SIGNATURES AND CURRENT STATUS OF RATIFICATIONS

AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
"PACT OF SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA"

(Signed at San José, Costa Rica, 22 November 1969, at the
Inter-American Specialized Conference on Human Rights)

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 18 July 1978, in accordance with Article 74.2 of the
Convention.

DEPOSITOR Y: OAS General Secretariat (Original instrument and ratifications).

TEXT: OAS, Treaty Series, No. 36.

UN REGISTRATION: 27 August 1979, No. 17955

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All States listed herein signed the Convention on 22 November 1969, with the exception of those indicated in the notes.
1. **Argentina**

Signed 2 February 1984 at the OAS General Secretariat.

2. **Barbados**

Signed 20 June 1978 at the OAS General Secretariat.

3. **Chile:**

(Declaration made at the time of signature)

The Delegation of Chile signs this Convention, subject to its subsequent parliamentary approval and ratification, in accordance with the constitutional rules in force. Such parliamentary approval was later granted and the instrument of ratification was deposited with the General Secretariat of the OAS.

4. **Dominican Republic:**

Signed 7 September 1977 at the OAS General Secretariat with the following declaration:

The Dominican Republic, upon signing the American Convention on Human Rights, aspires that the principle pertaining to the abolition of the death penalty shall become purely and simply that, with general application throughout the states of the American region, and likewise maintains the observations and comments made on the aforementioned Draft Convention which it distributed to the delegations to the Council of the Organization of American States on 20 June 1969.

5. **Ecuador:**

(Declaration made at the time of signature)

The Delegation of Ecuador has the honor of signing the American Convention on Human Rights. It does not believe that it is necessary to make any specific reservation at this time, without prejudice to the general power set forth in the Convention itself that leaves the governments free to ratify it or not.

6. **Grenada**

Signed 14 July 1978 at the OAS General Secretariat.
7. **Jamaica**

Signed 16 September 1977 at the OAS General Secretariat.

8. **Peru**

Signed 27 July 1977 at the OAS General Secretariat.

9. **United States**

Signed 1 June 1977 at the OAS General Secretariat.

10. **Uruguay:**

(Reservation made at the time of signature)

Article 80.2 of the Constitution of Uruguay provides that a person's citizenship is suspended if the person is "under indictment on a criminal charge which may result in a penitentiary sentence." Such a restriction on the exercise of the rights recognized in Article 23 of the Convention is not envisaged among the circumstances provided for in Article 23, paragraph 2, for which reason the Delegation of Uruguay expresses a reservation on this matter.

a. **Argentina:**

(Reservation and interpretative declarations made at the time of ratification)

The instrument of ratification was received at the General Secretariat of the OAS on 5 September 1984 with a reservation and interpretative declarations. The notification procedure of the reservation was taken in conformity with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties signed on 23 May 1969.

The texts of the above-mentioned reservation and of the interpretative declarations are the following:

1. **Reservation:**

Article 21 is subject to the following reservation: "The Argentine Government establishes that questions relating to the Government's economic policy shall not be subject to review by an international tribunal. Neither shall it consider reviewable anything the national courts may determine to be matters of 'public utility' and 'social interest', nor anything they may understand to be 'fair compensation'".
II. **Interpretative Statements:**

Article 5, paragraph 3, shall be interpreted to mean that a punishment shall not be applied to any person other than the criminal, that is, that there shall be no vicarious criminal punishment.

Article 7, paragraph 7, shall be interpreted to mean that the prohibition against "detention for debt" does not involve prohibiting the state from basing punishment on default of certain debts, when the punishment is not imposed for default itself but rather for a prior independent, illegal, punishable act.

Article 10 shall be interpreted to mean that the "miscarriage of justice" has been established by a national court.

**Recognition of Competence:**

In the instrument of ratification dated 14 August 1984 and deposited with the General Secretariat of the OAS on 5 September 1984, the Government of Argentina recognizes the competence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and of the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. This recognition is for an indeterminate period and on condition of reciprocity on all cases related to the interpretation or application of the Convention cited, with the partial reservation and bearing in mind the interpretative statements contained in the Instrument of Ratification.

b. **Barbados:**

(Reservations made at the time of ratification)

The instrument of ratification was received at the General Secretariat of the OAS on 5 November 1981, with reservations. Notification of the reservations submitted was given in conformity with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, signed on 23 May 1969. The twelve-month period from the notification of said reservations expired on 26 November 1982, without any objection being raised to the reservations.

