

## **Personal**

Date of birth: 17 November 1935

Place of birth: Chile

Nationality: Chilean

## **Academic degrees**

1959 License in Social and Juridical Sciences (summa cum laude), University of Chile.

1988 Doctor in Law, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.

## **Current positions**

2008 - 2009 President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

2004 - 2009 Judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Co-Director of the Human Rights Center, University of Chile.

Professor in International Law, Law Faculty, University of Chile.

Member of the Academic Board of the Doctor's Programme, University of Chile.

## **Former positions in Chile**

1959 - 1968 Private practice.

1969 - 1973 Adjunct Professor of Constitutional Law, Law Faculty, University of Chile.

1972 - 1973 Under-Secretary and Rapporteur of the Constitutional Court of Chile.

1992 - 1997 Professor of International Law, University Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile.

1999 - 2001 Director of the School for Graduates, Institute of International Studies, University of Chile.

## **Positions abroad**

1976 - 1977 Legal Adviser, Institute for the Development of Indian Law, Washington, D.C., United States of America.

1977 Investigadora en la División Hispánica de la Biblioteca Legal, Biblioteca del Congreso, Washington, D.C., United States of America.

- 1980 - 1988 Lecturer and researcher of the Europa Instituut, Law Faculty, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- 1989 - 1994 Lecturer and researcher at the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM), Law Faculty, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- 1991 - 1993 Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands for the evaluation of human rights projects in Colombia.
- 1995 - 2002 Member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee.
- 1997 - 1998 Vice-President of the United Nations Human Rights Committee.
- 1999 - 2000 President of the United Nations Human Rights Committee.
- 1997 Guest professor of the Robert F. Kennedy Chair for distinguished Latin-Americans, Harvard Law School, Harvard University, Cambridge, United States of America.

### **Other academic activities in Chile and abroad**

- Director and professor of various courses for Latin American lawyers, judges, public defenders, prosecutors, civil servants, sponsored by various entities: Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, Supreme Courts of Paraguay, Honduras and Mexico; different universities of Latin America; Utrecht University (Utrecht, The Netherlands); United Nations Program for Development (SURF-LAC) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations; Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), United Nations; Economic Council for Latin American and the Caribbean Islands (ECLAC); United Nations; International Court of Justice, Peace Palace (The Hague, The Netherlands).
- Various courses and lectures on women's human rights: Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (San José, Costa Rica); Maastricht Centre for Human Rights and Women in the Law Project of the International Human Rights Law Group to draft the optional protocol to the CEDAW Convention (Maastricht, The Netherlands); American Society of International Law: The evolution of women's struggle for equality within the framework of human rights; University of Toronto (1994); seminar for judges of the International Criminal Court: International Jurisdiction and Gender Justice (The Hague, The Netherlands).
- Various lectures: FLACSO and Council for International Education Exchange (for university professors on transition to democracy; Sixth World Congress of the International Association of Constitutional Law: Do Status Matter?; International Human Rights Standards for an amendment of a Criminal Code (Specialized agencies of the United Nations, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic); Seminar on "The Development Implications of Gender-Based Violence", World Bank (Washington, D.C., United States of America); Workshop on Development and Violence against Women (World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank (ECLAC, Chile); Seminar with the European Court of Human Rights, Inter-American Court of Human Rights and Utrecht University; Seminar with the African Court of Human Rights, European Court of Human Rights and Inter-American Court of Human Rights, organized by the German Agency of Development Cooperation (GTZ) (Berlin, Germany).
- Guest professor and lecturer in various universities and organizations: University for Peace of the United Nations (San José, Costa Rica); Law Faculty, University of Toronto (Toronto, Canada); Law Faculty York University (Toronto, Canada); McGill University (Montreal, Canada); Lund University (Lund, Sweden); American University (Washington, D.C., United States of America); Human Rights

Institute (Strasbourg, France); National University of Mexico (Mexico City, Mexico); University of Guatemala (Guatemala City, Guatemala); National University of Paraguay (Asunción, Paraguay); National University of Buenos Aires (Buenos Aires, Argentina); National University of Tucumán (San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina); University of los Andes and University Javeriana (Bogotá, Colombia); ULACIT (San José, Costa Rica); and University of El Salvador (San Salvador, El Salvador).

- Advisor positions: NIVOS (The Netherlands): Evaluation of the Oficina Jurídica de la Mujer in Cochabamba, Bolivia; Ford Foundation: Evaluation of various branches of Cladem (Latin-American and Caribbean non-governmental organization); Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands: Evaluation of three projects on human rights education in Colombia.
- Supervisor of various theses in Chile, The Netherlands (Utrecht and Maastricht) and the United Kingdom (Oxford).

