

CV

Name: Francisco Xavier Mena Vásconez

Profession: Lawyer

Nationality: Ecuadorian-Italian

Work experience:

- **Deputy Regional Representative of the Regional Office for South America of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Santiago de Chile (2018-)**

Since January 2018, I have been the Deputy Regional Representative of OHCHR in the Regional Office for South America in Chile, monitoring the human rights context in the countries of South America (with the exception of Colombia and Venezuela). In October 2019, when the social outbreaks occurred in Ecuador, Bolivia and Chile, I was in charge of the Office on an interim basis as the Representative of the High Commissioner, which was an enormous challenge given the seriousness of the events that occurred

- **Deputy representative and coordinator of the Monitoring Unit of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Bolivia, La Paz (2013-2017)**

I was the deputy of the office and that represents me representational activities, replacement of the Representative and participation in planning meetings with the leadership of the Office. I am also the coordinator of the United Monitoring, where monitoring activities may be situations where human rights violations take place. Bolivia is a multicultural and multilingual country, so the monitoring work must be very sensitive and delicate at once.

- **Coordinator for the Northeast and Caribbean of the Sub Regional Office of the United Nations for Human Rights in Colombia, Bucaramanga (2010-2013)**

I contributed to identify and exposes patterns and trends of human rights violations and breaches to International Humanitarian Law in the nine departments covered by this office (Arauca, Santander, Norte de Santander, Bolivar, Magdalena, Cesar, Atlántico, La Guajira, El Cesar, and Sucre). In addition, I had to establish priorities for the field office monitoring the work of human rights defenders, the land restitution process, demobilization post group behavior, the security situation and agricultural leader's victims and following up the resolutions of the Security Council, 1612 and 1820.

- **Human Rights Legal Area Officer of the United Nations Office for Human Rights in Colombia, Bogotá (2005-2010)**

Identify relevant analytical papers on the subject. Adequacy of the observation of violations by new-armed groups. Create and coordinate an internal working group. Review the guidelines for the observation. Prepare synthesis collect relevant criteria (IHL, state law ...) Develop analytical papermaking position of the Office. Having mapping of actors involved in the analysis of the issue. Having mapped the areas where they operate the new groups. Dialogue with institutions involved in monitoring and analysis. Identify experts who can provide input for internal capacity.

- **Coordinator in Huehuetenango of the Regional Office of the United Nations Mission for Guatemala (MINUGUA) (2002-2004)**

I worked in the last 2 1/2 years of MINUGUA before it was closed. I had to prepare the withdraw of the Mission in the department of Huehuetenango. By the end of the mission, I was the last international functionary at MINUGUA in Huehuetenango. I had to coordinate the work of six national UNVs and I had to prepare the final inform of ten years of work in Huehuetenango. I was an extraordinary experience to finish a work after so many years.

- **Political Officer in Cobán of the Regional Office of the United Nations Mission for Guatemala (MINUGUA) (1999-2000)**

I was the political affair officer in the field office of MINUGUA in Coban, Alta Verapaz. I had to coordinate the work of eight international UNV's, 4 international police officers a 1 military observer .I had to coordinate the human rights, security and justice administration unit. At the same time, we were working with a very delicate situation: the lynching because the population was tired of so many impunity and begun to incinerate suspected murders and thieves.

- **Human Rights Officer at the Legal Unit of the United Nations Mission for Guatemala (MINUGUA) (1997-1999)**

I coordinated the follow-up of cases of human rights violations in several departments of western Guatemala (Quiché, Totonicapán, Quetzaltenango, San Marcos and Huehuetenango). I was the focal point with the human rights organizations in Guatemala City. I coordinated the publication of the report on lynching.

- **Human Rights Officer at the Petén Regional Office of the United Nations Mission for Guatemala (MINUGUA) (1995-1997)**

I was a United Nations Volunteer working as a legal officer to follow up on the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the department of El Petén

- **Consultant at the Latin American Association for Human Rights, ALDHU, Quito-Ecuador (1994-1995)**

Fui contratado por ALDHU para dar cursos a las Fuerzas Armadas del Ecuador en derechos humanos y derecho internacional humanitario. Esta labor la realicé pocos meses antes de que Ecuador y Perú tuvieran un conflicto armado internacional

- **Fellow at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, IACHR, Washington DC. (1993-1994)**

This experience allowed me to learn about the Inter-American System and work on two cases that the IACHR brought before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (Case of Jean Paul Genie vs. Nicaragua and Case of El Amparo vs. Venezuela) and actively participate in the activities of the IACHR. I supported the work of the Commission's lawyers and lawyer and supported the preparation of the annual report, writing the part corresponding to the countries of Cuba and El Salvador

- **Pro bono trial lawyer for prisoners without sentence, Quito (1992-1993)**

Once I graduated as a lawyer, I participated in the defense of several liberty persons who did not have the capacity to pay professional fees. I also supported institutions such as the Regional Institute on Human Rights.

