

FACT SHEET

The Independent Panel for the Election of Inter-American Commissioners and Judges

Marion Bethel read law at Cambridge University and was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1985 and the Bar of The Bahamas in January 1986. She joined the Office of the Attorney General in The Bahamas where she practiced in both criminal and civil courts. In 1994 she commenced work in a private law firm. Ms. Bethel has been actively involved in the women’s movement in The Bahamas and the Caribbean since the mid-1980s. Her work in human rights is principally in the areas of gender equality, reproductive rights, the elimination of violence against women and abolition of the death penalty. In 1992 she was a member of the Inter-American Commission on Women’s Group of Experts that prepared model regulations on the prevention and eradication of violence against women. In 2012 Ms. Bethel produced a documentary film entitled “Womanish Ways: Freedom, Human Rights and Democracy, The Women’s Suffrage Movement in The Bahamas 1948-1962,” which chronicles the journey to the enfranchisement of women and underscores the significant contribution of this suffrage movement to the larger civil rights, majority rule and independence movements in The Bahamas. In July 2014 Ms. Bethel was awarded the Eleventh CARICOM Triennial Award for Women for her contributions to the fields of gender and development.

Belisário dos Santos Jr. has served as an attorney of politically persecuted and prisoners during the military dictatorship in Brazil. He was the President of the Association of Latin American Lawyers for the Defense of Human Rights and is currently the Vice-President of the Truth Commission of the Brazilian Bar Association, São Paulo Section. He is a member of the Commission for Justice and Peace of São Paulo. He is part of the National Commission of Brazil for the investigation of the politically disappeared and executed in Brazil. He is also a member of the International Court of Restorative Justice for El Salvador and of the International Commission of Jurists. He was the Secretary of State for Justice and Defense of Citizenship in São Paulo (1995/2000). He chairs the Board of Directors of TV Cultura, a public TV network in Brazil. He has made numerous research missions around the world to document human rights violations, and has authored several papers and lectures on issues of human rights.

Cecilia Medina Quiroga graduated from the School of Law of the University of Chile (1958). She earned her degree as Doctor of Laws at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands (1988). She has lectured at the University of Chile, University Diego Portales and several European and American universities. She is the founder and former Director of the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Chile School of Law. She was also appointed professor at the Robert F. Kennedy Chair for distinguished Latin Americans at Harvard Law School (1997). She was a member (1995-2002) and President (1999-2001) of the United Nations' Human Rights Committee, and judge (2004-2007) and President (2008-2009) of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. She participated in a five person commission – the Independent Panel on the International Criminal Court Judicial Elections – which aimed to analyze the background of the candidates to the International Criminal Court under the requirements of the Rome Statute in order to serve as background for the Court's elections which took place subsequently. For her distinguished work in human rights, she was awarded the grade of Commandeur of the order of Oranje Nassau by the Kingdom of The Netherlands.

Juan E. Méndez is a Professor of Human Rights Law In Residence at the Washington College of Law, American University and since November 2010, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In 2009 and 2010 he was the Special Advisor on Crime Prevention to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. He was also Co-Chair of the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association in 2010 and 2011. Until May 2009 he was the President of the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and in the summer of 2009 he was a Scholar-in-Residence at the Ford Foundation in New York. Concurrent with his duties at ICTJ, the Honorable Kofi Annan named Mr. Méndez his Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, a task he performed from 2004 to 2007. Between 2000 and 2003 Mr. Méndez was a member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, and served as its President in 2002. A native of Argentina, he is the author of various publications including the recent book, *Taking A Stand: The Evolution of Human Rights*, co-authored with Marjory Wentworth.

Naomi Roht-Arriaza is Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. Professor Roht-Arriaza is the author of *The Pinochet Effect: Transnational Justice in the Age of Human Rights* (2005) and *Impunity and Human Rights in International Law and Practice* (1995), and coeditor of *Transitional Justice in the Twenty-First Century: Beyond Truth versus Justice* (2006). She is a coauthor of *The International Legal System: Cases and Materials* (Foundation Press 2010, 2015) and of numerous articles on accountability for international crimes, reparations, and corporate accountability. She earned a BA from UC Berkeley, a MA from the UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy, and a JD from the UC Berkeley School of Law. After graduating from law school, she clerked for Judge James Browning of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. In 2011 she was a Democracy Fellow at the U.S. Agency for International Development, and in 2012 she was a Senior Fulbright Scholar in Botswana. She is the president of the Board of the Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF) and a legal advisor to the Center for Justice and Accountability.