The text of the reservations with respect to Articles 4(4), 4(5) and 8(2)(e), is the following:

In respect of 4(4) the Criminal Code of Barbados provides for death by hanging as a penalty for murder and treason. The Government is at present reviewing the whole matter of the death penalty which is only rarely inflicted but wishes to enter a reservation on this point in as much as treason in certain circumstances might be regarded as a political offence and falling within the terms of section 4(4).
In respect of 4(5) while the youth or old age of an offender may be matters which the Privy Council, the highest Court of Appeal, might take into account in considering whether the sentence of death should be carried out, persons of 16 years and over, or over 70 years of age, may be executed under Barbadian law.

In respect of 8(2)(e) Barbadian law does not provide, as a minimum guarantee in criminal proceeding, any inalienable right to be assisted by counsel provided by the state. Legal aid is provided for certain scheduled offences such as homicide and rape.

c. **Bolivia, Haiti and Mexico**:

Accession.

d. **Costa Rica**:

Recognition of Competence:

Deposited on 2 July 1980 at the General Secretariat of the OAS an instrument recognizing the competence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in accordance with Articles 45 and 62 of the Convention.

e. **Ecuador**:

Recognition of Competence:

On 24 July 1984 recognized the applicability of Articles 45 and 62 of the American Convention on Human Rights, by Decree No. 2768 of 24 July 1984, published in the Registro Oficial No. 795 of said month and year. In addition, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador made the following declaration on 30 July 1984, in conformity with Articles 45(4) and 62(2) of the above-mentioned Convention:

In keeping with the provisions of Article 45, paragraph 1, of the American Convention on Human Rights--Pact of San José, Costa Rica--(ratified by Ecuador on 21 October 1977, and in force since 27 October 1977), the Government of Ecuador recognizes the competence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to receive and examine communications in which a state party alleges that another state party has committed a violation of the human rights set forth in the Convention, under the terms provided for in paragraph 2 of that Article.
This recognition of competence is to be valid for an indefinite time and on condition of reciprocity.

As provided in Article 62, paragraph 1, of the Convention in reference, the Government of Ecuador declares that it recognizes as binding, ipso facto, and not requiring special agreement, the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on all matters relating to the interpretation or application of the Convention.

This recognition of jurisdiction is for an indeterminate period and on condition of reciprocity. The Ecuadorian State reserves the right to withdraw its recognition of this competence and this jurisdiction whenever it may deem it advisable to do so.

f. **El Salvador:**

(Declaration and reservations made at the time of ratification)

The present Convention is ratified, its provisions being interpreted to mean that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights shall have jurisdiction to hear any case that can be submitted to it, either by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights or by any state party, provided that the State of El Salvador, as a party to the case, recognizes or has recognized such jurisdiction, by any of the means and under the arrangements indicated in the Convention.

The American Convention on Human Rights, known as the "Pact of San José, Costa Rica", signed at San José, Costa Rica, on 22 November 1969, composed of a preamble and eighty-two articles, approved by the Executive Branch in the Field of Foreign Affairs by Agreement 405, dated June 14 of the current year, is hereby ratified, with the reservation that such ratification is understood without prejudice to those provisions of the Convention that might be in conflict with express precepts of the Political Constitution of the Republic.

The instrument of ratification was received at the General Secretariat of the OAS on 23 June 1978 with a reservation and a declaration. The notification procedure of the reservation was taken in conformity with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties signed on 23 May 1969.
Guatemala:

(Reservation made at the time of ratification)

The Government of the Republic of Guatemala ratifies the American Convention on Human Rights, signed at San José, Costa Rica, on 22 November 1969, with a reservation as to Article 4, paragraph 4 thereof, since the Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala, in its Article 54, only excludes the application of the death penalty to political crimes, but not to common crimes related to political crimes.