### **Selected books and monographies**

- *Nomenclature and Hierarchy. Basic Latin American Sources*, Medina, C. and Medina, R. (Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 1979).
- *The Battle of Human Rights. Gross, Systematic Violations and the Inter-American System* (Martinus Nijhoff, Dordrecht, 1988).
- *Constitución, Tratados y Derechos Esenciales, Introducción y Selección de textos* (Corporación Nacional de Reparación y Reconciliación, Santiago, 1994).
- *Sistema Jurídico y Derechos Humanos. El derecho nacional y las obligaciones internacionales de Chile en materia de Derechos Humanos*, Medina, C. and Mera, J. (eds.) (Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago, 1996), 687 pp.
- *Manual de Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos para Defensores Penales Públicos*, Medina, C. (with the assistance of Nash, C.) (Centro de Documentación Defensoría Penal Pública, Santiago, 2003).
- *La Convención Americana: Teoría y Jurisprudencia. Vida, integridad personal, libertad personal, debido proceso y recurso judicial* (Mundo Gráfico, San José, 2005).
- *Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos: Introducción a sus Mecanismos de Protección*, Medina, C. and Nash, C. (Law Faculty and Human Rights Center, University of Chile, Santiago, 2007).

### **Selected chapters in books and articles in journals**

- “Women's Rights as Human Rights: Latin American Countries and the Organization of American States”, in Diaz-Diocaretz, M. and Zavala, I. (eds.), *Women, Feminist Identity and Society in the 1980's*, John Benjamins Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1985.
- “A 1988 Universal Declaration of Human Rights”, in *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights, Special Edition*, 1989.
- “The Right to Reparation for victims of gross, systematic violations of human rights: The experience of Chile”, in *Seminar on the Right to Restitution, Compensation and Rehabilitation for Victims of Gross Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, SIM, Special No. 12*, Human Rights Project Group, University of Limburg, Maastricht, 1992.

- “El aborto terapéutico y los Derechos Humanos”, in *Foro Abierto de Salud y Derechos Reproductivos, Simposio Nacional. Leyes para la Salud y la Vida de las Mujeres. Hablemos del Aborto Terapéutico*, Santiago, 1993.
- “Do International Human Rights Laws Protect Women?” in Kerr, J., (ed.), *Ours by Right. Women's Rights as Human Rights*, ZED Books in association with The North-South Institute, Ottawa, Canada, 1993.
- “Towards a more effective guarantee of the enjoyment of human rights by women in the inter-American system”, in Cook, R., (ed.), *Human Rights of Women. National and International Perspectives*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1994 (also available in Mandarin).
- “Protección de la mujer y derechos humanos” and “Violencia contra la mujer y derechos humanos. El sistema internacional”, in De la Fuente, N. and Ulloa, M., *Cuadernos de Trabajo No. 1*, Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago, 1995.
- “La Jurisprudencia del Tribunal Europeo de Derechos Humanos”, in Infante, M.T. and Cave, R. (eds.), *Solución Judicial de Controversias. El Derecho Internacional ante los Tribunales Internacionales e Internos*, Instituto de Estudios Internacionales, Universidad de Chile, Sociedad Chilena de Derecho Internacional, Santiago, 1995.
- “El Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos”, in Medina, C. and Mera, J. (eds.), *Sistema Jurídico y Derechos Humanos. El derecho nacional y las obligaciones internacionales de Chile en materia de Derechos Humanos*, Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago, 1996.
- “La Libertad de Expresión”, in Medina, C. and Mera, J. (eds.), *Sistema Jurídico y Derechos Humanos. El derecho nacional y las obligaciones internacionales de Chile en materia de Derechos Humanos*, Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago, 1996.
- “The Role of Country reports in the Inter-American System of Human Rights”, in Harris, D.J. and Livingstone, S., *The Inter-American System of Human Rights*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1998.
- “Some Thoughts to Mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights”, in *Reflections on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A Fiftieth Anniversary Anthology*, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, The Hague, Boston, London, 1998.
- “Towards Effectiveness in the Protection of Human Rights in the Americas”, in *Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems*, University of Iowa, volume 8, No. 2, Fall 1998.
- “The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Women, with Particular Reference to Violence”, in Castermans, M., Van Hoof, F. and Smith, J., *The Role of the Nation-State in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Kluwer Law International, The Netherlands, 1998.
- Medina, C. and González, F., “Country Law and Practice: Chile: National Security, Freedom of Expression and the Legacy of the Military Dictatorship”, in Coliver, S., Hoffman, P., Fitzpatrick, J. and Bowen, S. (eds.), *Secrecy and Liberty: National Security, Freedom of Expression and Access to Information*, International Studies in Human Rights, volume 58, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1999.
- “The Human Rights Committee, State Reports and Gender Mainstreaming”, in Coomans, F., et al (eds.), *Rendering Justice to the Vulnerable*, Kluwer Law International, The Netherlands, 2000.
- “Las restricciones a la libertad de expression”, in *Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos y Libertad de Expresión en Paraguay*, McCormick Tribune Foundation, Costa Rica, 2002.
- “Human rights of women: where are we now in the Americas?”, in Manganas, A. (ed.), *Essays in Honor of Alice Yotopoulos – Marangopoulos*, Hellas y Bruylant, Athens, Greece and Brussels, Belgium, 2003.

