

**INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
RESOLUTION 97/2025**

Precautionary Measure No. 402-25

**26 missing persons and six female searchers within the framework of a state of
emergency regarding Ecuador**

December 24, 2025

Original: Spanish

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On April 6, 2025, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (“the Inter-American Commission”, “the Commission” or “the IACHR”) received a request for precautionary measures filed by *Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos* (“the applicants”) urging the Commission to require that the State of Ecuador (“the State” or “Ecuador”) adopt the necessary measures to protect the life and integrity of 26 disappeared persons¹ and their family units,² Ecuador (“the proposed beneficiaries”). According to the applicants, the proposed beneficiaries were allegedly detained by members of the Armed Forces in various operations during 2024. To date, there is no official information about their fate or whereabouts, despite the judicial decisions and complaints filed. In addition, their relatives indicate that they have been allegedly receiving threats and experiencing acts of intimidation, in the framework of their search efforts.

2. Pursuant to the provisions of Article 25 (5) of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested information from the applicants on April 25, 2025. The applicants responded on May 30, 2025. On August 18, 2025, the Commission again requested additional information from the applicants, who submitted a response on September 1, 2025. On October 29, 2025, the Commission requested information from the State. The State responded on November 25, 2025, after being granted an extension on November 17, 2025. On November 17, 2025, the applicants submitted supplementary information. The State submitted additional

¹ They are the following: (i) Oswaldo Mauricio Morales Santana; (ii) Edwin Eduardo Pata Cheme; (iii) Bruno Stiwar Rodríguez Castillo; (iv) Fardi Ricaurte Muñoz Quiñonez; (v) Cirilo Leonardo Minota Nieves; (vi) Jordy Jair Morales Martínez; (vii) Dave Robin Llor Roca; (viii) Juan Daniel Santillán Suárez; (ix) Dalton Oswaldo Ruiz Tapia; (x) Cristian Damián Sandoya Valle; (xi) Óscar Arturo Adrihan Bravo; (xii) Jonathan Gabriel Adrihan Bravo; (xiii) J.M.C.S.; (xiv) Justin Santiago Valverde Álava; (xv) Darío Manuel Vásquez Chalela; (xvi) J.E.A.C.; (xvii) Luis Miguel Salas Alvarado; (xviii) Jorge Luis Izquierdo Solís; (xix) Miguel Estuardo Morán Escobar; (xx) K.N.P.A.; (xxi) C.M.P.A.; (xxii) B.Y.T.C.; (xxiii) Fabricio Alejandro Alvarado Zambrano; (xxiv) Jason Ariel Franco Gil; (xxv) Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco; (xxvi) J.D.T.A.

² The following family members were identified: (i) Jamileth Mera Pinargote; (ii) Mayra Álvarez Chávez; (iii) Lorena Roca (Lorena Jacqueline Roca Magallón); (iv) Ruth Marianella Ruiz Tapia; (v) Wendy Gabriela Álvarez; (vi) Rosa Castañeda; (vii) Dennis Álava Murillo; (viii) Elena Aracely Jiménez Sánchez; (ix) Elena Edubigens Nieves Nazareno; (x) Nallely Dayana Santillán Suárez; (xi) Mercí Rocío García Bajaña; (xii) Janeth Suquitana Morán; (xiii) Jeniffer Pillajo Córdova; (xiv) Sara Johanna Castillo Angulo; (xv) Danni Dalinda Quiñónez García; (xvi) Norma Cristina Mosquera Acosta; (xvii) Zoila Auquilla Bohórquez; (xviii) Narcisa Leonor Solís; (xix) Sandra Arteaga; (xx) Sugeiry Zulay Carranza Gamboa; (xxi) Josselyn Fernanda Ortiz Cheme; (xxii) Jenny Patricia Chalela Murillo; and (xxiii) Carlos Salas. The request added the following relatives of missing persons found dead: (i) Maritza Anabel Quiñónez Chere, relative of Ariel Jair Cheme Franco and Nevil Lenin Mina Quiñónez, detained by alleged military personnel in 2024 and later found dead; according to reports, both were held incommunicado after their detention. (ii) Luis Eduardo Arroyo Valencia, father of J.D.A.B., detained on December 8, 2024, by a military patrol along with other adolescents in the Las Malvinas sector of Guayaquil; he was reportedly taken away by the agents and later found dead. (iii) Katty Bustos, mother of J.D.A.B. and I.E.A.B., both arrested on December 8, 2024, by military personnel, who allegedly beat and assaulted them during their arrest; the two teenagers were later found dead. (iv) Rony Alexander Medina Valdez, father of S.G.M.L., who was reportedly detained on December 8, 2024, during the military operation described above, along with other adolescents; he was later found dead. (v) Sylvana Lajones, mother of S.G.M.L., who was reportedly detained in the same operation on December 8, 2024, and later found dead. And (vi) Johanna Zoraida Arboleda Portocarrero, relative of N.S.A.P., who was reportedly detained by military personnel on December 8, 2024, in the same operational context and later found dead.

information on December 10, 2025.

3. Upon analyzing the submissions of fact and law submitted by the parties, the Commission considers that the proposed beneficiaries are in a serious and urgent situation, given that their rights to life and personal integrity are at risk of irreparable harm. Therefore, based on Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission requests Ecuador to: a) Redouble its efforts to determine the situation and whereabouts of the 26 missing persons identified in this resolution, in order to protect their rights to life and personal integrity, through a search plan with measurable results, family participation, and an age-based approach, in accordance with applicable international standards and obligations; b) Facilitate the immediate delivery of all available information that may shed light on the fate of the proposed beneficiaries, including, but not limited to, all information required by domestic court decisions and urgent actions of the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances; c) Adopt the necessary measures, with a gender-based approach, to protect the life and integrity of the six female searchers: Lorena Jacqueline Roca Magallón, Wendy Gabriela Álvarez Chávez, the wife of Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco, Mercí Rocío García Bajaña, Mayra Álvarez Chávez, and Jeniffer Pillajo Córdova, in accordance with applicable international standards; d) Provide physical and mental health care to the six identified relatives of the disappeared persons, in a coordinated and voluntary manner; e) Consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the relatives of the beneficiaries and their representatives; and f) Report on the actions taken to investigate with due diligence the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure and thus prevent such events from reoccurring.

II. SUMMARY OF FACTS AND ARGUMENTS

1. Information provided by the requesting party

4. The applicants indicated that, following the issuance of Executive Decree No. 111 of January 9, 2024, which declared the existence of an internal armed conflict and ordered the deployment of the Armed Forces throughout the country, including in places of detention, a context of militarization had emerged. In this context, they questioned whether the use of lethal force against the population is facilitated, and there have been reports of disappearances attributed to state agents, as well as threats and intimidation against family members.

5. In relation to the proposed beneficiaries, the applicants stated that, since January 2024, members of the Armed Forces in operations in the country have detained other individuals. In these interventions, at least 26 people were reportedly deprived of their liberty without a warrant and without formal custody records, and their fate or whereabouts remain unknown to date. Other people had been detained in similar circumstances and later found dead. In several cases, acts of violence, threats, and intimidating statements made by state agents at the time of apprehension have been documented, as well as the lack of effective response to complaints and searches undertaken by family members.

6. At an initial stage, the applicants proposed 65 individuals as proposed beneficiaries. Following a request for additional information, the applicants clarified that the proposed beneficiaries are the following:³ 26 missing persons, including six children;⁴ 23 relatives of the missing persons;⁵ and six family

³ The applicants attached a folder with the consents corresponding to the identified proposed beneficiaries or their families.

⁴ They are the following: (i) (i) Oswaldo Mauricio Morales Santana; (ii) Edwin Eduardo Pata Cheme; (iii) Bruno Stiwár Rodríguez Castillo; (iv) Fardi Ricaurte Muñoz Quiñonez; (v) Cirilo Leonardo Minota Nieves; (vi) Jordy Jair Morales Martínez; (vii) Dave Robin Loo Roca; (viii) Juan Daniel Santillán Suárez; (ix) Dalton Oswaldo Ruiz Tapia; (x) Cristian Damián Sandoya Valle; (xi) Óscar Arturo Adrihan Bravo; (xii) Jonathan Gabriel Adrihan Bravo; (xiii) J.M.C.S.; (xiv) Justin Santiago Valverde Álava; (xv) Darío Manuel Vásquez Chalela; (xvi) J.E.A.C.; (xvii) Luis Miguel Salas Alvarado; (xviii) Jorge Luis Izquierdo Solís; (xix) Miguel Estuardo Morán Escobar; (xx) K.N.P.A.; (xxi) C.M.P.A.; (xxii) B.Y.T.C.; (xxiii) Fabricio Alejandro Alvarado Zambrano; (xxiv) Jason Ariel Franco Gil; (xxv) Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco; (xxvi) J.D.T.A.

⁵ The following family members were identified: (i) Jamileth Mera Pinargote; (ii) Mayra Álvarez Chávez; (iii) Lorena Roca (Lorena Jacqueline Roca Magallón); (iv) Ruth Marianella Ruiz Tapia; (v) Wendy Gabriela Álvarez; (vi) Rosa Castañeda; (vii) Dennis Álava

members of persons who were initially missing and then found dead,⁶ totaling 55 people.

7. The request maintains that the proposed beneficiaries are victims of enforced disappearance and have been granted Urgent Action decisions by the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED). Attached are 17 decisions of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (*Comité contra la Desaparición Forzada*, CDF) issued between December 2024 and May 2025.⁷ In these statements, the CDF expressed concern that, despite the time that has elapsed since the disappearances, the measures taken by the authorities have not made it possible to clarify the fate and whereabouts of the persons concerned. The Committee issued specific recommendations to determine the whereabouts of those who had disappeared, in order to guarantee their lives and integrity. These included the following:

- (i) “Establish urgently a comprehensive strategy that includes an action plan and a schedule for the immediate search [...] and for the exhaustive and impartial investigation of their alleged disappearances, taking into account all available information, including the context of occurrence of the events”;
- (ii) “Ensure that the strategy adopted explores all existing investigative hypotheses in the case, including the possibility that the facts in question constitute an enforced disappearance due to the alleged involvement of state agents”;
- (iii) “Collect, analyze and provide information on the operations carried out by the Armed Forces and Public Security institutions [...] with identification of the agents involved, the detained persons and the places of deprivation of liberty to which they were transferred”;
- (iv) “Implement official and clear mechanisms through which the authorities in charge of the case periodically inform relatives [...] about the progress” and “Allow the participation of relatives and representatives [...] in the search and investigation processes [...] whenever they wish”;
- (v) “Immediately adopt the precautionary measures necessary to guarantee the safety and physical and psychological integrity of the relatives of the disappeared person, as well as the witnesses in the case”;
- (vi) “Adopt a comprehensive search and location strategy that is thorough and diligent, that is conducted under the presumption of life of the disappeared person, and that includes reviewing security camera recordings and obtaining statements from witnesses or anyone who may have information about the disappearance”;

Murillo; (viii) Elena Aracely Jiménez Sánchez; (ix) Elena Edubigens Nieves Nazareno; (x) Nallely Dayana Santillán Suárez; (xi) Mercé Rocío García Bajaña; (xii) Janeth Suquitana Morán; (xiii) Jeniffer Pillajo Córdova; (xiv) Sara Johanna Castillo Angulo; (xv) Danni Dalinda Quiñóñez García; (xvi) Norma Cristina Mosquera Acosta; (xvii) Zoila Auquilla Bohórquez; (xviii) Narcisca Leonor Solís; (xix) Sandra Arteaga; (xx) Sugeiry Zulay Carranza Gamboa; (xxi) Josselyn Fernanda Ortiz Cheme; (xxii) Jenny Patricia Chalela Murillo; and (xxiii) Carlos Salas.

