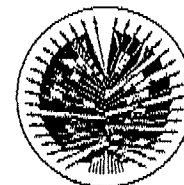


INTER - AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS  
COMISSÃO INTERAMERICANA DE DIREITOS HUMANOS  
COMMISSION INTERAMÉRICAINNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME



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**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 U.S.A.

September 22, 2008

**Ref.: General Hearing on the Texas/Mexico Border Wall  
Hearing – 133<sup>rd</sup> ordinary period of sessions**

Dear Ms. Gilman:

I am pleased to address you concerning your note of August 27, 2008, in which you express your interest in attending a hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights during its 133<sup>rd</sup> ordinary period of sessions to address matters relating to the general situation on the Texas/Mexico Border Wall in United States.

In this respect, I am pleased to inform you that the Commission has decided to convene a hearing on October 22, 2008, from 4:30p.m to 5:30p.m., in Room Padilha Vidal A of the GSB Building of the Organization of American States, situated at the following address:

1889 F St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

The persons attending the hearing must be properly accredited. For this purpose, I hereby request that you submit, as soon as possible, a list of persons who you wish to include as members of your delegation, together with confirmation of your attendance on the date and at the time indicated above. If any of the aforementioned persons require a written communication from this Executive Secretariat in order to request travel documents to the United States, you are hereby requested to inform us accordingly within the next 48 hours and provide the following information for each interested person:

Ms. Denise Gilman  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Immigration Clinic  
727 E Dean Keeton Street  
Austin, TX 78705-3299  
Fax: 512-232-0800

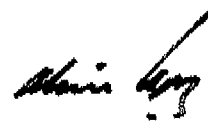
- Full name
- Date of birth
- Nationality
- Passport number
- Country and city in which visa will be requested
- Organization
- Contact information (including fax number)

Also in the interests of facilitating the documentary procedures applicable to all interested persons, and in consideration of the terms of Article XV, section 1(a) of the Headquarters Agreement between the Organization of American States and the Government of the United States of America signed on May 14, 1992, we wish to bring to your attention that the Commission has prepared for submission to the Permanent Mission of each country before the OAS the list of persons who will be requesting a visa for entry to the United States with the purpose of attending the Commission's hearings. Therefore, if there are any participants who you do not wish to be included on this list, we hereby request that you inform us within the time limit stated in the previous paragraph.

In the interest of best utilizing the allocated time, I hereby request that, within 15 days from the date of transmission of this communication, you provide to the Commission a written document summarizing the main points of your presentation as well as any other documentation that you consider essential in this hearing.

I have also enclosed as an attachment a copy of a document entitled "Rules of Procedure for Hearings of a General Nature," and request that you follow the guidelines provided therein. In that sense, I respectfully request that you arrive at the specified location 15 minutes prior to the hearing time.

Sincerely yours,



Mario López-Garelli  
In charge of the Executive Secretariat

Enclosure



# ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

## INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

IACTHR

### RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR HEARINGS OF A GENERAL NATURE

#### CHAPTER VI HEARINGS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

##### Article 59. Initiative

The Commission may decide to hold hearings on its own initiative or at the request of an interested party. The decision to convoke the hearings shall be made by the President of the Commission, at the proposal of the Executive Secretary.

##### Article 60. Purpose

The hearings may have the purpose of receiving information from the parties with respect to a petition or case being processed before the Commission, follow-up to recommendations, precautionary measures, or general or particular information related to human rights in one or more Members States of the OAS.

##### Article 61. Guarantees

The State in question shall grant the necessary guarantees to all the persons who attend a hearing or who in the course of a hearing provide information, testimony or evidence of any type to the Commission. That State may not prosecute the witnesses or experts, or carry out reprisals against them or their family members because of their statements or expert opinions given before the Commission.

##### Article 64. Hearings of a General Nature

1. Persons who are interested in presenting testimony or information to the Commission on the human rights situation in one or more States, or on matters of general interest, shall direct a written request for a hearing to the Executive Secretariat at least 50 days prior to the beginning of the respective session of the Commission.

2. Persons making such a request shall indicate the purpose of their appearance, a summary of the information they will furnish, the approximate time required for that purpose, and the identity of the participants. In cases of hearings on the human rights situation in a State, they shall also indicate whether the respective State should be called to the hearing. If this is not specified in the request, the Commission shall presume that the presence of the respective State is desired.

3. If the Commission accedes to the request, it shall convene the requesting party and, if applicable, the State in question. The Executive Secretariat shall inform the party or parties as to the date, place, and time of the hearing at least one month in advance. However, under exceptional circumstances, that time period may be reduced.

**Article 65. Participation of the Commission Members**

The President of the Commission may form working groups to participate in the program of hearings.

**Article 66. Public Nature of Hearings**

Hearings shall be public. When warranted by exceptional circumstances, the Commission, at its own initiative or at the request of an interested party, may hold private hearings and shall decide who may attend them. This decision pertains exclusively to the Commission, which shall notify the parties in this regard prior to the beginning of the hearing, either orally or in writing. Even in these cases, the minutes shall be prepared in the terms set forth in Article 68 of these Rules of Procedure.