

TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET
CASE 11.626 C SANTO ENRIQUE CAÑOLA GONZÁLES
REPORT ON FRIENDLY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT Nº 83/20
ARCHIVE
(ECUADOR)

I. SUMMARY OF THE CASE

Victim (s): Santo Enrique Cañola Gonzáles

Petitioner (s): Ecumenical Commission for Human Rights

State: Ecuador

Negotiation Start Date: June 11, 1999

Date of signing of FSA: June 11, 1999

Report on Friendly Settlement Agreement No. 83/20, published on June 1, 2020

Estimated length of negotiation phase: 21 years

Rapporteurship involved: Persons Deprived of Liberty

Topics: Right to life / Forced disappearance / Arbitrary or illegal detention / Fair trial rights / Investigation and due diligence / Judicial protection / Security and violence / Torture, cruel, inhuman and/or degrading treatment / Police violence

Facts: The petitioner alleged that on April 12, 1993, Santo Enrique Cañola Gonzáles was detained by police agents in the Chancana sector of the Parrish of Chura in the canton of Quinindé of the Province of Esmeraldas in the company of Luis Enrique Cañola Valencia; subsequent to the detentions, the alleged victims were taken to Vilche, where they were placed at the orders an Ecuadorian Police Lieutenant. The petitioner also contended that the alleged victims were taken by police agents to Esmeraldas, where two hours later their lifeless bodies were found in the city's cemetery, along with the corpse of Fredy Oreste Cañola Valencia, with signs of torture and bullet holes. According to the petitioner, the alleged victims were detained in retaliation for allegedly being involved in the killing of a police officer. The petitioner reported that in May 1994, he filed a private criminal complaint and that a criminal trial was held subsequently before the Fourth Court for Criminal Matters of Quinindé and that the Judge had "dropped the criminal case."

Rights alleged: The petitioners alleged that the Republic of Ecuador violated Articles 4 (right to life), 7 (right to personal liberty), 8 (fair trial rights) and 25 (judicial protection) of the American Convention, in connection with Article 1.1 of the same instrument.

II. PROCEDURAL ACTIVITY

1. On June 11, 1999, the parties signed the friendly settlement agreement.
2. On June 1, 2020, the Commission approved the friendly settlement agreement by report No. 83/20.

III. ANALYSIS OF COMPLIANCE WITH COMMITMENTS IN FRIENDLY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Agreement clause	State of compliance
CLAUSE 3. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE AND ADMISSION OF THE FACTS	
<p>The State recognizes its international responsibility for having violated the human rights of Mr. Santo Enrique Cañola González, as recognized in Article 4 (Right to life), Article 7 (Right to personal liberty), Article 8 (Fair trial rights), Article 25 (Judicial protection) and in turn the general obligation set forth in Article 1.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights and other international instruments, with said violations having been committed by agents of the State, and that these acts have not be disproven by the State and have triggered the responsibility thereof vis-à-vis society. With these precedents, the State acquiesced to the facts constituting Case No.11.626, which is being processed before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and commits to undertake the necessary measures of reparation in order to redress the damages caused by these violations to the victim or, otherwise, to his heirs.</p>	Declarative clause
CLAUSE 4. COMPENSATION	
<p>With these precedents, through the Counsel General of the State, as the sole judicial representative of the State in accordance with Article 215 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, enacted in Official Register No. 1, in force since August 11, 1998, the State hands over to Mr. Jorge Iván Bolaño Pazmiño, pursuant to the provisions of the special power of attorney, as provided in Articles 1045 and 1052 of the Civil Code, compensatory indemnity in a single payment, of fifteen thousand United States dollars (USD 15,000) or the equivalent thereof in national currency, calculated at the rate of exchange in force at the time of payment, charged to the General Budget of the State.</p>	Total¹
CLAUSE 5. PUNISHMENT OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE	
<p>The State undertakes to prosecute both civilly and criminally and to seek administrative sanctions of the persons who, in performance of state duties or taking advantage of public authority, are presumed to have been involved in the alleged violation. The Office of the General Counsel of the State undertakes to urge the Attorney General of the State, the competent agencies of the Judiciary, and public or private agencies to provide legally supported information to make it possible to establish the responsibility of said persons. If it is found admissible, this prosecution will be conducted in keeping with the Constitution and the body of laws the State.</p>	Noncompliance²
CLAUSE 6. RIGHT OF REPETITION	

¹ IACHR, Report No. 83/20, Case 11.626 C. Friendly Settlement. Santo Enrique Cañola González. Ecuador. June 1, 2020. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/cidh/decisiones/2020/ecsa11626ces.pdf>

² See IACHR, Annual Report 2020, Chapter II, Section G. Friendly Settlements. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2020/Chapters/IA2020cap2-en.pdf>

<p>The State reserves the Right of Repetition pursuant to Article 22 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, against any persons who are responsible for the violation of human rights through a final, firm judgment issued by the courts of the country or when administrative responsibility has been determined, in accordance with Article 8 of the American Convention on Human Rights.</p>	<p>Declarative clause</p>
<p>CLAUSE 7. TAX EXEMPT PAYMENTS AND DEFAULT IN COMPLIANCE</p>	
<p>The payment that the State shall make to the person who is the subject of this friendly settlement agreement, is not subject to currently existing taxes nor may it be decreed in the future with the exception of the “capital circulation tax of 1%.” In the event that the State defaults for more than three months, from the date of the signing of the agreement, it shall pay interest on the amount it owes that will be equivalent to the average interest rate paid by the three banks with the highest deposits in Ecuador, over the entire period of the default.</p>	<p>Declarative clause</p>
<p>CLAUSE 8. INFORMATION</p>	
<p>The State, through the Office of the General Counsel of the State, undertakes to inform the Inter-American Commission on Human rights every three months on compliance with the obligations taken on by the State under this friendly settlement. In keeping with its consistent practice and the obligations imposed on it by the American Convention, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will supervise compliance of this agreement.</p>	<p>Declarative clause</p>

IV. LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE OF THE CASE

3. The Commission assessed the request filed by the petitioners to archive the case, therefore considered that it was not appropriate to continue with the supervision of the agreement. Based on the foregoing, the Commission decided to cease supervision of the friendly settlement agreement and archive the case, noting on the record in the Annual Report that the measure of justice was not complied by the Ecuadorian State and that the level of compliance of the agreement is partial.

V. INDIVIDUAL AND STRUCTURAL OUTCOMES OF THE CASE

A. Individual outcomes of the case

- The State paid financial compensation, as set forth under the agreement.