

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Ramón Custodio López

National Commissioner of Human Rights of the Republic of Honduras

Doctor of medicine and surgery; founding member of the Medical College of Honduras, a institution in which he, amongst others, held office as president between 1969 and 1972. Additionally he engaged himself as a professor at the Faculty of Medical Science.

In May 1981 he founded the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras (CODEH) which he chaired from its foundation until August 1999.

Between 1984 and 1990 he held the presidency of the Commission of Human Rights in Central America (CODEHUCA); since 1989 until today he is a member of the managing board of the Latinamerican Institute of Legal Alternative Services (ILSA), which is located in Bogotá, Columbia. From 1982 to 1999 he participated in the activities of various institutions of human rights of the United Nations Organization in New York, USA.

Awards and Tributes

For his humanitarian work he gained international merits with various honours and acknowledgements, such as: The Latin-American Prize in Human Rights, Lettelier-Moffit in Washington, USA. The Latin-American Association of Human Rights awarded him with the Latin-American Prize "Monsenor Aníbal Proano". Additionally, among others, he received the Rothko Chappel Prize "For Liberty and Justice" in Houston, Texas, USA and as well the Francisco Morazán Medal awarded by the Central American Parliament.

He has been special guest of governments and international organizations taking part in such activities as the Assembly of Swiss Catholic Organizations on Human Rights, which took place in Lucern. He also participated in the meeting of the Canadian government with NGOs to define joint policies on human rights in Ottawa. Furthermore he participated in the conference on forced disappearance, which afterwards took place at Simon Frazer University, Vancouver, Canada. He was also special guest of the Norwegian youth and the Swedish government at the granting of the Nobel Prize of Peace for Dr. Oscar Arias in Oslo, Norway.

In Zimbabwe he participated as a special guest in the ecumenical meeting of African Churches over the issue of human rights. The Swedish government invited him to participate in the conference on cooperation, development, human rights and democracy. As a special guest he also attended the World Conference on Human Rights enhanced by the UN in Austria.

He has acted as an orator in various countries on subjects such as: forced disappearance, human rights in the 21st century, in the Postgraduate of Human Rights in the University Complutense, Madrid, Spain. He was invited orator at the international centre for human rights "Raoul Walleberg" and for the juridical-social research of the University of Lund, Sweden.

He wrote commentaries on various subjects of national importance, which have been published in written media, such as: El Periódico, El Nuevo Día, Diario Tiempo, La Prensa, La Tribuna, El Heraldo.

From 1981 to 1999 he edited the annual information, documents of analysis, communiqués and announcements of the CODEH on the situation of human rights in Honduras,

Between 1997 and 1998 he was the national coordinator of the Global March against the Exploitation of Children, in 1998 he was directive member of the International Council of Human Rights Information and Documentation System (HURIDOCS),

He took part as an observing member in the Commission of Reforms of Juridical Power, he is a member of the Juridical Commission on Penitentiary in the Ministry of Governance and Justice, member of the Citizen Forum, of the National Council of Interior Security (CONASIN) and of the National Forum of Convergence (FONAC), additionally he holds office as honour president of the National Association of the Senior Adults of Honduras (ANAMH).

On 07th March 2002 he was unanimously elected as National Commissioner of Human Rights by the National Congress of the Republic.

From 2005 till 2006 he held office as president of the Central American Council of Human Rights Commissioners.