



I/A Court H.R.
Protecting Rights

IIHR

Inter-American Institute
of Human Rights



ICRC

**THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS,
THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN
RIGHTS AND THE REGIONAL DELEGATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
FOR MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA**

ANNOUNCE THE FIRST

**REGIONAL UNIVERSITY ESSAY
COMPETITION ON HUMAN
RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN LAW**

**CHALLENGES FACED BY SECURITY
AND PUBLIC ORDER FORCES IN
LIGHT OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**FOR BELIZE, COSTA RICA, EL
SALVADOR, GUATEMALA,
HONDURAS, MEXICO AND
NICARAGUA**

PARTICIPATION:

1. The Competition is open to students enrolled in a university bachelor's (undergraduate) degree or master's program at an institution of higher education in one of the following countries, at the time of sending their essay: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua.
2. There are no fees to register for the Competition.
3. Essays must be sent to the Organizing Committee (made up of representatives of the three Convening Institutions) no later than 11:59 p.m. on 1 October 2021 (Costa Rican time); texts submitted after that date shall not be accepted.

CONDITIONS:

1. Participants may choose any topic for their essay, as long as it falls within the scope of the central focus of the Competition: use of force and human rights; public security and human rights; and militarization of public security functions.
2. Those interested in participating in the Competition must do so by submitting an unpublished essay (not published or submitted for publication or participation in any other essay competition), written in Spanish or English, individually by the participant.
3. Participants will only be allowed to present one essay.
4. The length of the essay must not exceed 20 pages, including the footnotes and the bibliography.
5. The essay must be presented in a Word file with 1.5 spacing and in Arial 12 font size; for the footnotes, the same font will be used with a size of 10, in single spacing. The margins of the pages will be those predetermined by the word processor.
6. The essays submitted must necessarily include footnotes and present a bibliography at the end of the piece.
7. The citation system to be used will be the one established in the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights' Guide on Style and Format, available at https://www.iidh.ed.cr/IIDH/media/1104/gu%C3%ADa-de-estilo-y-formato.pdf?mc_phishing_protection_id=28047-c3nem32du8144mq5qji0.
8. The file containing the essay should not include any data allowing the identification of the participant or to infer their identity.
9. In addition to the essay, the email that each participant sends must include: i) in the body of the email, the full name of the participant, their email address, the name of the educational institution in which they are enrolled, the study program and the semester / year they are studying; ii) a Word file (in which references to the author will also be omitted) presenting an abstract of the essay in a maximum of 200 words, which will include the main ideas expressed as well as the conclusions reached; iii) the supporting documentation confirming the compliance with the requirement set forth in point 1 of the section "Participation" (if necessary, the Organizing Committee may request the educational institution to confirm the participant's status). The email, sent to the address etardif@icrc.org, should be entitled "Regional University Essay Competition". In response, the Organizing Committee will direct an email to each participant, confirming their registration, to the address from which the essay was sent.
10. Essays that do not meet the conditions expressed in this call shall not be admitted.

EVALUATION:

1. The essays received will be reviewed and evaluated by a Jury made up of members of the Convening Institutions, whose names will be announced through their social media channels, which will select the winning essay.
2. The decision of the Jury, which will be final and may not be subject to appeal, will be announced to the participants on 10 December 2021, and will also be published through the Convening Institutions' social networks.
3. The essays presented must be original; documents considered as presenting elements of plagiarism will be automatically disqualified.
4. The Convening Institutions reserve the right not to award the prize if the Jury considers that none of the essays meet the necessary requirements to be declared the winner.
5. Any situation that arises during the Competition and that is not provided for in the present Rules will be resolved by the Organizing Committee.
6. The evaluation criteria for the essays will be the following: originality of the topic and its treatment (20%); structure and clarity (20%); quality of the reasoning (30%); use of sources cited (20%); and form (10%).

PRIZE:



The winner of the Competition will receive a diploma stating the decision of the Jury. The Inter-American Court will also offer them an internship (the related financing will have to be secured by the recipient of the prize), and the International Committee of the Red Cross will provide a set of publications. The winning essay will be published in the Review of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (subject to editorial approval), as well as through the social media channels of the Convening Institutions. Should the quality of the submitted essays warrant it, the Jury may consider the possibility of recommending the publication of more essays in the Review.

INFORMATION AND CLARIFICATIONS:

Any question or request for clarification should be sent to Eric Tardif, Legal Adviser at the ICRC's Regional Delegation for Mexico and Central America, at the following email address: etardif@icrc.org.



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