The instrument of ratification was received at the General Secretariat of the OAS on 25 May 1978 with a reservation. The notification procedure of the reservation was taken in conformity with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties signed on 23 May 1969.

Withdrawal of Guatemala's reservation:

The Government of Guatemala, by Government Agreement NQ 281-86, dated 20 May 1986, has withdrawn the above-mentioned reservation, which was included in its instrument of ratification dated 27 April 1978, considering that it is no longer supported by the Constitution in the light of the new legal system in force. The withdrawal of the reservation will become effective as of 12 August 1986, in conformity with Article 22 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969, in application of Article 75 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

Recognition of Competence:

On 9 March 1987, presented at the General Secretariat of the OAS, the Government Agreement № 283-87, dated 20 February 1987, of the Republic of Guatemala, by which it recognizes the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in the following terms:

"(Article 1) To declare that it recognizes as binding, ipso facto, and not requiring special agreement, the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on all matters relating to the interpretation or application of the American Convention on Human Rights."

"(Article 2) To accept the competence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for an indefinite period of time, such competence being general in nature, under terms of reciprocity and with the reservation that cases in which the competence of the Court is recognized are exclusively those that shall
have taken place after the date that this declaration is presented to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States."

h. **Honduras:**

**Recognition of Competence:**

On 9 September 1981, presented at the General Secretariat of the OAS, an instrument recognizing the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in accordance with Article 62 of the Convention.

i. **Jamaica:**

**Recognition of Competence:**

The instrument of ratification, dated 19 July 1978, states, in conformity with Article 45, paragraph 1 of the Convention, that the Government of Jamaica recognizes the competence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to receive and examine communications in which a State Party alleges that another State Party has committed a violation of a human right set forth in this Convention.

j. **Mexico:**

(Declarations and reservation made at the time of ratification)

The instrument of accession was received at the General Secretariat of the OAS on 24 March 1981, with two interpretative declarations and one reservation. Notification of the reservation submitted was given in conformity with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, signed on 23 May 1969. The twelve-month period from the notification of said reservation expired on 2 April 1982, without any objection being raised to the reservation.

The texts of the interpretative declarations and the reservation are the following:

**Interpretative Declarations:**

With respect to Article 4, paragraph 1, the Government of Mexico considers that the expression "in general" does not constitute an obligation to adopt, or keep in force, legislation to protect life "from the moment of conception," since this matter falls within the domain reserved to the States.
Furthermore, the Government of Mexico believes that the limitation established by the Mexican Constitution to the effect that all public acts of religious worship must be performed inside places of public worship, conforms to the limitations set forth in Article 12, paragraph 3.

Reservation:

The Government of Mexico makes express reservation to Article 23, paragraph 2, since the Mexican Constitution provides, in Article 130, that ministers of denominations shall not have an active or passive vote, nor the right to associate for political purposes.

k. Peru:

Recognition of Competence:


l. Uruguay:

(Reservation made at the time of ratification)

With the reservation made at the time of signature. Notification of this reservation was given in conformity with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, signed on 23 May 1969.

Recognition of Competence:

In the instrument of ratification dated 26 March 1985 and deposited with the General Secretariat of the OAS on 19 April 1985, the Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay declares that it recognizes the competence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for an indefinite period and of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on all matters relating to the interpretation or application of this Convention, on the condition of reciprocity, in accordance with Articles 45.3 and 62.2 of the Convention.
m. **Venezuela:**

(Reservation and declaration made at the time of ratification)

Article 60, paragraph 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Venezuela establishes that: No one may be convicted in a criminal trial without first having been personally notified of the charges and heard in the manner prescribed by law. Persons accused of an offense against the res publica may be tried *in absentia*, with the guarantees and in the manner prescribed by law. Such a possibility is not provided for in Article 8, paragraph 1 of the Convention, and for this reason Venezuela formulates the corresponding reservations, and,

DECLARÉS: That, in accordance with the provisions of Article 45, paragraph 1 of the Convention, the Government of the Republic of Venezuela recognizes the competence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to receive and examine communications in which a State Party alleges that another State Party has committed violations of human rights set forth in that Convention, in the terms stipulated in paragraph 2 of that article. This recognition of competence is made for an indefinite period of time.