⁶ The request added the following relatives of missing persons and found dead: (i) Maritza Anabel Quiñóñez Chere, relative of Ariel Jair Cheme Franco and Nevil Lenin Mina Quiñóñez, detained by alleged military personnel in 2024 and later found dead; according to what was reported, both were held incommunicado after their arrest. (ii) Luis Eduardo Arroyo Valencia, father of J.D.A.B., arrested on December 8, 2024 by a military patrol along with other adolescents in the Las Malvinas sector, Guayaquil; he was allegedly transferred by the agents and later found dead. (iii) Katty Bustos, mother of J.D.A.B. and I.E.A.B., both detained on December 8, 2024 by military personnel, who reportedly recorded beatings and acts of violence during detention; the two adolescents were later found dead. (iv) Rony Alexander Medina Valdez, father of S.G.M.L., who was reportedly detained on December 8, 2024 during the military operation described, along with other adolescents; he was later found dead. (v) Sylvana Lajones, mother of S.G.M.L. (11), who was reportedly detained in the same operation on December 8, 2024 and later found dead. (vi) Johanna Zoraida Arboleda Portocarrero, relative of N.S.A.P., who was reportedly detained by military personnel on December 8, 2024 in the same operational context and later found dead.

⁷ The attached 17 resolutions of Urgent Actions (AU) cover the following matters: (i) AU of December 24, 2024 (J.D.A.B., I.E.A.B., S.G.M.L., N.S.A.P., missing adolescents subsequently found dead); (ii) AU of January 17, 2025 (Dalton Oswaldo Ruiz Tapia); (iii) AU of January 20, 2025 (J.E.A.C., J.D.T.A.); (iv) AU of January 22, 2025 (Dave Robin Looz Roca, Juan Daniel Santillán Suárez); (v) AU of January 22, 2025 (Cristian Damián Sandoya Valle, Óscar Arturo Adrihan Bravo, Jonathan Gabriel Adrihan Bravo); (vi) AU of January 23, 2025 (Fabricio Alejandro Alvarado Zambrano); (vii) AU of January 23, 2025 (M.J.C.S., Justin Santiago Valverde Álava); (viii) AU of January 27, 2025 (Cirilo Leonardo Minota Nieves); (ix) AU of January 27, 2025 (Jason Ariel Franco Gil); (x) AU of February 7, 2025 (Bruno Stiwar Rodríguez Castillo, Fardi Ricaurte Muñoz Quiñóñez); (xi) AU of February 11, 2025 (Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco); (xii) AU of February 11 of 2025 (Jordy Jair Morales Martínez); (xiii) AU of February 20, 2025 (Jorge Luis Izquierdo Solís); (xiv) AU of March 10, 2025 (Edwin Eduardo Pata Cheme); (xv) AU of March 12, 2025 (Miguel Estuardo Morán Escobar, K.N.P.A., C.M.P.A.); (xvi) AU of April 17, 2025 (Dario Manuel Vásquez Chalela); and (xvii) AU of May 22, 2025 (Luis Miguel Salas Alvarado).

- (vii) “Adopt precautionary measures in favor of [the relatives] [...] to: (i) Preserve the life and personal integrity of the aforementioned persons; and (ii) Allow them to carry out the activities related to the search [...] without being subjected to acts of violence, intimidation or harassment”;
- (viii) “Immediately adopt and implement precautionary measures to protect the evidence with full respect for the chain of custody”, specifically including video surveillance records, military logs and mobile phone data”; and
- (ix) “the Committee requests that the State party inform the Committee immediately in the event that the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared persons are clarified”.

9. Most of the relatives reportedly went to their local Prosecutors’ Offices to report the disappearances. The authorities reportedly recorded the events under criminal charges other than enforced disappearance, such as involuntary disappearance or kidnapping, despite the circumstances reported. As a result of efforts by family members and urgent actions issued by the CDF, most cases have been reclassified as enforced disappearances. The applicants emphasize that the relatives requested that the Ministry of Defense provide a list of the military personnel who participated in the detentions that allegedly led to the subsequent disappearance of their relatives. As indicated in the request, they received a response stating that the information was confidential and classified.

10. The information provided by the applicants on each of the 26 disappeared persons is systematized below, including: (i) date of disappearance; (iii) alleged facts; (iv) internal complaints filed; and (v) Urgent Actions issued by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances:

- i. **Edwin Eduardo Pata Cheme (34 years old), disappeared on January 9, 2024 — Tachina, Esmeraldas:** The proposed beneficiary was detained on January 9, 2024 at his residence, located in the Tachina sector, in Esmeraldas. Witnesses reported that a group of soldiers forced their way into the residence, beat Pata Cheme and two relatives, and then took him away in the back of a military truck along with two other neighbors. One of the detainees later reported that, while they were deprived of their liberty, they were subjected to beatings, electric shocks, and gas, and that the military threw them from the Tachina Bridge. The bodies of two of the individuals detained with him were later found floating in the sea. On January 10, 2024, the relatives filed an initial complaint with the Office of the Attorney General regarding the events that occurred during the military operation, which was registered by the authorities under the criminal category of “excessive use of force in the performance of official duties,” given that two other individuals were allegedly extrajudicially executed during the same operation. Subsequently, on January 15, 2024, his family filed a specific complaint regarding the disappearance of Edwin Eduardo Pata Cheme. However, this complaint was registered by the Prosecutor’s Office as an “involuntary disappearance,” despite the fact that the family pointed to the alleged involvement of members of the Armed Forces in the events. Has Urgent Action AU (*Acción Urgente*) No. 1993/2025 of the CDF granted on March 10, 2025.
- ii. **Bruno Stiwar Rodríguez Castillo (23 years old) and iii. Fardi Ricaurte Muñoz Quiñonez: disappeared on January 30, 2024 — Esmeraldas:** Rodríguez Castillo, a person with an intellectual disability, and Muñoz Quiñonez were intercepted by the military on January 30, 2024, in the San Jorge Alto neighborhood, in Esmeraldas. Rodríguez Castillo’s mother witnessed the detention, but agents prevented her from approaching her son. A video considered by the CDF observed that the military took them to a vacant lot, “beat them; shot at them,” and then forced them to get into a white van and then to an unknown location. The family filed the report for disappearance on January 31, 2024, which was registered by the Office of the Attorney General of Ecuador (FGE). There is no information on a subsequent reclassification or on the opening of an investigation under the category of enforced disappearance. The cases have Urgent Actions of the CDF (AU No. 1970/2025 and AU No. 1971/2025) granted on February 7, 2025.
- iv. **Cirilo Leonardo Minota Nieves (35 years old), disappeared on April 4, 2024 — Quinindé:**

The proposed beneficiary was detained on April 4, 2024 by the military upon arriving in Quinindé, while in a mechanical workshop with two youths. All three were forced into a military truck and taken by the agents. In the sequence, the two companions were released with visible injuries, one of whom reported that the soldiers still had Minota Nieves and were keeping him “gagged.” Since then, there has been no official data on his whereabouts. His relatives filed a missing person’s report on April 5, 2024. The Prosecutor’s Office for Missing Persons initially registered the report as an “involuntary disappearance.” On March 7, 2025, the authority reclassified the case as an “enforced disappearance.” This case has Urgent Action AU No. 1963/2025) of the CDF granted on January 27, 2025.

- v. **Oswaldo Mauricio Morales Santana (23 years old), disappeared on April 24, 2024:** The proposed beneficiary was traveling in a vehicle with a group of friends when they were intercepted by members of the Armed Forces. Of the four people detained, two appeared hours later with visible bruises. They stated that they had been released on the road after being assaulted by the officers. Oswaldo, however, was separated from the rest and transferred by the military without providing information on his destination. On October 23, 2024, his relatives filed a missing persons report with the Prosecutor’s Office for Missing Persons, which was initially registered as “involuntary disappearance”. Subsequently, it was reclassified as an “enforced disappearance” (the date is not detailed). On December 19, 2024, they filed a *writ of habeas corpus*. There is no record that the authorities have provided official information on the operation. It was reported that he has urgent measures before the CDF (the document is not attached).
- vi. **Jordy Jair Morales Martínez (31 years old), disappeared on August 23, 2024 — Vinces, Los Ríos:** The proposed beneficiary was detained on August 23, 2024 at his residence located in Vinces, Los Ríos. About ten agents dressed in military uniforms forced their way in without saying a word and searched the house. They subsequently forced him into a gray van with no license plates, and took him to an unknown location. The military also allegedly stole \$300 and personal documents from Morales Martínez. On August 23, 2024, the relatives filed the complaint with the FGE, which was registered as “non-flagrant kidnapping”. The case has Urgent Action AU No. 1974/2025 of the CDF granted on February 11, 2025.
- vii. **Dave Robin Loor Roca (20 years old) and viii. Juan Daniel Santillán Suárez (27 years old), disappeared on August 26, 2024 — Ventanas, Los Ríos.** Dave Loor was detained along with Juan Daniel Santillán when they were both riding a motorcycle through Ventanas canton. Witnesses reported that the military forced them into the back of a van and transferred them to the rural sector known as Carlos Carriel. A third young man was detained during the same military operation, at the same time, but he was transported in a different truck than the one carrying Dave Robin Loor Roca and Juan Daniel Santillán Suárez. This young man later managed to escape and reported having witnessed acts of violence against both, including that Dave Loor Roca “had already had his fingers broken”. On August 28, 2024, Dave Loor Roca’s mother filed the complaint with the Prosecutor’s Office, which was initially registered under the criminal type of “involuntary disappearance”. The case was reclassified as an “enforced disappearance” on September 12, 2024. On August 28, 2024, a *writ of habeas corpus* was filed in favor of Dave Loor, which was accepted on September 16, 2024 by the judge of Ventanas. In its decision, the judicial authority indicated that “citizen Dave Robin Loor Roca has been missing since August 26, 2024, in the context of a detention carried out by an alleged group of military personnel” and that “the constitutional requirements for a *writ of habeas corpus* for alleged enforced disappearance are configured”. He ordered the activation of national search protocols; instructed the Public Prosecutor’s Office to initiate investigations into enforced disappearances; requested information from the Armed Forces on operations and personnel involved; requested audiovisual records from ECU-911 and the Decentralized Autonomous Governments (*Gobiernos Autónomos Descentralizados*, GAD); and provided medical and psychological care to the family and the victim

upon their location. Both cases have Urgent Action AU No. 1955/2025- Dave Robin Loor Roca and No. 1956/2025- Juan Daniel Santillán Suárez) of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (*Comité contra la Desaparición Forzada*) granted on January 22, 2025.

