

January 16, 2026

Mr. Jorge Meza  
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Secretary  
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
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United States

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RE: The People of the United States Virgin Islands  
P-769-25  
United States

Subject: **REQUEST FOR PROCEDURAL ADVANCEMENT AND FORMAL  
NOTATION OF STATE NON-RESPONSE — Petition P-769-25**

(Articles 30(2)–(3), 37, 39, and 41 of the Rules of Procedure)

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The African-Caribbean Reparations and Resettlement Alliance (ACRRA), on behalf of the People of the United States Virgin Islands (“Petitioners”), respectfully submits this Request for Procedural Advancement and Formal Notation of State Non-Response pursuant to Articles 30(2)–(3), 37, 39, and 41 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (“the Commission”).
2. This request is submitted in light of the continued failure of the United States of America (“the State”) to submit observations within the time periods prescribed by the Commission, notwithstanding formal notification of the petition and subsequent reminder correspondence issued by the Commission.
3. Petitioners submit this request in a cooperative procedural posture, with the purpose of enabling the Commission to proceed in accordance with its Rules where a State has declined to engage.

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## II. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

4. On 11 April 2025, the Executive Secretariat of the Commission formally received a petition submitted by ACRRA on behalf of the People of the United States Virgin

Islands. The petition was registered and assigned Petition No. P-769-25 and opened for processing in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

5. On 12 January 2025, Petitioners submitted a Proposed Friendly Settlement Agreement pursuant to Article 41 of the Rules of Procedure. The proposed agreement was expressly structured to be non-adjudicatory, non-prejudicial, and without admission of liability, and was submitted for the Commission's facilitation should the State elect to engage.
6. On 25 July 2025, the Executive Secretariat transmitted the pertinent parts of the petition to the State pursuant to Article 30(2) of the Rules of Procedure and requested that the State submit its observations within the applicable response period.
7. The State did not submit observations within the initial response period, nor did it request an extension within the limits prescribed by Article 30(3) of the Rules of Procedure.
8. On 14 January 2026, Petitioners submitted additional procedural filings, all of which were formally acknowledged and placed before the Commission. These filings included:
  - o an Expression of Willingness to Engage in Friendly Settlement pursuant to Article 41;
  - o a Notice of State Non-Response and Procedural Readiness;
  - o a Request for a Facilitated Technical Meeting (Closed); and
  - o a summary and full text of the Proposed Friendly Settlement Agreement.
9. On 16 January 2026, the Commission formally reiterated its request for information to the State, expressly noting the absence of any response.
10. As of the date of this submission, the State has not provided observations, responses, or procedural communications to the Commission concerning Petition No. P-769-25, nor has it engaged with the Friendly Settlement framework placed on the record by the Petitioners.
11. Petitioners have complied fully and continuously with the Commission's procedural requirements and have affirmatively indicated their availability to participate in all Commission-facilitated processes contemplated under the Rules of Procedure.

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### III. REQUEST FOR FORMAL NOTATION OF STATE NON-RESPONSE

12. Petitioners respectfully request that the Commission formally note in the record the State's failure to submit observations:
  - following the transmission of the petition pursuant to Article 30(2); and
  - following the Commission's subsequent reminder correspondence.

13. Petitioners submit that the persistence of State silence after formal notification and reminder is procedurally significant under the Rules of Procedure and relevant to the Commission's determination of the appropriate next steps.
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#### IV. REQUEST FOR PROCEDURAL ADVANCEMENT

14. In light of the State's continued non-response, Petitioners respectfully request that the Commission advance the petition procedurally in accordance with Articles 37 and 39 of the Rules of Procedure.
15. Petitioners do not seek extraordinary measures at this stage. Rather, they request that the Commission:
- proceed on the basis of the existing record;
  - consider the petition without further delay attributable to State silence; and
  - exercise its discretion under the Rules where a State has declined to engage.
16. Petitioners submit that advancement at this stage is consistent with the Commission's mandate to ensure the effective administration of justice and the orderly progression of petitions under its jurisdiction.
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#### V. CONDITIONAL WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN FRIENDLY SETTLEMENT

17. Petitioners reaffirm their willingness to engage in a Friendly Settlement process pursuant to Article 41 of the Rules of Procedure.
18. That willingness remains conditional upon meaningful State engagement, including participation in a Commission-facilitated technical session should the State elect to clarify its position and engage constructively.
19. Petitioners respectfully submit that a Friendly Settlement process cannot advance in the absence of any State response, and that continued State silence renders Commission facilitation impracticable at present.
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#### VI. CONCLUSION

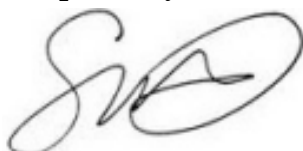
20. Petitioners submit this Request in a spirit of procedural cooperation and respect for the Commission's role.

21. Petitioners respectfully request that the Commission:

- a. Formally note the State's failure to respond in the record of Petition No. P-769-25;
- b. Advance the petition procedurally on the basis of the existing record, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure; and
- c. Maintain availability to facilitate a Friendly Settlement should the State elect to engage.

22. Petitioners remain available to provide any further information the Commission may require.

Respectfully submitted,



Shelley A. H. Moorhead, Petitioner  
President  
Caribbean Institute for a New Humanity (DBA ACRRA)  
On behalf of the People of the United States Virgin Islands