- “Políticas de Seguridad ciudadana, derechos humanos y administración de justicia”, in Comisión Andina de Juristas, *El enfoque de los derechos humanos en las políticas públicas*, Lima: CAJ, 2004.
- “Las obligaciones del Estado bajo la Convención Americana de Derechos Humanos” in *La Corte Interamericana. Un cuarto de Siglo 1979-2004*, Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, San José, 2005.
- “Observación General 31 del Comité de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas. La índole de la obligación jurídica general impuesta a los Estados Partes en el Pacto”, in *Anuario de Derechos Humanos 2005*, N°1, Human Rights Centre, University of Chile, 2006.
- “Volviendo a los orígenes: los derechos humanos de las mujeres”, in “Mujer Generación Siglo XXI”, University of Chile, 2007.
- “Observación General 16 del Comité de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales: Mujeres e Igualdad”, in *Anuario de Derechos Humanos 2006*, N°2, Human Rights Centre, University of Chile, 2007.
- “La situación de los niños y adolescentes en Chile a la luz de las observaciones del Comité de los Derechos del Niño de las Naciones Unidas al Tercer Informe Periódico de Chile”, in *Anuario de Derechos Humanos 2007*, N°3, Human Rights Centre, University of Chile, 2008.
- “La situación de los Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres según el Comité para la Eliminación de la Discriminación contra la Mujer”, in *Anuario de Derechos Humanos 2007*, N°3, Human Rights Centre, University of Chile, 2008.
- “The bumpy road to human rights”, in *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights*, 2008.
- “Derecho a la vida y libertad personal”, in *Seminar on Human Rights, Supreme Court, Mexico*, 2008 (online available at the website of Universidad Nacional de México).
- “La Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos y los familiares de las víctimas”, in *Homenaje al profesor Héctor Fix Zamudio (Liber Amicorum)*, Mexico, 2008.
- “Family members” and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in *Diritti Individuali e Giustizia Internazionale, Liber Fausto Pocar*, Giuffré Editore (updated version of my article for professor Fix Audio Liber Indecorum), volume II, 2009.
- “Los 40 años de la Convención Americana sobre Derechos Humanos a la luz de cierta jurisprudencia de la Corte Interamericana” in *Anuario de Derechos Humanos 2008*, No. 4, Human Rights Centre, University of Chile, 2009.
- To be published: “La Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos y las Mujeres; ¿Integración o Separación?”, in *Multilateralismo e Internacionalización de Género*, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Chile.

#### **For publication**

- “The Inter-American system of Human Rights in *Manual on International Human Rights Law*”, Abö Akademie, Finland.

### **Awards and other distinctions**

- 1998 Appointment for life as honorary and founding of the Harvard Latin American Law Society.
- 2001 Award of Equality Now (Women's non-governmental organization, New York).
- 2003 Decoration: Ridder in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau, Queen of The Netherlands.
- 2003 "Prominent Women in International Law", Women's Interest Groups, American Society of International Law (Washington, D.C.).
- 2004 Elena Caffarena Award to distinguished Chilean women, Chile.
- 2005 Valentín Letelier Medal, University of Chile.
- 2006 Women's Prize, Gruber Foundation (New York).
- 2007 Award "Mujer Generación Siglo XXI", University of Chile.
- 2007 René Cassin Awards, given by B`nai B`rith International, Chile
- 2008 Eminent Visitor of Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Argentina.
- 2008 Member of the Council for the 50th Anniversary of the Jessup Contest.
- 2008 Premio a la Ciudadanía, Fundación Ideas.
- 2009 Decoration: Commandeur in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau, Kingdom of The Netherlands.
- 2009 Chilean Women's Leadership Award, Global Summit of Women.

### **Languages**

- Spanish: Mother tongue.
- English: Fluent.
- Dutch: Good.
- French: Reading (good), speaking (poor).

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