- ix. **J.D.T.A. (16 years old), disappeared on September 4, 2024 — Babahoyo:** J.D.T.A. was detained on September 4, 2024, when military personnel entered without a warrant the residence where he was staying with his cousin J.E.A.C. During the raid, one of the agents threatened, “Today we are going to kill you.” Since then, there are no official data on his whereabouts. The complaint was initially registered as an “involuntary disappearance” and reclassified as an “enforced disappearance” on February 4, 2025. This case has Urgent Action of the CDF granted on January 20, 2025. The Committee requested that the State “immediately search for and locate” the adolescent and “protect his life and personal integrity”.
- x. **Dalton Oswaldo Ruiz Tapia (35 years old), disappeared on October 20, 2024 — Babahoyo:** The proposed beneficiary was returning from the Pimocha sports center when the taxi in which he was traveling with Carlos Moisés Quinfia Merelo and Edwin Alberto Herrera Zárate was detained by a police operation. The police carried out a search and allowed them to continue. Barely ten meters away, a military patrol, described as a white van with approximately 15 uniformed personnel, stopped the vehicle again. The soldiers let the two companions go and ordered them to leave. They only detained Dalton, whose whereabouts have been unknown since that moment. On October 23, 2024, the events were reported to the Prosecutor’s Office, initially registered as “involuntary disappearance”. On February 6, 2025, it was reclassified as “enforced disappearance.” On April 4, 2024, the relatives entered with a writ of *habeas corpus*, which was admitted by the Criminal Judicial Unit of Babahoyo on April 4, 2025. In the decision, the judge stated that the purpose of the action was “to ensure the right to life and eradicate practices of concealment and uncertainty regarding the place of disappearance,” and ordered a set of mandatory search measures, including: (i) that the National Search System, Armed Forces, National Police, Prosecutor’s Office, DINASED, and Forensic Medicine carry out all necessary investigative actions;⁸(ii) that the Armed Forces and Police provide all information on the operations of October 20, 2024;⁹ (iii) that ECU-911 submit all available videos and recordings;¹⁰ (iv) the Municipality of Babahoyo to hand over vehicle and camera records;¹¹(v) and eleven cantonal GADs to provide traffic and video surveillance records.¹²
- xi. **Cristian Damián Sandoya Valle (55 years old), xii. Óscar Arturo Adrihan Bravo (24 years old), and xiii. Jonathan Gabriel Adrihan Bravo (29 years old), disappeared on November 24, 2024 — Babahoyo:** The three proposed beneficiaries were detained on November 24, 2024 in the La Ventura citadel of Babahoyo, Los Ríos. Witnesses reported that four individuals dressed in military uniforms got out of a white pickup truck, fired shots into the air, and forced the victims

⁸ “It is ordered that the Ecuadorian State through the National System for the Search of Missing and Missing Persons [...] and the instructions of National Security, the Armed Forces, the Specialized Unit of the National Police, the Service of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences and the Directorate of the Attorney General’s Office, carry out throughout the national territory the investigative acts and extend the search protocols necessary to guarantee the location and location of the citizen Dalton Oswaldo Ruíz Tapia.”

⁹ It is hereby ordered and mandated that the Armed Forces provide all information relating to the operations carried out on October 20, 2024”; and, furthermore, “It is hereby ordered and mandated that the National Police provide all information relating to the operations carried out on October 20, 2024.”

¹⁰ “It is arranged and ordered that the ECU911 Integrated Security Service provide support and collaboration [...] so that the videos and recordings of the security cameras that exist in the Canton of Babahoyo are granted and the facts can be clarified.”

¹¹ “It is ordered that the highest authorities of the Municipality of Canton of Babahoyo provide support [...] so that reports are obtained from the vehicles of the municipalities that are provided to carry out the surveillance and security operations, video recordings of the security cameras.”

¹² “It is ordered that the highest authorities of the decentralized autonomous governments of the cantons of Baba, Babahoyo, Mocache, Montalvo, Palenque, Portoviejo, Quevedo, Quinsaloma, Urdaneta, Valencia and Vines, provide support [...] so that reports are obtained from the vehicles of their municipalities that are facilitated for the realization of surveillance and security operations, videos and recordings of the security cameras that exist at the entrance and exit of their jurisdiction”.

into the vehicle, taking them along the Babahoyo-Montalvo road to an unknown destination. The complaint was filed with the Organized Crime Prosecutor's Office and registered as "non-flagrant kidnapping." On February 12, 2025, it was reclassified as an "enforced disappearance." The cases have Urgent Actions (AU No. 1957/2025, AU No. 1958/2025 and AU No. 1959/2025) of the CDF granted on January 22, 2025.

- xiv. **J.M.C.S. (16 years old); and xv. Justin Santiago Valverde Álava (20 years old), disappeared on November 25, 2024 — Mata de Cacao, Los Ríos:** The proposed beneficiaries J.M.C.S., a visually impaired person, and Justin Santiago Valverde Álava were detained on November 25, 2024, when they were allegedly intercepted during a military operation near a gas station in the Mata de Cacao sector. Witnesses reported that heavily armed men dressed in military uniforms forced the young individuals into a white van without license plates and took them away to an unknown destination. The next day, relatives found his belongings in the area. The report of disappearance was registered with the Missing Persons Prosecutor's Office as an "involuntary disappearance" (no date indicated) and reclassified as an "enforced disappearance" on February 13, 2025. The cases have Urgent Actions 1961/2025 and 1962/2025 of the CDF granted on January 23, 2025.
- xvi. **Dario Manuel Vásquez Chalela (33 years old), disappeared on November 27, 2024 — Babahoyo:** The proposed beneficiary was detained on November 27, 2024, in the El Salto Parish, Ciudadela La Nueva Esperanza, when an electric blue truck with people dressed as military personnel intercepted him along with a friend identified as Junior. His sister, Erika Roxana Chalela Murillo, witnessed the detention and reported that the officers took both of them away without explanation. Junior was released at the entrance of Barreiro Nuevo, on the road to La Clementina-La Unión, but did not provide information on Dario's whereabouts. The complaint was filed on November 28, 2024 and registered with the FGE as "involuntary disappearance". Has Urgent Action AU No. 2020/2025 of the CDF granted on April 17, 2025.
- xvii. **J.E.A.C. (17 years old), disappeared on November 28, 2024 — Babahoyo:** The proposed beneficiary was detained on September 4, 2024, when at least 16 military personnel broke into his residence and forcibly removed him along with his cousin J.D.T.A. During the raid, one of the agents said, "Today we are going to kill you." After 15 days in captivity, J.E.A.C. was able to escape and reported that both had been held captive at the Montalvo Fire Department, where they were beaten and subjected to acts that could constitute torture. However, on November 28, 2024, he was again detained by military personnel in Babahoyo and transferred without any information being provided about his whereabouts. The complaint was initially registered as an involuntary disappearance but the case was reclassified as an "enforced disappearance" on February 4, 2025. This case has Urgent Action of the CDF 1957/2025 granted on January 20, 2025.
- xviii. **Luis Miguel Salas Alvarado (22 years old), disappeared on November 28, 2024 — Babahoyo:** The proposed beneficiary was detained on November 28, 2024, when 11 people dressed as military personnel entered the residence in the Cinco Esquinas neighborhood of Babahoyo without a warrant. The agents allegedly forced him into a black van along with two friends and took them to an unknown location. The complaint was filed on November 29, 2024 with the Prosecutor's Office of Organized Crime and registered under the criminal category of "non- flagrant kidnapping", without any official records of his detention. There is no information on reclassification. This case has Urgent Action of the CDF granted on May 22, 2025.
- xix. **Jorge Luis Izquierdo Solís (21 years old), disappeared on 12/04/2024 — Babahoyo:** The proposed beneficiary was detained on December 4, 2024, when he was intercepted by four people dressed in military uniforms on the Pimocha bridge in Babahoyo. The agents were traveling in a white van without license plates, and after forcing him to unlock his cell phone, they

beat him and forced him into the vehicle. The complaint was filed on December 5, 2024, with the Prosecutor's Office of Organized Crime, initially as a "non-flagrant kidnapping," with no official information obtained from police or military units regarding his whereabouts. Has Urgent Action AU No. 1987/2025 of the CDF, granted on February 20, 2025. On March 25, 2025, the case was criminally reclassified as an "enforced disappearance."

- xx. **Miguel Estuardo Morán Escobar (21 years old); xxi. K.N.P.A. (15 years old); xxii. C.M.P.A. (17 years old), and xxiii. B.Y.T.C. (16 years old)—disappeared on December 6, 2024:** The four were detained during a military raid carried out at the La Fortaleza banana plantation in the province of Guayas. In accordance with the Urgent Actions AU No. 1997/2025, AU No. 1998/2025 and AU No. 1999/2025 (concerning this group of young detainees), witnesses reported that soldiers entered the farm, subdued the young people, and transported them in official vehicles without indicating the reason for their detention or their destination. At this time, Morán Escobar was attacked. A "missing person complaint" was filed with the FGE on December 9, 2024. The case was investigated as an "enforced disappearance." On December 13, 2024, a *writ of habeas corpus* was filed, which was rejected in the first instance, as the judge considered that there was insufficient evidence to establish the involvement of state agents in the events. The Labor Chamber of the Provincial Court of Guayas upheld the ruling on June 9, 2025. The plaintiff filed an Extraordinary Action for Protection, and the case is currently pending before the Constitutional Court. On January 29, 2025, the CDF issued Urgent Action (AU 1997/2025, AU 1998/2025, and AU 1999/2025).

- xxiv. **Fabrizio Alejandro Alvarado Zambrano (20 years old), disappeared on December 6, 2024 — Babahoyo:** The proposed beneficiary was detained on December 6, 2024 by a group of military personnel in the Ciudadela Las Mujeres Solas, in Babahoyo, and transferred to an unknown place. There is no additional data on the circumstances and grounds for the detention. His relatives filed a report for disappearance on December 14, 2024 with the Prosecutor's Office of Organized Crime, initially classified as "non- flagrant kidnapping". This case has Urgent Action AU No. 1960/2025 of the CDF granted on January 23, 2025. After the international intervention, the case was criminally reclassified as an "enforced disappearance" on February 27, 2025.

