

Jessica Gonzales v. United States of America
**Hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human
Rights (IACHR)**

Friday, March 2, 2007
10:15 - 11:15 A.M.

“Padilha Vidal” Room
“Salon A” of GSB Building
Organization of American States
1889 F St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

In June 1999, Jessica Gonzales’ estranged husband abducted her three daughters, in violation of a domestic violence restraining order. Ms. Gonzales called and met with the police repeatedly to report the abduction and restraining order violation. Unfortunately, her calls went unheeded. Ten hours after her first call to the police, Ms. Gonzales’ estranged husband arrived at the police station and opened fire. The police immediately shot and killed Mr. Gonzales, and then discovered the murdered bodies of the Gonzales children – Leslie, 7, Katheryn, 8, and Rebecca, 10 – in the back of his pickup truck. Ms. Gonzales filed a lawsuit against the police, but in June 2005, the Supreme Court found that she had no constitutional right to police enforcement of her restraining order. In December 2005, Ms. Gonzales filed a petition with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, alleging that the police’s actions and the Supreme Court’s decision violated her human rights. This was the first individual complaint brought by a victim of domestic violence against the United States for human rights violations.

On March 2, 2007, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will hold a hearing in the case of *Jessica Gonzales v. United States*. Jessica Lenahan (formerly Gonzales) will be present and provide testimony at the IACHR Hearing. Ms. Gonzales is represented by the Columbia Law School Human Rights Clinic and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Human Rights Program (HRP) and Women’s Rights Project (WRP). The hearing will be open to the public.

Documents related to Ms. Gonzales’ case before the Inter-American Commission can be found at:

<http://www.law.columbia.edu/focusareas/clinics/humanrights#97614> and
<http://www.aclu.org/womensrights/violence/23287res20051230.html>.