not called upon to determine any individual liabilities for the facts alleged. Moreover, in this proceeding, it is not appropriate to rule on violations of rights enshrined in the American Convention or other applicable instruments.⁶ This is better suited to be addressed by the Petition and Case system. The following analysis refers exclusively to the requirements of Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure, which can be resolved without making any determination on the merits.⁷
- 16. By the same token, in understanding the facts alleged by the applicants, the Commission observes that the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, to which the State of Venezuela has been annexed since its ratification on July 6, 19988 considers forced disappearance as the act "[...] perpetrated by agents of the state or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support, or acquiescence of the state, followed by an absence of information or a refusal to acknowledge that deprivation of freedom or to give information on the whereabouts of that person, thereby impeding his or her recourse to the applicable legal remedies and procedural guarantees." In addition, the Inter-American Commission highlights what was established by the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, in the sense that "there is no minimum time, however short, to consider that an enforced disappearance has occurred." 10
- 17. As regards the context, the Commission has been monitoring the rule of law and human rights situation in Venezuela since 2005, 11 and has included the country in Chapter IV.B of its Annual Report. The

⁴ I/A Court H.R., <u>Matter of Capital El Rodeo I and El Rodeo II Judicial Confinement Center</u>, Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of February 8, 2008, considerandum 7; <u>Matter of "El Nacional" and "Así es la Noticia" newspapers</u>, Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of November 25, 2008, considerandum 23; <u>Matter of Luis Uzcátegui</u>, Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of January 27, 2009, considerandum 19 (Available only in Spanish).

⁵ I/A Court H.R., <u>Matter of Members of the Miskitu Indigenous Peoples of the North Caribbean Coast regarding Nicaragua</u>, Extension of Provisional Measures, Order of August 23, 2018, considerandum 13 (Available only in Spanish); <u>Matter of children and adolescents deprived of liberty in the "Complexo do Tatuapé" of the Fundação CASA</u>, Provisional Measures regarding Brazil, Order of July 4, 2006, considerandum 23.

⁶ IACHR, <u>Resolution 2/2015</u>, Precautionary Measure No. 455-13, Matter of Nestora Salgado regarding Mexico, January 28, 2015, para. 14; <u>Resolution 37/2021</u>, Precautionary Measure No. 96-21, Gustavo Adolfo Mendoza Beteta and family regarding Nicaragua, April 30, 2021, para. 33.

⁷ In this regard, the Court has stated that "[it] cannot, in a provisional measure, consider the merits of any arguments pertaining to issues other than those which relate strictly to the extreme gravity and urgency and the necessity to avoid irreparable damage to persons." I/A Court H.R., <u>Matter of James et al. regarding Trinidad and Tobago</u>, Provisional Measures, Order of August 29, 1998, considerandum 6 (Available only in Spanish); <u>Case of the Barrios Family v. Venezuela</u>, Provisional Measures, Order of April 22, 2021, considerandum 2 (Available only in Spanish).

⁸ <u>Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons.</u> Belém do Pará, Brazil, June 9, 1994, <u>Signatories and current status of ratifications of the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons.</u>

⁹ Inter-American Convention on Enforced Disappearance of Persons, Belém do Pará, Brazil, June 9, 1994.

¹⁰ IACHR, <u>2021 Annual Report, Ch. IV.B. Venezuela,</u> OEA/Ser.L/V/II, approved on May 26, 2022, para. 85; United Nations Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, August 10, 2015, A/HRC/30/38, para. 102.

¹¹ IACHR, 2023 Annual Report, Ch. IV.B. Venezuela, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 386 rev. 1, approved on December 31, 2023, para.





Commission has also issued press releases and country reports, and established a special follow-up mechanism for the country, known as MESEVE.