- xxv. **Jason Ariel Franco Gil (25 years old), disappeared on December 6, 2024 — Babahoyo:** The proposed beneficiary was detained on December 6, 2024, along with five friends, when people dressed in military uniforms arrived in a white van and entered a residence in the Las Mujeres Solas neighborhood in Babahoyo. They subsequently forced him into the vehicle and took him to an unknown location. The missing person report was filed with the Prosecutor's Office of Organized Crime on December 6, 2024, initially as "kidnapping - not flagrant." This case has Urgent Action AU No. 1963/2025) of the CDF granted on January 27, 2025. After the international intervention, the case was **criminally reclassified as an "enforced disappearance" on February 12, 2025.**

- xxvi. **Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco (31 years old), disappeared on December 9, 2024 — Guayaquil:** The proposed beneficiary was detained on December 9, 2024, while at the Nueva Prosperina Cooperative in the Las Cañas neighborhood of Guayaquil. Witnesses reported that he attempted to flee when he noticed the presence of agents dressed as military personnel. However, they caught up with him, beat him, and forced him into a van. His partner witnessed the detention, and when she asked the grounds for it, the officers pointed their guns at her without offering any explanation. The military allegedly used a truck belonging to the Municipal Public Company for Risk Management and Security Control "Guayaquil Segura EP." The complaint was filed on December 11, 2024 with the Prosecutor's Office for Missing Persons initially as "involuntary disappearance". The case was reclassified as "enforced disappearance" on March 6, 2025. On July

28, 2025, a writ *habeas corpus* was filed (Case No. 09209-2025-05155). On September 24, 2025, the Guayaquil Family Court accepted the case and ordered the State, through the National System for the Search for Missing Persons, and Response to Indirect Victims (*Sistema Nacional de Búsqueda de Personas Desaparecidas, Extraviadas y Respuesta a las Víctimas Indirectas*, SNBPDE), to carry out “the corresponding investigative actions throughout the national territory” and “activate all possible search protocols to guarantee the location,” as well as provide priority “medical, psychological, and psychosocial support” to the family and ensure “effective access to justice.” In an extension decision dated October 25, 2025, the judge also prohibited public institutions from engaging in “any kind of persecution or threats” against direct and indirect victims. This case has Urgent Action AU No. 1973/2025 of the CDF granted on February 11, 2025.

11. It should be added that, despite internal complaints, decisions by the CDF, and granted *writs of habeas corpus*, there has been no evidence of increased search efforts, nor has an inter-institutional search plan been developed, as established by the United Nations Guiding Principles on the Search for Disappeared Persons. It has also not been possible to obtain from the Armed Forces the information requested since the outset of the cases, which, according to the report, suggests a pattern of obstruction and lack of due diligence. Faced with this situation and to avoid unnecessary revictimization, it has been decided not to file new *habeas corpus* actions until “the Constitutional Court establishes binding precedents that clarify the role of judges in cases of forced disappearance and the obligation of the State to guarantee the delivery of military information.” There is a case pending before the Constitutional Court of Ecuador, related to four children found dead in the context of military operations.

- Relatives of the disappeared proposed beneficiaries and of those found deceased:

12. With regard to the 23 relatives of missing persons proposed as beneficiaries and the six relatives of persons found dead, it was emphasized that the lack of response from the authorities causes them ongoing suffering. It was also highlighted that they are exposed to direct threats from military personnel allegedly linked to the operations. It was added that the families formed a Committee of Women Family Members Searchers (*Comité de Mujeres Familiares Buscadoras*). As concrete facts, the following was reported:

- i. **Lorena Jacqueline Roca Magallón (mother of Dave Robin Loor Roca):** On May 19, 2025, a group of people who identified themselves as members of the Armed Forces appeared at various locations in the Ventanas canton asking about the whereabouts of Lorena Roca. The individuals claimed to have information on her missing son and visited several residences, insisting on knowing where he was. Neighbors informed the applicants of the continuous presence of the group during the day.
- ii. **Wendy Gabriela Álvarez Chávez (relative of J.E.A.C. and J.D.T.A):** On April 6, 2025, in the morning, she informed the applicants that agents of the Armed Forces went to her residence in Babahoyo. She added that the soldiers knocked on her door and rebuked her, making direct references to the operation in which her sons were detained and disappeared. They indicated that she had recognized one of the troops who participated in this operation. The applicants requested before the Unlawful Use of Force Unit (*Unidad de Uso Ilegítimo de la Fuerza*) to join the victim and witness program.
- iii. **Wife of Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco (full name unknown):** According to the information provided to the applicants, in the afternoon of the first week of May 2025, individuals who identified themselves as members of the Armed Forces entered without

authorization the residence of a neighbor who was friends with Ms. Villón in the area where she lives. At the location, they inquired about her and issued threats, warning her to stop searching for her missing husband, who “is already dead,” and that if she continued, “she would be next.” Ms. Villón also reportedly received threatening phone calls in the following days, late at night, repeating the same message. No complaints were filed for fear of reprisals.

- iv. **Family of Miguel Estuardo Morán Escobar, K.N.P.A. and C.M.P.A. (mothers, fathers and brothers):** A few days after K.N.P.A.’s disappearance—the date is unknown—a group of soldiers forced their way into the family residence, broke down the door, and entered both the main house and the interior rooms. During the raid they allegedly stole clothing, perfumes, and personal belongings from the family’s children. Some officers wore uniforms and other civilian clothing. According to the information provided, the military issued threats telling them to stop searching because “their children are dead.” That same morning, another group reportedly entered the residence of close relatives and removed banners with photographs of the disappeared. Witnesses mentioned that the attackers coordinated through signs. No complaints were filed for fear of reprisals.
- v. **Mercí Rocío García Bajaña (mother of Fabricio Alejandro Alvarado Zambrano):** In the weeks after the disappearance of her son, between February and March 2025, Mercí informed the applicants that the military entered her residence in the afternoon and attempted to take her other son. She informed that she managed to prevent it, at which point one of the agents told her to stop looking for the missing youth because “you’ll never find him.” She explained that the continued harassment has severely impacted her emotional health and that she has had suicide attempts.
- vi. **Mayra Álvarez Chávez (mother of J.E.A.C.):** On November 11, 2025, individuals identified as officials of the Armed Forces broke into her residence and remained there until about midnight. During the operation, they attempted to take her other son J.S.P.A. (15 years old), and brother Brayan Daniel Díaz Chávez (25 years old). The residence was violently raided and Ms. Álvarez was allegedly taken naked from her bed. One of the soldiers stated that “they had ‘Puchi’”, nickname of J.E.A.C., one of the missing youths whose complaint for enforced disappearance remains pending.
- vii. **Jeniffer Pillajo Córdova (relative of Óscar Arturo Adrihan Bravo):** On October 30, 2025, at dawn, they reported an allegedly illegal raid on their residence by unidentified individuals. They warned that the incident occurred without a warrant and in the same context as the reported disappearances.

13. The relatives of the missing persons have reportedly submitted formal requests for their inclusion in the System for the Protection and Assistance of Victims, Witnesses, and Other Participants in Criminal Proceedings (*Sistema de Protección y Asistencia a Víctimas, Testigos y otros Participantes en el Proceso Penal*, SPAVT), which is run by the Office of the Attorney General of Ecuador (FGE). The respective evaluation and admission processes are currently underway. They warn that the only family member incorporated into the SPAVT is Lorena Jacqueline Roca Magallón. In practice, her protection allegedly only consists of occasional monitoring calls. The applicants cited as an example what occurred on May 19, 2025, when the state’s actions were limited to merely recording the events evolving Roca Magallón. There is allegedly no containment plan, field accompaniment, or immediate measures to reduce the risk. They add that the system is insufficient, as there is no support for the searches that she organizes with her own resources, nor any institutional presence at hearings or public proceedings related to the case. They also stressed that the situation allegedly creates

psychological effects due to the emotional impact of the disappearance and the lack of an adequate state response. It is added that the SPAVT offers limited psychological assistance and does not guarantee comprehensive protection.

14. Lastly, the applicants complemented that they maintained contacts with the Ministry of the Interior and the then Ministry of Women and Human Rights. They indicated that the responses were ambiguous and focused on an alleged lack of competence to provide support, and it was even reported that they could not accompany them because the cases were reportedly “dangerous” for the staff.

B. Response from the State

15. The State of Ecuador raises previous issues related to alleged inaccuracies in the alleged facts and in relation to the universe of proposed beneficiaries. It also maintains that the domestic authorities are conducting diligent investigations and that the State has effective mechanisms in place to mitigate the risk, so that the Commission’s intervention would not be necessary. It also presents general considerations related to the following topics: (i) abstract review of the constitutionality of declarations of a state of emergency; (ii) Ecuadorian regulatory and institutional analysis of the crime of enforced disappearance; (iii) the National System for the Protection and Assistance of Victims, Witnesses, and Other Participants in Criminal Proceedings (*Asistencia a Víctimas, Testigos y Otros Participantes en el Proceso Penal*, SPAVT); and (iv) writs of *habeas corpus*. The following is a detailed account of their response:

- (i) The State notes that the Constitutional Court of Ecuador (CCE) exercises ex officio and immediate formal and substantive control over decrees of a state of emergency. This control reviews the grounds invoked, the motivation, the temporal and territorial scope, the measures adopted, and the rights whose limitation is authorized. They add that this control also reached Executive Decree No. 111 (which declared the state of emergency) and that, according to that review (Opinion No. 1-24-EE/24), the decree did not contain provisions promoting the use of lethal force, but rather authorized the execution of military operations while respecting human rights and the principles of the use of force. Furthermore, it is stated that the intervention of the Armed Forces in internal public order must be extraordinary, subordinate, complementary, and supervised.
- (ii) The State adds that enforced disappearance is classified in the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code (*Código Orgánico Integral Penal*, COIP) in accordance with international standards as a crime without statute of limitations and not subject to amnesty, the investigation of which falls to the Office of the Attorney General of Ecuador. It warned that the configuration of the crime requires proving the participation of the State agent or whoever acts with his or her consent. They added that the Office of the Attorney General of Ecuador has adjusted its structure to provide a specialized response, and created the Specialized Unit for the Investigation of the Illegitimate Use of Force (with jurisdiction over enforced disappearances). More recently, they also added a second specialized office in Guayaquil to handle the caseload. This office aligns itself with the principle of enhanced due diligence and the standard of “structural availability of means” required by inter-American jurisprudence.
- (iii) It explains that the SPAVT is the institutional instrument to manage risks and provide social and psychological assistance to victims and witnesses. The SPAVT has rules for the evaluation

of admission (including immediate and regular modalities), obligations of the beneficiaries, monitoring mechanisms and reasons for exclusion. In addition, it can implement complementary protection measures, such as accompanying them to court proceedings, temporarily changing their appearance or image, and self-protection measures.

