

Biographical Note

Emilio Álvarez Icaza

Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Mr Álvarez Icaza is Mexican. He holds a Licentiate degree in Sociology from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), where he graduated with honours, and a Master's degree in Social Sciences from the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Mexico. He also took a Diploma in Policy Communication Analysis and Design at the Ibero-American University, Santa Fe campus, Federal District (DF). Currently, he is working on a doctoral degree in Political and Social Science at UNAM.

In 1999, he was chosen to be Electoral Adviser at the First General Council of the Electoral Institute of the Federal District (IEDF). In 2001, he was elected President of the Federal District Human Rights Commission (CDHDF) and ratified for a second period from 2005 to 2009.

He has extensive teaching experience in graduate and post-graduate courses and has received over fifty national and international awards, prizes and distinctions. He has been a speaker and presenter at over three hundred fora, seminars and discussions in Mexico and other countries and has collaborated in over eighty joint publications in a number of media in Mexico and abroad. He is also the author of the following books: *Para entender. Los derechos humanos en México* ["Understanding Human Rights in Mexico"] and *La Libertad de Expresión y el Derecho a la Información en México: Un Desafío de Nuestros Tiempos* ["Freedom of Expression and the Right to Information in Mexico: a Challenge for Our Times"]. He has also worked as a journalist for different Mexican media.

Mr Álvarez Icaza was Director General of the National Social Communication Centre, A C (Cencos) and joint founder of Alianza Cívica, A C, a civil alliance. In addition, he acted as adviser for over ten civil society organizations involved in human rights, security and democracy issues in Mexico. He was joint founder and promoter of the Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity, in which he participated until July 2012.

He has acted as independent consultant and specialist in the field of human rights, democracy, civic participation, civil society and public policies, both in Mexico and for international agencies.