- 18. In its 2023 Annual Report, the Commission also observed the persistence of a coordinated repression policy, and recommended that the State of Venezuela refrain from carrying out illegal or arbitrary detentions. In cases where a person is deprived of their liberty, the State should ensure that all due process guarantees are upheld, including prompt presentation before an independent judicial authority, in order to prevent enforced disappearances, torture, and other cruel and inhumane treatment. In 2024, the Commission condemned the practices of institutional violence in the context of the electoral process in Venezuela, such as violent repression, arbitrary detentions, and political persecution. The strategy of detention and criminalization appears to be specifically targeted at individuals perceived as opponents of the regime, including journalists, opposition leaders, human rights defenders, and others. The Commission also referenced the Report of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela, which confirms the ongoing hostile environment faced by human rights organizations in the country. The report highlights campaigns of discredit, stigmatization, and harassment that persist as a consequence of their advocacy efforts.
- 19. In particular, in the press release dated August 15, 2024, the IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (SRFOE, or RELE in Spanish) stated that the regime in power is sowing terror as a tool to silence the citizenry and perpetuate the ruling authoritarian regime in power, and that Venezuela must cease practices immediately that violate human rights and reestablish democratic order and the rule of law. It was found that detainees were subjected to criminal proceedings for crimes defined in ambiguous and broad terms, without the opportunity to be represented by a defense counsel of their choice, as public defenders were imposed on them. The IACHR stressed that "[t]he practices of state terrorism perpetrated by the current regime and observed by the Commission are not only aimed at the persecution of specific sectors, but also generate a climate of fear and intimidation among the Venezuelan population" which "amount also to a denial of the right to political participation." In the IACHR is the IAC
- 20. On December 27, 2024, the IACHR approved the report titled "Venezuela: Serious Human Rights Violations in the Electoral Context" and reaffirmed that the State has been engaging in practices such as the arbitrary detention of opponents, human rights defenders, and social leaders, "18 while using "terror as a tool of social control." 19
- 21. On January 9, 2025, the Commission learned of arbitrary detentions and forced disappearances, carried out days before the peaceful protests called by the opposition. These acts represent a new wave of the repressive pattern.²⁰ Furthermore, it urged the State of Venezuela to immediately cease the persecution of opponents, human rights defenders, and journalists, and to promptly release all individuals detained for political reasons.²¹

 $^{^{\}rm 12}$ IACHR, $\underline{2023}$ Annual Report, Ch. IV.B. Venezuela, previously cited, Recommendation 8.

¹³ IACHR, Press Release 184/24, <u>IACHR and SRFOE condemn State terrorism practices in Venezuela</u>, August 15, 2024.

¹⁴ IACHR, Press Release 184/24, previously cited.

¹⁵ IACHR, 2023 Annual Report, Ch. IV.B. Venezuela, previously cited, parra. 21. Referring to the Human Rights Council, Report of the independent international fact-finding mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, A/HRC/54/57, 18 September 2023, para. 70-72

¹⁶ IACHR, Press Release 184/24, previously cited.

¹⁷ IACHR, Press Release 184/24, previously cited.

¹⁸ IACHR, <u>Venezuela: Serious Human Rights Violations in the Electoral Context</u>, OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 253/24, December 27, 2024, para. 3 (Available only in Spanish).

¹⁹ IACHR, Venezuela: Serious Human Rights Violations in the Electoral Context, previously cited, para. 5.

²⁰ IACHR, Press Release 09/25, <u>The IACHR condemns the ongoing practices of state terrorism in Venezuela and recalls that María Corina Machado is a beneficiary of precautionary measures</u>, January 9, 2025.

²¹ IACHR, Press Release 09/25, previously cited.





- 22. Therefore, the Commission understands that the circumstances in which the detention of the proposed beneficiaries has taken place, along with the contextual monitoring of the country carried out by the IACHR, are relevant in the analysis of the procedural requirements.
- 23. Regarding the requirement of *seriousness*, the Commission considers that it has been met, given that, to date, the whereabouts or fate of the proposed beneficiaries have been unknown since they were arrested by state agents on January 9, 2025. The Commission observes that, according to the applicant, the proposed beneficiaries are political activists which hold leadership positions within opposition parties and were reportedly detained following their participation in nationwide protests. In this regard, it is understood that, since their arrest, the proposed beneficiaries have not had any communication or contact with their family members and/or legal representatives to inform them of their location and current status.
- 24. The Commission notes that the proposed beneficiaries' family members appeared before various state entities in order to obtain information on their situation and current whereabouts. However, despite the efforts and requests, the Commission has identified a refusal by the Venezuelan authorities to provide even minimal information on the proposed beneficiaries. Therefore, family members do not have the possibility of obtaining official data to confirm the proposed beneficiaries' location or current state.
- 25. The Commission highlights that the proposed beneficiaries' family members have also been denied access to information regarding their legal status, such as whether they were presented before the competent courts, the existence of an investigation file against them, the procedural status of the investigation, the grounds for their detention, the existence of an arrest warrant, whether the case was subject to judicial reviews, the place of detention, their detention conditions, the possibility of contacting legal representation of their choice, among other aspects.
- 26. Considering the foregoing, the Commission notes that, given that they do not have access to minimal official information about their legal situation, their family members and representation do not have mechanisms that would allow them to challenge the actions taken by state agents before the competent judicial authority. Additionally, there are domestic obstacles preventing the proposed beneficiaries from seeking protection. In this regard, it was reported that the proposed beneficiaries' legal defense attempted to file writs of *habeas corpus*, as well as complaints of arbitrary detention and forced disappearance on their behalf. However, the Venezuelan authorities refused to receive these legal actions. Therefore, the Commission considers that the proposed beneficiaries' family members and legal representatives are unable to activate the corresponding resources for their due protection in the situations they may currently be facing.
- 27. Since it has not been possible to establish contact with the proposed beneficiaries, the Commission believes that the situation that places them at risk is allegedly aggravated by the impossibility of knowing where they are and verifying their current status. In this regard, the Commission recalls that the Inter-American Court has indicated, in the *Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. v. Nicaragua*, that "detention without communication not only makes it impossible to verify the current situation of the proposed beneficiaries, their conditions of detention, and their health status, but it also implies a curtailment of the procedural guarantees of all detainees."²²
- 28. Having requested information from the State, the Commission regrets the lack of response to the request. Although the foregoing is not sufficient *per se* to justify the granting of precautionary measures, the lack of response from the State prevents the Commission from knowing the measures that have been reportedly implemented to address the situation that places the proposed beneficiaries at risk and to disprove the facts alleged by the applicants. Therefore, the Commission does not have information that would allow it to assess whether the situation that places the proposed beneficiaries at risk has been mitigated, nor regarding