- (iv) It provides explanations on *writs of habeas corpus*, detailing that this constitutional action, which remains fully in force even under a state of emergency, protects individuals from enforced disappearance, and allows for measures to be ordered to verify a person's whereabouts (investigative modality), without replacing ordinary criminal investigation.

16. With regard to the measures taken in relation to missing persons and their families, the State reported that complaints filed domestically are being processed by the FGE and remain in the preliminary investigation stage. The State observes that, in accordance with Article 584 of the COIP, the actions carried out in this phase are confidential. Consequently, it indicated that it is not possible to send documentation on the ongoing proceedings.

17. As general information, it was reported that all the cases mentioned in the request for precautionary measures are being handled by Prosecutor's Office 1 of the Specialized Unit for the Investigation of Illegitimate Use of Force of the FGE, for the crime of enforced disappearance. It was noted that the National Directorate for Crimes Against Life, Violent Deaths, Disappearances, Extortion, and Kidnapping (*Dirección Nacional de Delitos contra la Vida, Muertes Violentas, Desapariciones, Extorsión y Secuestro*, DINASED) is responsible for searching for, tracking, and locating the alleged victims, while the National Investigation Unit with the FGE must obtain and analyze evidence to determine criminal responsibility in cases of enforced disappearance and, in cases of potentially unlawful deaths, clarify the circumstances of the possible execution and the possible illegitimate use of force. Moreover, it was reported in general terms that investigative procedures had been carried out, including inspection of the scene of the crime, taking statements, requests to mobile phone companies, and other actions related to the ongoing criminal investigation.

18. Regarding the care of relatives of the missing persons, the Office of the Attorney General of Ecuador stressed that it has held coordination meetings with the victims, as well as work tables held on February 25 and May 8, 2025. During these meetings, the FGE stated that: "(...) the cases under review were identified, and each file was analyzed individually in order to determine the correct classification of the facts under the applicable criminal offenses, as well as the next steps to be taken. Similarly, the operational and technical interagency coordination between entities with different responsibilities was explained in detail: UNIF, responsible for carrying out specialized investigative procedures and tasks; DINASED, responsible for searching for, locating, and identifying missing persons; and National Anti-Kidnapping and Extortion Investigation Unit (*Unidad Nacional de Investigación Antisecuestros y Extorsión*, National Anti-Kidnapping and Extortion Investigation Unit, UNASE), focused on investigating and neutralizing behaviors linked to kidnapping and extortion." The FGE reported that a new meeting with family members and the corresponding entities is planned until the end of the year.

19. Regarding the victims' involvement in the SPAVT, the FGE indicates that, as part of the follow-up carried out, it has been verified that there are no formal complaints filed by the indirect victims referred to for alleged intimidation or other related offenses in the Integrated System of Prosecutorial Actions (*Sistema Integrado de Actuaciones Fiscales*, SIAF). In addition, it has been verified that, according to the risk assessment carried out by the SPAVT, no verifiable risk has been identified; and, separately, that in several cases the formal entry of victims into the System has not been completed, as the entry form provided for in the SPAVT Replacement Regulations has not been signed, an aspect of particular relevance in light of the principle of voluntariness.

20. Despite the above, through the Directorate of Human Rights and Citizen Participation (*Dirección de Derechos Humanos y Participación Ciudadana*, DNDHPC) of the FGE, the State reported that it will conduct a reassessment of the risk, as well as the implications arising from the failure of the relatives of the disappeared persons to formally register with the SPAVT. It also recommended that the prosecutor handling the cases of enforced disappearance resubmit the application for entry into the SPAVT for analysis and resolution. In addition, Ecuador continues, it is apparent that the Violeta Centers, located in various areas of the country, have provided psychosocial and legal assistance to the families of missing persons.

21. On December 8, 2025, the State sent an official letter from the FGE addressed to the National Directorate of Human Rights. With regard to the alleged incidents of risk reported by family members, in particular, those involving Lorena Roca and Mayra Álvarez Chávez, it was emphasized that the institution had no prior knowledge of the reported events. Furthermore, it was reported that a prior investigation was opened *ex officio* for the alleged crime of violation of private property, drawn from the Prosecutor's Office No. 2 of Public Administration (no detail of date). Regarding admission to the SPAVT, the State indicated that the Prosecutor's Office held working meetings with representatives of the victims on February 25, 2025, and May 8, 2025, during which the possibility of accessing the program was explained and it was specified that this procedure is governed by the principle of willingness. The State emphasized that, as of the date of the official letter, no contact had been made by the petitioners to move forward with the signing of the Single Application for Admission (*Solicitud Única de Ingreso*, SUI).

22. In addition, it was reported that 22 of the 26 proposed missing beneficiaries have Urgent Actions before the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances, which are being implemented by the competent entities, namely the FGE and the Ministry of Government, among others. It also indicated that several relatives filed writs of *habeas corpus* linked to the people whose disappearance was mentioned in the request. The lawsuits specifically mentioned are reportedly the following:

- i. Dave Robin Loor Roca (20 years old): *writ of habeas corpus* granted on September 16, 2024 by the Judge of Ventanas. The decision not only upheld the claim in his favor, but also ordered comprehensive reparations and mandated an immediate search and investigation into the alleged forced disappearance.¹³
- ii. Dalton Oswaldo Ruiz Tapia (35 years old): *writ of habeas corpus* admitted by the Criminal Judicial Unit of Babahoyo on April 4, 2025. In the decision, the judge ordered a set of mandatory search and investigation measures to be carried out by the National Search System, the Armed Forces, the National Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office, DINASED, and the Forensic Medicine Institute.¹⁴

¹³ "It determined that the sentence is itself a measure of reparation. [...] He ordered the Ecuadorian State, through the National Search System [...] and the national security institutions, the Armed Forces, [...] to carry out investigative actions throughout the national territory and activate the search protocols necessary to guarantee the location and/or place of the Ecuadorian citizen DAVE ROBIN LOOR ROCA [...]. They ordered the FGE to initiate and carry out all the corresponding investigations for the alleged crime of enforced disappearance [...]. It also ordered an evaluation of the risk situation of the indirect victim ROCA MAGALLON LORENA JAQUELINE and his admission to the National System for the Protection and Assistance of Victims, Witnesses, and Other Participants in Criminal Proceedings (SPAVT). [...] It ordered the ECU 911 Integrated Security Service to provide support [...] so that the videos and recordings of the security cameras that exist in the Ventanas canton [...] are obtained. [It was ordered that] the representatives of the Armed Forces of Ecuador (FFAA), within the scope of their powers, [...] initiate an investigation of all the military bases in the Country, aimed at locating Mr. DAVE ROBIN LOOR ROCA [...] [and] investigate the patrol orders, security and control operations, carried out in the Ventanas canton, on August 26, 2024."

¹⁴ "It is ordered that the Ecuadorian State through the National System for the Search of Missing and Missing Persons and in response to the indirect victims and the instructions of National Security, the Armed Forces, the Specialized Unit of the National Police, the Service of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences and the Directorate of the Attorney General's Office, carry out throughout the national territory the investigative acts and extend the search protocols necessary to guarantee the location and location of the citizen Dalton

- iii. Miguel Estuardo Morán Escobar (21 years old), K.N.P.A. (15 years old), C.M.P.A. (17 years old), and B.Y.T.C. (16 years old): *writ of habeas corpus* rejected in the first instance for this group, currently in appeal phase. It was recorded that the Judicial Unit of Family, Women, Adolescents and Adolescent Offenders (*Unidad Judicial de Familia, Mujer, Adolescentes y Adolescentes Infractores*) based in the Milagro canton declared the appeal for the first three admissible at a later date (June 9, 2025 for Miguel Estuardo and K.N.P.A., and February 5, 2025 for C.M.P.A.).
- iv. Oswaldo Mauricio Morales Santana (23 years old): *writ of habeas corpus* filed on December 19, 2024. There is no information on the outcome.
- v. Dario Manuel Vásquez Chalela (31 years old): *writ of habeas corpus* filed on December 20, 2024. There is no information on the outcome.
- vi. Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco: *writ of habeas corpus* 09209-2025-05155, submitted on July 28, 2025, and accepted on September 24, 2025, by the Family Judicial Unit.¹⁵

23. In conclusion, the State indicates that it is taking all necessary steps to locate the persons, investigate the disappearance, and, if applicable, punish those responsible.

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

24. 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.

25. The Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ("the Inter-American Court" or "I/A Court H.R.") have established repeatedly that precautionary and provisional measures have a dual nature, both protective and precautionary.¹⁶ Regarding the protective nature, these measures seek

Oswaldo Ruíz Tapia. (...) It is ordered and mandated that the Armed Forces provide all information regarding the operations carried out on October 20, 2024, and the search protocols necessary to guarantee the location and location of the citizen Dalton Oswaldo Ruíz Tapia are extended. (...) It is hereby ordered and directed that the ECU911 Integrated Security Service provide support and inter-institutional collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General and DINASED investigators so that the videos and recordings from the security cameras in the Canton of Babahoyo may be provided and the facts clarified. (...) It is ordered that the highest authorities of the Municipality of Canton of Babahoyo provide inter-institutional support and collaboration with the State Office of the Attorney General and the investigative agents of DINASED so that reports are obtained from the vehicles of the municipalities that are provided to carry out the surveillance and security operations, video recordings of the security cameras that exist in the Canton of Babahoyo. (...) The highest authorities of the decentralized autonomous governments of the cantons of Baba, Babahoyo, Mocache, Montalvo, Palenque, Portoviejo, Quevedo, Quinsaloma, Urdaneta, Valencia, and Vines provide support and inter-institutional collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General and DINASED investigators in order to obtain reports on vehicles in their municipalities that are provided for surveillance and security operations, as well as videos and recordings from security cameras located at the entrances and exits of their jurisdictions."

¹⁵ "Order the State that through the SNBPDE, [...] Armed Forces, the Special Units of the National Police with the leadership of the FGE carry out the corresponding investigative actions throughout the national territory and activate all possible search protocols to guarantee the location and location of the disappeared person [...]. Medical, psychological and psychosocial support was provided, and priority was given to the family [...]. [It is ordered that] the Ministry of Women and Human Rights and the Ombudsperson's Office [...] collaborate urgently with officials or persons with good criteria or knowledge in Human Rights and Gender in an investigation regarding the situation of the disappeared person and the family [...]. It is provided that the State, through its public institutions, shall protect the personal integrity of direct and indirect victims by prohibiting any kind of persecution or threats against them."

¹⁶ Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.), [Matter of the Yare I and Yare II Capital Region Penitentiary Center](#), 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.

to avoid irreparable harm and protect the exercise of human rights.¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ As for 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 implement the ordered reparations.¹⁹ 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.