Academic education

- Master in International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law, Open University of Catalonia, Spain (2007-2009)
- Diploma in Criminal Procedure Law, Universidad Javeriana de Bogotá, Colombia (2005-2006)
- Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (Guatemala 1996)
- International Institute for Human Rights, Strasbourg; France, Specialized Course, (1994)
- Doctor and Lawyer of the Republic of Ecuador at the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador, PUCE, Quito (1992)
- Diploma in Criminal Procedure Law, Universidad Javeriana de Bogotá, Colombia (2005-2006).
- Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, Specialized Course, Guatemala (1996)
- International Institute for Human Rights, Strasbourg; France, Specialized Course, (1994)
- Doctor and Lawyer of the Republic of Ecuador at the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador, PUCE, (1992)

Other courses:

- Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Abuse by UN Personnel (2019)

- Information Security Awareness (2015)
- Ethics and Integrity at the United Nations (2014)
- XII Course on Jurisdictional Protection of Children's Rights. UNICEF. Santiago de Chile, November 2010
- Cours de civilisation française. La Sorbone, Paris., France. (2001-2002)

Main presentations and conferences (the last three years)

- The human rights situation in democratic Chile. Catholic University (October 15, 2020)
- The right to peaceful assembly and interpretation of General Comment No. 37 of the Human Rights Committee. Discussion organized by the Ministry of Justice of Chile, (September 17, 2020)
- The Forced Disappearance. Latin American Forum on Forced Disappearances. Saint of Chile, (August 30, 2020)
- International standards on the matter of deprivation of liberty, with application to the context of COVID-19: the role of the Judiciary. Quito, Ecuador (4-7 June 2020)
- Seminar on International Law of Indigenous Peoples: territorial rights and prior consultation. Presentation: Indigenous peoples in the Universal Human Rights System. International Institute of Law and Society. Lima Peru. (October 10, 2020)
- Seminar on the challenges in the investigation and litigation in cases of femicide. Office of the Attorney General of the Nation. (December 4, 2019). Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Seminar on Climate Change and the Environment from a human rights perspective. Lecture: A regional perspective on a human rights-based approach to climate action. Ombudsman's Office, Buenos Aires, Argentina. (October 3, 2019)
- Presentation before the Senate of Paraguay: The importance of the environment and the Escazú Agreement. (September 15, 2019. Asunción, Paraguay.
- The rights of Afro-descendant peoples. A regional vision. Speaker. (September 3, 2019). Arica Chile
- The Impact of new technologies. Global Classroom. Conference on the impact of new technologies on human rights. Buenos Aires, Argentina (May 6, 2019)
- Regional Workshop on the progress and challenges in the implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean. ECLAC. Santiago de Chile (April 25, 2019)
- Conference on freedom of expression: Presentation: High-level political dialogue on media regulation and concentration of property. Buenos Aires, Argentina (April 9, 2019)

- Regional Meeting on Human Rights and planetary human responsibilities. Lecture: A regional perspective on a human rights-based approach to climate action. Cuzco, Peru. (March 28 and 29, 2019)
- Seminar on Human Rights and Governance: Presentation on Conflict and Governance, Universidad de Chile (November 28, 2018)
- Seminar on 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Presentation: And impact of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the laws of the countries. Montevideo e, Uruguay University of the Republic. (November 24, 2018)
- International Seminar on Human Rights. Presentation “The challenges for the State and Civil Society in the framework of the 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Ministry of Justice of Chile (September 27, 2018)
- Presentation at the V International Colloquium on Environmental Law: Pact on the Environment, human rights and Constitution. University of Chile (August 28, 2018).
- Seminar on Security and Human Rights. Security policies and use of force by States. Office of the Ombudsman, Buenos Aires, Argentina (June 7, 2018)
- Global Compact Forum. Business and human rights in the framework of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Sao Paulo, Brazil. (May 16, 2018)
- Preparatory work towards an evaluation of the Afro-descendant Decade in South America. Sao Paulo, Brazil (May 15, 2018)
- Lecture: Presentation of the adaptation of the Femicide Investigation Protocol. Office of the Attorney General of the Nation. Buenos Aires (March 28, 2018)
- Presentation before the Senate of Bolivia. The importance of having a Truth Commission. Experiences compared with other countries in the region. La Paz, Bolivia. (22 August 2017)

Acknowledgments:

AUTONOMOUS CITY OF BUENOS AIRES LEGISLATURE. Minutes of the 11th Ordinary Session - May 17, 2018

- DECLARATION 209/2018 Guest of Honor of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires shall be declared to Mr. Xavier Mena, Deputy Regional Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in South America, who will visit the City between the 6th and June 9 of the current year.
- Recognition by the Head of Mission a.i of MINUGUA, Juan Pablo Corlazzoli, for the work carried out in the liberation of a judge and her entourage who were held hostage for ten hours in a community in Rabinal, Baja Verapaz, Guatemala. September 21, 1999.

Books

- De Venezia a Xococ. Book of stories on the experience in the peace process in Guatemala 1995-2000. Editor: Abya-Yala 2000. ISBN 978998046685
- Llegamos Juntos a Paris. Editor: Abya-Yala
- Xocomil: Tales from Guatemala
- Joyas para vivirlas. Book dedicated to my son and daughters
- Bolivia: walking along the lines of her palm (photography book)

Languages:

Spanish. mother tongue

English: read, written and spoken

Italian: read, written and spoken

French: intermediate

German: intermediate

References

Michelle Bachelet: former UN High Commissioner on Human Rights and former President of the Republic of Chile

Alicia Barcena: former Executive Secretary of ECLAC and current Ambassador of Mexico in Chile

Ambassador José Valencia Amores. Former Chancellor of the Republic of Ecuador and current Ambassador to the World Trade Organization.

Jan Jarab: Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in South America.

Birgit Gerstenberg: Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in South America and current Resident Coordinator of the UN System in El Salvador.

Giovanna De Stefani. Journalist and sociologist.