²² I/A Court H.R., Matter of Juan Sebastián Chamorro et al. regarding Nicaragua, Provisional Measures, Resolution of June 24, 2021, paragraph 36.





the actions taken to determine their whereabouts or fate. The Commission also observes that the proposed beneficiaries may be in the custody of the State, which should have information on their location and current situation.

- 29. In light of the foregoing considerations and the *prima facie* standard, the Commission believes that the proposed beneficiary's rights to life and personal integrity are at serious risk, given that, to date, no official information has been provided regarding their fate, whereabouts, or current situation since their arrest on January 9, 2025. Furthermore, state authorities have obstructed the activation of domestic remedies in favor of the proposed beneficiaries.
- 30. Regarding the requirement of *urgency*, the Commission considers that it has also been met, to the extent that the passage of time without establishing their whereabouts is likely to generate greater impact on the proposed beneficiaries' rights to life and personal integrity. In this regard, their whereabouts remain unknown, and it has not been possible to obtain any information on their current state. In addition, the Commission has no response from the State that would allow it to assess the actions that are being taken to address or mitigate the situation that places the proposed beneficiaries at risk or any measures to determine their whereabouts.
- 31. Regarding the requirement of *irreparable harm,* the Commission finds it met, given that the potential impact on the rights to life and personal integrity constitutes the maximum situation of irreparability.

IV. BENEFICIARIES

32. The Commission declares as the beneficiaries Víctor Manuel Borjas Albornoz and Manuel Alejandro Muñoz Camacho, who are duly identified in this proceeding.

V. DECISION

- 33. The Inter-American Commission considers that this matter meets, *prima facie*, the requirements of seriousness, urgency, and irreparable harm set forth in Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure. Consequently, it requests that Venezuela:
 - a) adopt the necessary measures to safeguard the rights to life and personal integrity of Víctor Manuel Borjas Albornoz and Manuel Alejandro Muñoz Camacho. In particular, officially report whether they are in the custody of the State and the circumstances of their detention; or, the measures taken to determine their respective whereabouts or fate;
 - b) establish the necessary measures to ensure that the beneficiaries' detention conditions are compatible with the applicable international standards on the matter, including:
 - i. guaranteeing regular contact with and access to their family members, lawyers, and representatives; and
 - ii. officially report on their legal situation in the framework of the criminal process in which they are said to be involved, as well as the reasons why they have not been released to date, and whether they have been presented to a court for review of their detention;
 - c) consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the beneficiaries and their representatives; and





- d) report on the actions taken to investigate the alleged facts that led to this resolution, so as to prevent such events from reoccurring.
- 34. The Commission requests that the State of Venezuela report, within 15 days from the date of notification of this resolution, on the adoption of the precautionary measures requested and to update that information periodically.
- 35. The Commission emphasizes that, in accordance with Article 25(8) of its Rules of Procedure, the granting of this precautionary measure and its adoption by the State do not constitute a prejudgment on any violation of the rights protected under the applicable instruments.
- 36. The Commission instructs its Executive Secretariat to notify this resolution to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the requesting party.
- 37. Approved on January 26, 2025, by Roberta Clarke, President; Carlos Bernal Pulido, First Vice-President; José Luis Caballero Ochoa, Second Vice-President; Arif Bulkan; Andrea Pochak; and Gloria Monique de Mees, members of the IACHR.

Tania Reneaum Panszi Executive Secretary