26. 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.²⁰ Similarly, the Commission recalls that, by its own mandate, it is not in its purview 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.²¹ 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 carried out without making any determination on the merits.²²

¹⁷ I/A Court H.R., [Matter of Capital El Rodeo I and El Rodeo II Judicial Confinement Center](#), Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of February 8, 2008, considerandum 8; [Case of Bámaca Velásquez](#), Provisional measures regarding Guatemala, Order of January 27, 2009, considerandum 45; [Matter of Fernández Ortega et al.](#), Provisional measures regarding Mexico, Order of April 30, 2009, considerandum 5; [Matter of Milagro Sala](#), Provisional measures regarding Argentina, Order of November 23, 2017, considerandum 5 (Available only in Spanish).

¹⁸ I/A Court H.R., [Matter of Milagro Sala](#), Provisional Measures regarding Argentina, Order of November 23, 2017, considerandum 5 (Available only in Spanish); [Matter of Capital El Rodeo I and El Rodeo II Judicial Confinement Center](#), Provisional Measures regarding Venezuela, Order of February 8, 2008, considerandum 9; [Matter of the Criminal Institute of Plácido de Sá Carvalho](#), Provisional Measures regarding Brazil, Order of February 13, 2017, considerandum 6 (Available only in Spanish).

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

²⁰ I/A Court H.R., [Matter of Members of the Miskitu Indigenous Peoples of the North Caribbean Coast regarding Nicaragua](#), Extension of Provisional Measures, Order of August 23, 2018, considerandum 13 (Available only in Spanish); [Matter of children and adolescents deprived of liberty in the “Complexo do Tatuapé” of the Fundação CASA](#), Provisional Measures regarding Brazil, Order of July 4, 2006, considerandum 23.

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

²² 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., [Matter of James et al. regarding Trinidad and Tobago](#), Provisional Measures, Order of August 29, 1998, considerandum 6 (Available only in Spanish); [Case of the Barrios Family v. Venezuela](#), Provisional Measures, Order of April 22, 2021, considerandum 2 (Available only in Spanish).

27. Considering the context in which the alleged facts took place, the Commission recalls that it has been closely monitoring the situation of complaints about disappearances that occurred in the context of the militarization of public security in Ecuador. In its 2024 Annual Report, the IACHR observed the persistence of challenges related to citizen security due to the increasing militarization through repeated states of emergency in Ecuador, which impacted different human rights, including economic, social, and cultural rights.²³ In the above context, human rights defenders pointed out that they face additional difficulties in conducting their work, derived from the recurrent states of emergency.²⁴ They reported the lack of progress in the investigations into acts of violence against them and the absence of a specialized protection mechanism.²⁵

28. On January 22, 2025,²⁶ the IACHR condemned the disappearance and subsequent murder of a child and three adolescents of African descent in Guayaquil, Ecuador. According to official information, they were detained by military personnel in the vicinity of the Mall del Sur and loaded into Armed Forces vehicles. They had *writs of habeas corpus* demands granted by a judge of childhood and adolescence of Guayaquil, who declared the enforced disappearance, ordered an investigation, and urged the Ministry of Defense to apologize for the events. In its statement, the IACHR noted that the State must intensify its efforts to ensure access to justice for families and communities through the investigation, prosecution, sanction, and reparation of the events, including measures to prevent the recurrence of similar cases.²⁷ It also indicated that it is necessary to clarify the possible responsibility of state agents and examine the circumstances of the murders, including the possible commission of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial execution.²⁸ In analyzing the case, consideration must be given to the age, ethno-racial origin, and socioeconomic status of the victims, as well as the mistreatment of their bodies. It also urged the State to guarantee the safety of family members, provide psychosocial support, and ensure adequate reparations.²⁹

29. On July 23, 2025, the IACHR held a public hearing on disappearances in the context of the militarization of public security in Ecuador, within the framework of the 193rd Period of Sessions.³⁰ On that occasion, civil society organizations and relatives of missing persons warned about the human rights impacts resulting from the consecutive states of emergency decreed by the Ecuadorian State. They highlighted the case of the missing and murdered children in “Las Malvinas”, which brought to light more than 30 cases of disappearances during 2024.³¹ Family members reported arbitrary detentions and disappearances of their relatives by military forces; they alleged deficiencies in the investigations; impacts on their life plans and risks to their integrity resulting from the search efforts.³² The State reaffirmed its commitment to the protection and guarantee of human rights in the context of its public security policies. It stated that the military forces are trained in human rights standards to prevent violations. The State further reported, in general, on the efforts in the investigation of complaints of possible enforced disappearances;³³ it referred to the programs and

²³ IACHR, [2024 Annual Report, Ch. IV. Ecuador](#), OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 39 rev. 2, March 26, 2025, para. 375, p. 555.

²⁴ IACHR, 2024 Annual Report, Ch. IV. Ecuador, previously cited, para. 380, p. 555.

²⁵ IACHR, 2024 Annual Report, Ch. IV. Ecuador, previously cited, para. 380, p. 555.

²⁶ IACHR, Press Release No. 15/25, [“IACHR Condemns the Disappearance and Subsequent Murder of a Child and Three Adolescents of African Descent in Ecuador.”](#), January 22, 2025.

²⁷ IACHR, Press Release No. 15/25, [“IACHR Condemns the Disappearance and Subsequent Murder of a Child and Three Adolescents of African Descent in Ecuador.”](#), January 22, 2025.

²⁸ IACHR, Press Release No. 15/25, [“IACHR Condemns the Disappearance and Subsequent Murder of a Child and Three Adolescents of African Descent in Ecuador.”](#), January 22, 2025.

²⁹ IACHR, Press Release No. 15/25, [“IACHR Condemns the Disappearance and Subsequent Murder of a Child and Three Adolescents of African Descent in Ecuador.”](#), January 22, 2025.

³⁰ IACHR, Public Hearing [“Ecuador: Disappearances in the Context of the Militarization of Public Security.”](#) 193rd Period of Sessions, July 23, 2025 (Audio in Spanish, automatic translation available in various languages).

³¹ IACHR, Public Hearing [“Ecuador: Disappearances in the Context of the Militarization of Public Security.”](#) 193rd Period of Sessions, July 23, 2025 (Audio in Spanish, automatic translation available in various languages).

³² IACHR, Public Hearing [“Ecuador: Disappearances in the Context of the Militarization of Public Security.”](#) 193rd Period of Sessions, July 23, 2025 (Audio in Spanish, automatic translation available in various languages).

³³ IACHR, Public Hearing [“Ecuador: Disappearances in the Context of the Militarization of Public Security.”](#) 193rd Period of Sessions, July 23, 2025 (Audio in Spanish, automatic translation available in various languages).

institutions responsible for accompanying the families of disappeared persons and reaffirmed its interest in cooperating with human rights bodies for institutional strengthening.³⁴ The IACHR expressed solidarity with the families that participated during the hearing. It reminded the State of its international obligation to prevent enforced disappearances and to conduct thorough and impartial investigations, even in states of emergency.³⁵ In this regard, it stressed the importance of taking effective measures for the prevention, investigation, prosecution, punishment, and reparation of human rights violations. It also expressed to the State its willingness to accompany processes of institutional strengthening for the investigations of cases of enforced disappearance.³⁶

30. Consequently, the Commission understands that the circumstances surrounding the disappearances, together with the IACHR's contextual monitoring of the country, are relevant to the analysis of the procedural requirements. This is consistent with the applicants' statements regarding the facts and circumstances of the disappearance and unknown whereabouts of the proposed beneficiaries.

31. Based on the facts reported by the parties and the context described, the IACHR will examine, in light of Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, the request for precautionary measures in relation to: the 26 persons presumed to be in a state of enforced disappearance, including the situation of five children; and the 23 relatives of the disappeared persons and six relatives of the disappeared persons who have been found dead, in the context of the state of emergency in Ecuador.

- *Situation of the 26 persons presumed to be in a condition of enforced disappearance within the framework of Ecuador's state of emergency*

32. With regard to the requirement of *seriousness*, the Commission notes that there is no dispute that the whereabouts of the 26 proposed beneficiaries identified remain unknown: (i) Edwin Eduardo Pata Cheme; (ii) Bruno Stiwár Rodríguez Castillo; (iii) Fardi Ricaurte Muñoz Quiñonez; (iv) Cirilo Leonardo Minota Nieves; (v) Oswaldo Mauricio Morales Santana; (vi) Jordy Jair Morales Martínez; (vii) Dave Robin Looz Roca; (viii) Juan Daniel Santillán Suárez; (ix) J.D.T.A.; (x) Dalton Oswaldo Ruiz Tapia; (xi) Cristian Damián Sandoya Valle; (xii) Óscar Arturo Adrihan Bravo; (xiii) Jonathan Gabriel Adrihan Bravo; (xiv) J.M.C.S.; (xv) Justin Santiago Valverde Álava; (xvi) Dario Manuel Vásquez Chalela; (xvii) J.E.A.C.; (xviii) Luis Miguel Salas Alvarado; (xix) Jorge Luis Izquierdo Solís; (xx) Miguel Estuardo Morán Escobar; (xxi) K.N.P.A.; (xxii) C.M.P.A.; (xxiii) B.Y.T.C.; (xxiv) Fabricio Alejandro Alvarado Zambrano; (xxv) Jason Ariel Franco Gil; (xxvi) Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco, after allegedly being detained by state agents at different times between January and December 2024. It is concerning that these deprivations of liberty have occurred in the context of a state of emergency in the country, and that to date no one has been held accountable.

33. The circumstances that accompany these detentions are even more serious, as they reveal a common pattern of action of the state agents possibly involved in the events. In this regard, the Commission notes that:

- (i) members of the Armed Forces or people dressed in military uniform intervened directly, so the requesting party considered that the reported events represent cases of "enforced disappearance";
- (ii) the apprehensions allegedly took place in residences, public spaces, or during control operations;

³⁴ IACHR, Public Hearing "[Ecuador: Disappearances in the Context of the Militarization of Public Security.](#)" 193rd Period of Sessions, July 23, 2025 (Audio in Spanish, automatic translation available in various languages).

³⁵ IACHR, Public Hearing "[Ecuador: Disappearances in the Context of the Militarization of Public Security.](#)" 193rd Period of Sessions, July 23, 2025 (Audio in Spanish, automatic translation available in various languages).

³⁶ IACHR, Public Hearing "[Ecuador: Disappearances in the Context of the Militarization of Public Security.](#)" 193rd Period of Sessions, July 23, 2025 (Audio in Spanish, automatic translation available in various languages).

- (iii) there was an alleged immediate transfers to undisclosed locations, and it has been alleged that persons detained in similar circumstances were later found dead;
- (iv) there is a reported absence of official information on the fate of the people, despite the efforts made by the relatives before police, military, prosecutorial authorities, and judges; and
- (v) in several cases, there have been reports of threats, use of force during arrests, or obstruction of family members who attempted to obtain answers regarding the investigations or the whereabouts of their loved ones.

