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Important steps are taken by Mexico in the training of Judges

On September 23 and 24, 2011, an introductory training Seminar on the implementation of the constitutional reforms on human rights and *amparo*¹ was held. It was addressed to federal Judges and its aim was to harmonize their activities with international human rights standards.

The Seminar was organized by the Judicial Branch and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The initiative was also supported by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. It was conducted simultaneously in six cities in Mexico.

Around 70 high-level speakers participated, including, among others, the National Supreme Court's Chief Justice, Juan N. Silva Meza, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights' President, Diego García Sayán. Additionally, the officers in charge of the Human Rights areas of the Ministries of the Interior and Foreign Affairs, as well as members of the Inter-American Commission, the Inter-American Court, and academics also participated.

The purpose of the Seminar was to train Judges on the implementation of the constitutional reforms on human rights and *amparo*. At the same time, it was intended to comply with the Inter-American Court ruling in the case *Rosendo Radilla vs. the United States of Mexico*.

The areas covered in the training seminar focused on the implications of the constitutional reforms on human rights and *amparo* in the activities of the Judicial Branch, the Inter-American system for the protection of human rights, the analysis of the *Radilla Pacheco* case decision, and the characteristics of the control of conventionality and how Judges should apply it.

In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented some electronic tools containing useful information for Judges' activities. The websites explored were those where Judges can find human rights instruments and international jurisprudence, general comments on human rights issues, decisions of the Inter-American Court, and relevant information about Mexico, including recommendations of international mechanisms.

Due to its implications for the judicial work, a core section of the Seminar focused on the control of conventionality. The latter refers to the criterion issued by the National Supreme Court of Justice on July 12, which is based on paragraph 339 of the sentence in the *Radilla* case, that states: *the Judiciary shall exercise a 'control of conventionality', that is, the Judiciary shall take into consideration not only the treaty but also the interpretation the Inter-American Court, final interpreter of the American Convention, has made of it.*

On the amendments to the judicial system arising from the reform on human rights and *amparo*, the Seminar analyzed the characteristics and effects of each reform.

The issues discussed in the Seminar represent an important step towards a new paradigm for the work of the Judicial Branch.

This exercise starts with a training program for members of the Judicial Branch at the federal level, and gradually at the state level. 📍



For more information please visit:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, press release, 25 September, 2011:
- http://www.sre.gob.mx/cs-social/contenido/comunicados/2011/sep/cp_344.html
- Inter-American Court of Human Rights, sentence on the case *Rosendo Radilla versus the United States of Mexico*:
- http://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/casos/articulos/seriec_209_ing.pdf

¹ The judicial review mechanism in place in Mexico.