Did you know that in 2020 the IACHR will designate a new Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression?

The IACHR’s General Assembly, decided in 2020 to create the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. This initiative, the result of years of planning, now holds the promise of promoting, guaranteeing, and promoting the right to freedom of thought and expression. Ever since its creation, the Office of the Special Rapporteur has been the backbone for the protection and promotion of freedom of thought and expression.

The Office of the Special Rapporteur has been essential in developing inter-American standards, and, unquestionably, expanding freedom of expression. Likewise, it has played a vital role in defending and protecting individuals, particularly those, whose freedom of thought and expression, and whose lives or ways of life, have been threatened.

The Office of the Special Rapporteur has also played a fundamental role in national legislatures and the expectation of regulations to meet the standards of the IACHR’s jurisprudence regarding freedom of expression. Likewise, it has played a vital role in defending and protecting the jurisprudence of freedom of expression in the Americas.

Rapporteur has been the backbone for its creation, the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. Since its establishment, the Office of the Special Rapporteur has been the building block for the protection and promotion of freedom of expression.

In 1997 the members of the IACHR unanimously decided to create the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. The IACHR’s members agreed on the office of the Special Rapporteur to enhance protection and promotion of freedom of expression and the need to guarantee, and promote the right to freedom of thought and expression.

The IACHR has designated a new Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression to take office on 6 October 2020.

In this capacity, the new Special Rapporteur will focus on promoting and protecting the right to freedom of thought and expression in the Americas.

The new Special Rapporteur will take office on 6 October 2020.

How is the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression selected?

In accordance with Article 15 of the IACHR’s Rules of Procedure, Resolution 04/2010, and the criteria laid out in the 2020 call of candidates, the process should involve the following steps:

1. CALL FOR CANDIDATES
   - Do you want to be the Special Rapporteur’s position to become vacant, the IACHR, based on their level of integrity and expertise, and gender equity.
   - The IACHR announces the opening of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and the need to guarantee, and promote the right to freedom of thought and expression.
   - The IACHR will designate a new Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression to take office on 6 October 2020.

2. SELECTION OF FINALISTS
   - Once the candidates are selected, the IACHR will designate a new Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression to take office on 6 October 2020.
   - The candidates selected will be informed of the process and criteria for selection and the selection process will be announced on the IACHR’s website.

3. INTERVIEWS AND ELECTION
   - Once the candidates are selected, the IACHR will designate a new Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression to take office on 6 October 2020.
   - The candidates selected will be informed of the process and criteria for selection and the selection process will be announced on the IACHR’s website.

4. BEGINNING OF TERM
   - The new Special Rapporteur will take office on 6 October 2020.

The IACHR selects finalists for the position and their curricula vitae are published on the IACHR’s website. The list of finalists will be published on 30 April 2020, and comments from member states and civil society will be accepted until 15 June.

The candidates selected as finalists should submit a short video, no more than five minutes in length, for publication on the IACHR’s website, outlining their strategies should they be designated to the position of Special Rapporteur.

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