34. The Commission expresses its deep concern in view of the fact that state agents, who have a special responsibility to guarantee the human rights of persons in their custody following detention, have been identified as responsible for the detentions and subsequent disappearances of the proposed beneficiaries.³⁷ In this regard, although the investigations were initially registered under various classifications, they subsequently incorporated the hypothesis of enforced disappearance within the framework of criminal investigations. Similarly, the available constitutional court decisions considered the possible configuration of an enforced disappearance when ruling in favor of certain proposed beneficiaries.

35. In addition, it recalls that, according to inter-American standards, the State is obligated to maintain an updated record of detentions, promptly provide information about the person's whereabouts and health, and, if the person is in State custody, present them before a competent judicial authority within legal timeframes while fully respecting judicial guarantees at all times.³⁸ The IACHR also highlights that every detained person has the right to maintain personal and direct contact, through regular visits, with family members, legal representatives, and other persons.³⁹ Due diligence in the investigation implies that all state authorities are obliged to collaborate in the collection of evidence, and therefore must provide the judge, prosecutor, or other competent authority with all the information they require and refrain from any actions that could obstruct the investigative process.⁴⁰

36. The Commission notes that the relatives have activated various internal mechanisms aimed at searching for and obtaining answers regarding the whereabouts of the proposed beneficiaries, including:

- (i) Criminal complaints filed with local prosecutors' offices, initially registered as "involuntary disappearance" or "non-flagrant kidnapping" and then reclassified as enforced disappearance. These reports of disappearance were filed from at least January 10, 2024 onwards;
- (ii) Administrative requests submitted to the Ministry of Defense to obtain information about military personnel who participated in operations related to the detentions. Reportedly, the response highlighted the confidential nature of the requested information, and it has not been delivered, even after the judicial decisions that indicate it;⁴¹

³⁷ I/A Court H.R., [Case of Mendoza et al. v. Argentina](#), Preliminary Objections, Merits and Reparations, Judgment of May 14, 2013, Series C No. 260, para. 188. See also: IACHR, [Report on the Human Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas](#), December 31, 2011, para. 49.

³⁸ IACHR, [2021 Annual Report](#), Ch. IV.B. Venezuela, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, approved on May 26, 2022, para. 86

³⁹ IACHR, [Principles and Best Practices on the Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas](#), adopted by the Commission during the 131st regular Period of Sessions, held from March 3 to 14, 2008, Principle XVIII.

⁴⁰ I/A Court H.R., Case of Garzón Guzmán et al. v. Ecuador, Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations, and Costs, Judgment of September 1, 2015, Series C No. 434, para. 103

⁴¹ See, *inter alia*: *Habeas Corpus* Judgment No. 12281-2024-00401 (Dave Loo Roca case), of September 16, 2024, in which it was ordered that the Armed Forces' provide all information, recordings and documentation 'on the operations; and *Habeas Corpus* Judgment No. 12282-2024-31597 (Dalton Oswaldo Ruiz Tapia case), of April 4, 2025, where it was ordered that the 'Armed Forces provide all information containing the conduct of the operations'. In the latter case, the official response indicated the impossibility of delivery because it is classified as 'CONFIDENTIAL and RESERVED INFORMATION'. Moreover, in proceeding No. 09209-2025-05155 (Case of Jonathan Villón), the non-delivery of the names of military personnel was reported despite the court order.

- (iii) meetings and proceedings before the Prosecutor's Office, including working groups held on February 25 and May 8, 2025; and
- (iv) writs of *habeas corpus* with a favorable ruling in favor of some of the proposed beneficiaries. These decisions reveal that the judicial authorities issued orders in favor of the proposed beneficiaries, between September 2024 and September 2025, with the following scope:
 - They ruled that "*the constitutional requirements for habeas corpus due to alleged forced disappearance have been met*" and ordered "*the activation of national search protocols,*" that the Prosecutor's Office "*initiate and conduct pre-trial and trial investigations into forced disappearance,*" and that the Armed Forces submit a response regarding operations and personnel involved (Decision regarding Dave Robin Loor Roca of September 16, 2024).
 - They indicated that, as this was an investigative *habeas corpus*, its purpose was not limited to guaranteeing freedom, but also to "*ensuring the right to life and eradicating practices of concealment and uncertainty regarding the place of disappearance.*" Consequently, they ordered that the State, through the National Search System, the Armed Forces, the National Police, the Forensic Medicine Institute, and *the Office of the Attorney General*, "*to carry out* investigative actions throughout the national territory" and extend the necessary protocols, in addition to explicitly ordering the Armed Forces to "*provide all information relating to the operations carried out on October 20, 2024*" and ECU911 to "*provide the videos and recordings*" from the canton's security cameras (Decision regarding Dalton Oswaldo Ruiz Tapia of April 4, 2025).
 - They ordered that "*all possible search protocols be activated to ensure his location,*" as well as providing priority "*medical, psychological, and psychosocial support*" to the family and ensuring "*effective access to justice*" (Decision regarding Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco of September 24, 2025).

37. In addition to the above, the Commission notes that the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances issued Urgent Actions regarding various proposed beneficiaries between 2024 and 2025. As detailed in the resolutions attached to the file, the Committee highlighted its concern that, despite the time that had elapsed since the disappearances, the measures taken by the authorities had not made it possible to clarify the fate and whereabouts of the persons concerned. Therefore, it required the State, among other measures, to verify without delay whether the disappeared person was in detention, to inform their family members immediately, to guarantee communication and visits, and to ensure that all detentions were recorded in the corresponding systems. It also requested an investigation into any police or military operations carried out on the date of the disappearance, including the identification of the personnel involved and any property seized; the adoption of protective measures for family members and witnesses; and the development of a comprehensive search strategy based on the presumption of life, which would include reviewing camera footage, obtaining statements, and any other steps necessary for immediate location. The Committee also requested that a prompt, impartial, and exhaustive criminal investigation be initiated, with special consideration given to the possible intervention of state agents; that relatives be guaranteed full access to the search and investigation stages; and that updated information be sent without delay on the measures adopted and any progress regarding the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared persons.

38. In view of the foregoing, the Commission recalls that, although it is not responsible for qualifying the domestic investigations and processes in this procedure, it acknowledges that actions aimed at determining the whereabouts or fate of a disappeared person are directly related to the need to prevent harm from occurring to their rights and that, until their situation has been clarified, the proposed beneficiaries

allegedly face a serious risk.⁴² Despite all the domestic and international actions taken by the relatives, and considering the seriousness of the alleged facts, the Commission warns that, to date, the circumstances surrounding the detention of the proposed beneficiaries, or their whereabouts, have not been clarified. This reinforces the seriousness of the situation and the need to adopt immediate search and protection measures.

39. After requesting information from the State, the Commission considers its responses and assesses the efforts made by its various institutions, as well as its commitment to continue managing the necessary measures to locate the proposed beneficiaries. However, the information provided does not allow for an assessment of specific and concrete progress in the search for or determination of their situation following the detention of the proposed beneficiaries at the hands of state agents.

40. The Commission observes with concern that, although the State affirmed that the intervention of the Armed Forces in internal public order must be monitored, the file does not report any specific monitoring, investigation, or internal administrative procedures aimed at clarifying the alleged participation of military agents in the detentions and subsequent disappearances. The foregoing, to the extent that it is the State is in possession of information on military operations carried out in the country, including, for example, which members of the Armed Forces participated in the operations, or in which areas the Armed Forces were operating, as well as the names of the people involved in each area. This omission is particularly relevant, given that the applicants' allegations and several domestic court decisions point to evidence of state involvement in the events. In addition to this, the lack of reports on investigations, for example, administrative ones, becomes more serious in the context of the aforementioned threats and subsequent acts of harassment against the relatives of victims who are involved in search and reporting efforts. Nor does the State submit information regarding the actions taken to comply with the internal judicial decisions of *writs of habeas corpus* or the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

41. Although the State recalled that the information related to the operations is confidential, it does not go unnoticed by the Commission that there are judicial decisions of *writs of habeas corpus* that request that this information be delivered. This is reinforced by the consistent demands of the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances to investigate such operations and provide answers to the families regarding the detentions of the proposed beneficiaries.

42. In relation to the above, the Commission notes that the State indicated that the criminal investigations are in the preliminary stage and that the corresponding information is subject to confidentiality, which is why it was not included in the file. Consequently, the Commission lacks the elements to assess the progress of these investigations or to identify specific steps aimed at clarifying the facts. This is relevant considering the time that has elapsed since the disappearances, the seriousness of the allegations, and the decisions in favor of constitutionality, such as those of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, compliance with which cannot be ascertained from the response provided.

43. In this regard, the Commission recalls that, in accordance with inter-American standards, when a person is reported missing, regardless of whether it has been committed by individuals or by State agents, the immediate and diligent State response depends, to a large extent, on the protection of the life and personal integrity of the person reported missing.⁴³ Therefore, when there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a person has been subjected to disappearance, it is essential that the prosecuting and judicial authorities

⁴² I/A Court H.R., Matter of Alvarado Reyes et al., Provisional Measures regarding the United States of Mexico, Order of May 26, 2010, para. 9. See also: IACHR, Resolution 43/2020, Precautionary Measure No. 691-20, Facundo José Astudillo Castro regarding Argentina, August 1, 2020, para. 25; Resolution 69/2023, Precautionary Measure No. 845-23, Silvestre Merlín Domínguez et al. regarding Mexico, November 20, 2023, para. 25.

⁴³ I/A Court H.R., [Case of Leite de Souza et al. v. Brazil](#), Judgment of July 4, 2024 (Merits, Reparations, and Costs), Series C No. 531, para. 133 (Available only in Spanish).

act promptly and immediately, ordering appropriate and necessary measures aimed at determining the whereabouts of the victim or the place where they may be deprived of liberty.⁴⁴

44. In this regard, the Commission underlines that among the disappeared are six adolescents. Consequently, the duty of the authorities to act promptly and immediately and to take the necessary measures to determine their whereabouts or the place where they may be deprived of their liberty is reinforced. In these cases, the State has the duty to ensure that they are found as soon as possible,⁴⁵ through specific and concrete actions aimed at their search and protection.⁴⁶

45. In this regard, the Commission considers that the risk persists until their current location is found or until there is information that allows the facts to be clarified, which requires strengthening the measures already adopted. The foregoing is based on this Commission's understanding that the passage of time may make it difficult to locate the proposed beneficiaries.

- *Situation of the relatives of the missing persons and of the missing persons found deceased:*

46. The Commission observes that the applicants have requested precautionary measures on behalf of 29 family members, 23 of whom are related to disappeared persons and six to disappeared persons who were later found deceased. Among the 29 family members listed in the request, 25 are women. As indicated, some of them have formed a Committee of Female Family Members of Searchers (*Comité de Mujeres Familiares Buscadoras*) with the aim of searching for and defending the human rights of disappeared persons. As a result, they are reportedly receiving threats and experiencing psychological effects, due to the absence of a response regarding the whereabouts of their loved ones.

