



Comunicado Comité de Expertas

Committee of Experts expresses its categorical repudiation and concern regarding the attempted assassination of Argentine Vice President Cristina Fernández

Washington, DC, September 14th, 2022. The [Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women](#) "Belém do Pará Convention" (MESECVI) expresses its categorical condemnation of the assassination attempt against the Vice President of Argentina, Cristina Fernández. In accordance with international jurisprudence that protects and defends the human rights of women, including the right to have their lives respected and to exercise their political rights free of violence, this Committee calls for the investigation and eradication of these violent acts, and the punishment of those held responsible.

According to the facts emerging from the ongoing investigation by the authorities and reported by the media, on September 1, Fernando Sabag Montiel fired a weapon at Vice President Fernández during a public appearance, causing concern for her life and emotional well-being, as well as, consternation in the society accompanied by repudiation of his action.

The Committee of Experts stresses that this act must be considered a serious expression of violence against women and against the democratic system. Article 1 of the Belém do Pará Convention states that: "violence against women shall be understood as any act or conduct, based on gender, that causes death or physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, whether in the public or the private sphere."

Additionally, Article 5 entitles every woman to the free and full exercise of her civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, with full protection of those rights. In this regard, the Committee of Experts recalls that the States Parties recognize that violence against women prevents and nullifies the exercise of those rights and agree to adopt, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies aimed at preventing, punishing, and eradicating it.

Likewise, this Committee has drawn attention to the fact that violence against women in political life not only constitutes a serious violation of their human rights but also represents a threat to democracy, placing barriers to their participation in political processes and preventing them from contributing to decisions that affect their lives.

According to the "Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women in Political Life", elaborated by this Committee: "Violence against women in the political life shall be understood as any action, conduct or omission, carried out directly or through third parties that, based on gender, causes harm or suffering to a woman or

to various women, which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women of their political rights.”

As stated in Article 6 of the aforementioned Model Law, acts of violence against women in the political life are, among others, those actions based on gender that cause, or may cause, the violent death of women because of their participation or political activity (Femicide); as well as threats or intimidation, with the effect or purpose to limit their political rights, including the resignation of the position or function they hold or apply for.

Likewise, this Committee expresses its deep concern regarding hate speeches in public spaces, especially those based on gender stereotypes, which pave the way for other forms of violence against women.

For all the above, the Committee of Experts urges the Argentine Republic to act with enhanced due diligence to prevent and investigate such acts, and punish those responsible for this action against Vice President Cristina Fernández. The Committee of Experts also urges the Argentine Republic to guarantee the necessary reparation, not only to the Vice President but to the Argentine society as a whole, to reestablish trust and democratic stability.

The Follow-up Mechanism of the Belém do Pará Convention, through its Committee of Experts, makes itself available to the Argentine State for any technical support it may require in this matter.

The [Committee of Experts](#) is the technical body of the MESECVI, responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the implementation process of the Convention of Belém do Pará. It is made up of independent Experts, appointed by each of the States Parties from among their nationals, who perform their duties in a personal capacity.