The instrument of ratification was received at the General Secretariat of the OAS on 9 August 1977 with a reservation and a declaration. The notification procedure of the reservation was taken in conformity with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties signed on 23 May 1969.

**Recognition of Competence:**

On 9 August 1977 recognized the competence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and on 24 June 1981 recognized the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in accordance with Articles 45 and 62 of the Convention, respectively.

n. **Colombia:**

**Recognition of Competence:**

On 21 June 1985 presented an instrument of acceptance by which recognizes the competence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for an indefinite time, on the condition of strict reciprocity and nonretroactivity, for cases involving the interpretation or application of the Convention, and reserves the right to withdraw its recognition of competence should it deem this advisable. The same instrument recognizes the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, for an indefinite time, on the condition...
of reciprocity and nonretroactivity, for cases involving the interpretation or application of the Convention, and reserves the right to withdraw its recognition of competence should it deem this advisable.

o. **Suriname:**

Accession.

**Recognition of Competence:**

On 12 November 1987, presented at the General Secretariat of the OAS, an instrument recognizing the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in accordance with Article 62 of the Convention.

p. **Panama:**

On May 9, 1990, presented at the General Secretariat of the OAS, an instrument, dated February 20, 1990, by which it declares that the Government of the Republic of Panama recognizes as binding, *ipso facto*, the jurisdiction of the Court on all matters relating to the interpretation or application of the American Convention on Human Rights.

q. **Chile:**

(Reservations made at the time of ratification)

a. The Government of Chile declares that it recognizes, for an indefinite period of time and on the condition of reciprocity, the competence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to receive and examine communications in which a State Party alleges that another State Party has committed a violation of the human rights established in the American Convention on Human Rights, as provided for in Article 45 of the Convention.

b. The Government of Chile declares that it recognizes as legally binding the obligatory jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in cases dealing with the interpretation and application of this Convention pursuant to Article 62.

On formulating said declarations, the Government of Chile notes that the recognition of jurisdiction it has accepted refers to situations occurring subsequent to the date of deposit of this instrument of ratification, or, in any event, to circumstances which arose after March 11, 1990. Likewise the Government of Chile, on accepting the competence of the Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights declares that these organs, in applying Article 21(2) of the
Convention, shall refrain from judgments concerning the concept of public use or social interest cited in cases involving the expropriation of an individual's property.

r. Nicaragua:

Recognition of Competence:


I. The Government of Nicaragua recognizes as binding as of right with no special convention the competence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in all cases involving interpretation and application of the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights, "Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica," by virtue of Article 62(1) thereof.

II. The foregoing notwithstanding, the Government of Nicaragua states for the record that its acceptance of the competence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is given for an indefinite period, is general in character and grounded in reciprocity, and is subject to the reservation that this recognition of competence applies only to cases arising solely out of events subsequent to, and out of acts which began to be committed after, the date of deposit of this declaration with the Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

s. Trinidad and Tobago:

(Reservations made at the time of accession)

1. As regards Article 4(5) of the Convention the Government of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago makes reservation in that under the laws of Trinidad and Tobago there is no prohibition against the carrying out a sentence of death on a person over seventy (70) years of age.

2. As regards Article 62 of the Convention, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago recognizes the compulsory jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights as stated in said article only to such extent that recognition is consistent with the relevant sections of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; and provided that any judgment of the Court does not infringe, create or abolish any existing rights or duties of any private citizen.
Brazil:

(Interpretative declaration made at the time of adhesion)

The Government of Brazil understands that Articles 43 and 48, (d) do not include the automatic right of on site visits and inspections by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which will depend on the express consent of the State.
ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE AMERICAN CONVENTION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
"PROTOCOL OF SAN SALVADOR"

(Signed at San Salvador, El Salvador on November 17, 1988, at
the eighteenth regular session of the General Assembly)

ENTRY INTO FORCE: When eleven States have deposit their respective instruments of
ratification or accession.

DEPOSITORY: OAS General Secretariat (Original instrument and ratifications).

TEXT: OAS. Treaty Series, No. 69.