47. Within the framework of these allegations, the request presented the concrete facts about seven families. The Commission has not received concrete and specific information on risk events related to the other family members proposed as beneficiaries. The available information does not allow the Commission to determine whether all these individuals are members of the Committee of Female Family Members of Searchers, what role or level of participation each one has within that Committee, or whether they carry out activities that expose them to different risks related to search, reporting, or institutional support work. Similarly, no details have been provided regarding the relatives of Miguel Estuardo Morán Escobar, K.N.P.A., C.M.P.A., and B.Y.T.C., nor has it been clarified whether they are part of the immediate family, or their names, location, or any other information that would allow for their precise identification. Therefore, the Commission considers that it does not have sufficient elements to analyze, at this stage, the specific situation of these proposed beneficiaries. Without prejudice to this decision, all the State's international obligations in light of the American Convention and applicable international standards, including those related to the duty to protect persons at risk, remain in force.

48. As for the proposed beneficiaries **Lorena Jacqueline Roca Magallón, Wendy Gabriela Álvarez Chávez, the wife of Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco, Mercí Rocío García Bajaña, Mayra Álvarez Chávez, and Jeniffer Pillajo Córdova**, the Commission considers that they are duly identified. The reported incidents reveal that these women have been subjected to sustained harassment and threats over time, including break-ins, visits from individuals who identified themselves, in some cases, as military personnel or unidentified persons, and intimidating communications. The threats recorded show a pattern targeting women who carry out search efforts, with messages aimed at dissuading them from continuing such efforts. These messages include statements such as that they should "stop looking for her missing husband, who is

⁴⁴ I/A Court H.R., [Case of Leite de Souza et al. v. Brazil](#), previously cited. 133 (Available only in Spanish).

⁴⁵ I/A Court H.R., [Case of Leite de Souza et al. v. Brazil](#), previously cited. 135 (Available only in Spanish).

⁴⁶ [Violence and discrimination against women, girls and adolescents: Good practices and challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean](#). OEA/Ser.L/V/II, November 14, 2019, para. 77.

‘already dead’ and that, if they continue, ‘she will be next’; that “their children are dead”; or that they should “stop looking (...) because ‘she will never find him.’” These expressions were addressed to various members of the group, at various times in 2024 and 2025, the most recent being in November 2025. The temporal continuity of these events, added to the references made by the alleged agents to the operations and the circumstances of the disappearances, makes it possible to identify a possible relationship between the threats and the reported facts.

49. The Commission highlights the State’s duty of special protection for the development of the work carried out by female searchers.⁴⁷ In this regard, the Court has established that the States Parties to the American Convention have an obligation to take action to recognize and guarantee the work of female searchers in the prevention and investigation of enforced disappearance.⁴⁸ They must also guarantee that this work is carried out without obstacles, intimidation, or threats, ensuring the personal integrity of the women searchers and their rights to political participation recognized in the Convention; addressing the historical and cultural obstacles that limit the search; and guaranteeing the continuity of their life project in dignified conditions for the women and their dependents.⁴⁹

50. The Commission reveals the need for enhanced due diligence with a gender perspective.⁵⁰ This duty takes on particular relevance when acts are reported that involve nighttime visits to women’s residences, exposure of their bodies (one of them was allegedly taken naked from her bed by soldiers), and other practices that allegedly reproduce patterns of gender-based violence. In analyzing the State’s response to these allegations, the Commission observes the responses presented by the competent institutions to the actions implemented. On the one hand, the FGE stated that it had no prior knowledge of the risk factors and that there were no formal complaints of intimidation or other offenses in the SIAF. Moreover, while the State asserted that the family members had not made progress in submitting the Single Application for Admission (SUI) to the SPAVT—preventing them from completing their admission—it also reported that, based on the assessment carried out, no verifiable risk had been identified. In addition, the State reported that it held coordination meetings on February 25 and May 8, 2025, to explain how the SPAVT works and analyze the possible inclusion of family members, while the representation commented that one of the proposed beneficiary had already been incorporated into the program, a point that is not confirmed in the State’s documentation. As specific measures, the opening of an investigation file for the crime of violation of private property was reported.

51. The Commission acknowledges that the State has maintained that it will proceed with a reassessment of the risk, as appropriate. Given the recent allegations reported to this Commission, the State’s assessment will make it possible to define specific protection measures that can be implemented in her favor, with a gender perspective. However, given the nature of the reported events and their ongoing nature, the Commission considers that the corresponding reassessments should be carried out immediately.

52. The IACHR appreciates that psychosocial care is being provided to family members. Not only are they exposed to physical danger, but also to the suffering and distress of not knowing the whereabouts of their relatives. The Commission notes that the Inter-American Court has repeatedly held that, in cases involving the forced disappearance of persons, the violation of the right to mental and moral integrity of the victim’s relatives is a direct consequence of that phenomenon, which causes them severe suffering by its very nature.⁵¹ In its Third Report on Defenders, the IACHR stressed that the participation and leadership of women in the search efforts and judicial processes carries high physical and emotional overloads that put their health

⁴⁷ IACHR, Press Release No. 38/23, “[States Must Protect the Rights of Women Searching for Missing Persons.](#)” March 8, 2023.

⁴⁸ I/A Court H.R., [Case of Leite de Souza et al. v. Brazil](#), previously cited. 192 (Available only in Spanish).

⁴⁹ I/A Court H.R., [Case of Leite de Souza et al. v. Brazil](#), previously cited. 135 (Available only in Spanish).

⁵⁰ I/A Court H.R., [Case of Leite de Souza et al. v. Brazil](#), previously cited. 137 (Available only in Spanish).

⁵¹ [Violence and discrimination against women, girls and adolescents: Good practices and challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean.](#)

at risk.⁵² In this regard, it indicated that States must provide the necessary support in these processes, provide protection in accordance with the specific and individual characteristics of the persons concerned, as well as comprehensive accompaniment, ensuring a gender-sensitive approach throughout this process.⁵³

53. Taking into account the information provided, assessed as a whole, and in light of the *prima facie* assessment criterion of the precautionary measures mechanism, the Commission considers that the rights to life and personal integrity of the 26 disappeared persons and the identified relatives are at serious risk.

54. Regarding the requirement of *urgency*, the IACHR deems that it has been met, to the extent that the passage of time without their whereabouts having been established is, by itself, likely to generate an increase in the risk to their rights to life and personal integrity. In this context, the information is sufficient to determine which further effects are likely to continue at any time, either due to the lack of effective search actions or security measures for family members, thus requiring intervention of an imminent nature. In addition, the Commission notes that, with regard to the identified female relatives, the available information reports incidents of threats and acts of intimidation that have occurred on a sustained basis over time, including recent events in November 2025, which suggests that such incidents continue to occur and could be repeated at any time, making it necessary to take immediate action to prevent irreparable harm.

55. As it pertains to the requirement of *irreparable harm*, the Commission finds it met, since the possible impact on the rights to life and personal integrity constitutes the maximum situation of irreparability.

IV. BENEFICIARIES

56. The Commission declares the following persons beneficiaries of the precautionary measures: **the 26 disappeared persons, who are duly identified in these proceedings:** (i) Edwin Eduardo Pata Cheme; (ii) Bruno Stiwari Rodríguez Castillo; (iii) Fardi Ricaurte Muñoz Quiñonez; (iv) Cirilo Leonardo Minota Nieves; (v) Oswaldo Mauricio Morales Santana; (vi) Jordy Jair Morales Martínez; (vii) Dave Robin Loo Roca; (viii) Juan Daniel Santillán Suárez; (ix) J.D.T.A.; (x) Dalton Oswaldo Ruiz Tapia; (xi) Cristian Damián Sandoya Valle; (xii) Óscar Arturo Adrihan Bravo; (xiii) Jonathan Gabriel Adrihan Bravo; (xiv) J.M.C.S.; (xv) Justin Santiago Valverde Álava; (xvi) Darío Manuel Vásquez Chalela; (xvii) J.E.A.C.; (xviii) Luis Miguel Salas Alvarado; (xix) Jorge Luis Izquierdo Solís; (xx) Miguel Estuardo Morán Escobar; (xxi) K.N.P.A.; (xxii) C.M.P.A.; (xxiii) B.Y.T.C.; (xxiv) Fabricio Alejandro Alvarado Zambrano; (xxv) Jason Ariel Franco Gil; (xxvi) Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco; and the **six female searchers:** Lorena Jacqueline Roca Magallón, Wendy Gabriela Álvarez Chávez, the wife of Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco, Mercé Rocío García Bajaña, Mayra Álvarez Chávez, and Jeniffer Pillajo Córdova.

V. DECISION

57. The IACHR 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, the IACHR requests that Ecuador:

- a) Redouble its efforts to determine the situation and whereabouts of the 26 missing persons identified in this resolution, in order to protect their rights to life and personal integrity,

⁵² IACHR, [Third Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas](#), OEA/Ser.L/V/II Doc. 119/25, approved on April 15, 2025, para. 117.

⁵³ UN, [Committee on Enforced Disappearances, Guiding Principles for the Search for Missing Persons](#) 265, CED/C/7, May 8, 2019, Principle 14.

through a search plan with measurable results, family participation, and an age-based approach, in accordance with applicable international standards and obligations;

- b) Facilitate the immediate delivery of all available information that may shed light on the fate of the proposed beneficiaries, including, but not limited to, all information required by domestic court decisions and urgent actions of the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances;
- c) Adopt the necessary measures, with a gender-based approach, to protect the life and integrity of the six female searchers: Lorena Jacqueline Roca Magallón, Wendy Gabriela Álvarez Chávez, the wife of Jonathan Daniel Villón Velasco, Mercí Rocío García Bajaña, Mayra Álvarez Chávez, and Jeniffer Pillajo Córdova, in accordance with applicable international standards;
- d) Provide physical and mental health care to the six identified relatives of the disappeared persons, in a coordinated and voluntary manner;
- e) Consult and agree upon the measures to be adopted with the relatives of the beneficiaries and their representatives; and
- f) Report on the actions taken to investigate with due diligence the alleged events that led to the adoption of this precautionary measure and thus prevent such events from reoccurring.

58. The Commission requests that Ecuador report, within 15 days from the date of notification of this resolution, on the adoption of the requested precautionary measures and update that information periodically.

59. The Commission emphasizes that, pursuant to Article 25(8) of its Rules of Procedure, the granting of precautionary measures and their adoption by the State do not constitute a prejudgment regarding the possible violation of the rights protected in the American Convention and other applicable instruments.

60. The Commission instructs its Executive Secretariat to notify this resolution to the State of Ecuador and the applicant.

61. Approved on December 24, 2025, by José Luis Caballero Ochoa, President; Andrea Pochak, First Vice-President; Edgar Stuardo Ralón Orellana, Second Vice-President; Roberta Clarke; Carlos Bernal Pulido; Gloria Monique de Mees; and Riyad Insanally, members of the IACHR.

María Claudia Pulido
Assistant Executive Secretary