UN REGISTRATION:

SIGNATORY COUNTRIES

Argentina .....................................
Bolivia ........................................
Costa Rica ....................................
Dominican Republic .........................
Ecuador ........................................
El Salvador ...................................
Guatemala ......................................
Haiti ...........................................
Mexico ..........................................Nicaragua ........................................
Panama ..........................................Peru ..............................................Suriname ........................................Uruguay ..........................................1/Venezuela ....................................

DEPOSIT OF RATIFICATION

18 February 1993
10 July 1990a/

All States listed herein signed the Protocol on November 17, 1988, with
exception of those indicated in the notes.

1. Venezuela:

   Signed 27 January 1989 at the OAS General Secretariat.

a. Suriname:

   Accession.
PROTOCOL TO THE
AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

(Approved at Asunción, Paraguay, on June 8, 1990, at the
twentieth regular session of the
General Assembly)

ENTRY INTO FORCE:
DEPOSITOR: OAS General Secretariat (Original instrument and ratifications).
TEXT: OAS, Treaty Series, No. 73

UN REGISTRATION:

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1. Signed 27 August 1990 at the OAS General Secretariat.
2. Signed 30 August 1990 at the OAS General Secretariat.
4. Signed 2 October 1990 at the OAS General Secretariat.
5. Signed 26 November 1990 at the OAS General Secretariat.
INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION TO
PREVENT AND PUNISH TORTURE

(Signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on December 9, 1985, at
the fifteenth regular session of the General Assembly)

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 28 February 1987, in accordance with Article 22 of the Convention.

DEPOSITARY: OAS General Secretariat (Original instrument and ratifications).


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2. Signed 10 January 1986 at the OAS General Secretariat.
4. Signed 10 February 1986 at the OAS General Secretariat.
5. Signed 11 March 1986 at the OAS General Secretariat.
7. Signed 30 May 1986 at the OAS General Secretariat.
8. Signed 13 June 1986 at the OAS General Secretariat.
10. Signed 27 October 1986 at the OAS General Secretariat, with the following reservation:

(Reservation made at the time of signature)

"The Republic of Guatemala does not accept the application nor shall it apply the third paragraph of Article 8, because in conformance with its domestic legal procedures, when the appeals have been exhausted, the decision acquitting a defendant charged with the crime of torture becomes final and may not be submitted to any international fora".

11. **Chile**:

    Signed 24 September 1987 at the OAS General Secretariat.

12. **Nicaragua**:

    Signed 29 September 1987 at the OAS General Secretariat.

13. **El Salvador**:

    Signed 16 October 1987 at the OAS General Secretariat.

14. **Suriname**:

    Signed 12 November 1987 at the OAS General Secretariat.

15. **Paraguay**:

    Signed 25 October 1989 at the OAS General Secretariat.

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a. **Guatemala**:

(Reservation made at the time of ratification)

With the reservation made at the time of the signature.
Withdrawal of Reservations:

On October 1, 1990, deposited at the General Secretariat, an instrument dated August 6, 1990, withdrawing the reservation made by the Government of Guatemala at the time of signing the Convention and reiterated at the time of ratifying it on December 10, 1986.

b. Chile:

(Reservations made at the time of ratification)

a) To Article 4, to the effect that, inasmuch as it alters the principle of “automatic obedience” established in Chile’s domestic law, the Government of Chile will enforce the provisions of that international rule in respect of subordinate personnel subject to the jurisdiction of the Code of Military Justice, provided that execution of an order whose obvious intent is the perpetration of the acts stipulated in Article 2, is not demanded by the superior over the subordinate’s representation.

b) With regard to the final paragraph of Article 13, because of the discretionary and subjective way in which the rule is drafted.

c) The Government of Chile states that in its relations with the countries of the Americas that are Parties to the present Convention, it will apply this Convention in those cases where there is incompatibility between its provisions and those of the Convention against torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the United Nations in 1984.

d) With regard to the third paragraph of Article 8, since a case may only be submitted to the international fora whose competence has been recognized by the State of Chile.

Withdrawal of Reservations:

On August 21, 1990 deposited an instrument dated May 18, 1990, withdrawing the reservations formulated by the Government of Chile to Article 4 and to the final paragraph of Article 13 of the Convention.