

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION PROJECT

Lawyers for the Movement

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Guatemala DOS Report Comparison

2023 Report	2024 Report	Notes
Executive Summary		
<p>Significant human rights issues included credible reports of: cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment by the government; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; arbitrary arrest or detention; serious problems with the independence of the judiciary; transnational repression against individuals in another country; serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media freedom, including threats of violence against journalists and unjustified arrests or prosecutions of journalists; serious government corruption; serious government harassment of domestic and international human rights organizations; extensive gender-based violence, including femicide and other forms of such violence; crimes involving violence or threats of violence targeting members of Indigenous groups; crimes involving violence or threats of violence targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or intersex persons; crimes involving violence or threats of violence targeting persons with disabilities; and significant restrictions on workers' freedom of association, including violence and threats against union leaders.</p> <p>The government did not take credible steps to identify and punish officials who may have committed human rights abuses.</p>	<p>Significant human rights issues included credible reports of: arbitrary or unlawful killings; cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment; arbitrary arrest or detention; transnational repression against individuals in another country; serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media freedom, including violence or threats of violence against journalists and censorship; significant restrictions on workers' freedom of association; and violence and threats against labor activists or union members.</p> <p>The government took credible steps to identify and punish officials who committed human rights abuses; however, these steps were often restrained due to actions of the Public Ministry.</p>	<p>The 2024 report eliminated over half of the content from the 2023 report, including LGBTQ+ threats and violence, as well as harassment of domestic and international human rights organizations.</p> <p>2024 report adds "however, these steps were often restrained due to actions of the Public Ministry."</p>
Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person	Section 1. Life	2024 report has updated section headers.
a. Arbitrary Deprivation of Life and Other Unlawful or Politically Motivated Killings	a. Extrajudicial Killings	
<p>There were no reports that the government or its agents committed arbitrary or unlawful killings, including extrajudicial killings, during the year, but there were killings of activists under suspicious circumstances, and corrupt police were involved with violent criminal organizations responsible for killings.</p> <p>A national human rights organization alleged that several members of rural and Indigenous activist groups were killed or died in disputed circumstances between January and November. For example, on May 6, in a rural community of San Luis Jilotepeque, Jalapa, two activists were killed in what appeared to be a politically motivated incident. The victims, Nicolasa López Méndez and Victoria Méndez, were members of the Indigenous activist group Committee for Rural Development and also members of the Movement for the Liberation of Peoples political party. As of November, this case as well as others remained under investigation.</p> <p>No Similar Language in this Report</p>	<p>There were reports the government or its agents committed arbitrary or unlawful killings during the year.</p> <p>A national human rights organization alleged 20 rural and Indigenous activists were killed or died in disputed circumstances between January and August. For example, in May, two activists were killed in incidents that appeared to be motivated by their role as leaders in the rural community of Escuintla. The victims, José Domingo Montejo and Marcelo Yaxón, were members of the Committee of Rural Workers Unity. As of September, the case remained under investigation.</p>	<p>The 2024 report removes specific language; removing "extrajudicial killings... but there were killings of activists under suspicious circumstances, and corrupt police were involved with violent criminal organizations responsible for killing".</p> <p>The 2024 report removes specific language, changing "several members" to "members killed" to 20. These victims were reported between January and August, but the 2023 report lists them as reported between January and November. The two reports then go on to list an example, in both years, two activists were killed, and the cases remained under investigation.</p>
	b. Coercion in Population Control	The 2023 report does not mention coercion in Population Control.

No Similar Language in this Report	There were no official reports during the year of coerced abortion or involuntary sterilization on the part of government authorities.	The 2023 report does not mention coercion in Population Control.
No Similar Language in this Report	c. War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity, and Evidence of Acts that May Constitute Genocide, or Conflict-Related Abuses	The 2023 report does not mention War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity, and Evidence of Acts that May Constitute Genocide, or Conflict-Related Abuses.
No Similar Language in this Report	The Public Ministry continued investigating the genocide case involving high-ranking military officers Manuel Callejas y Callejas and Manuel Benedicto Lucas García. A trial scheduled to begin on January 9 was suspended due to appeals presented by the defense lawyers. On May 3, the High-Risk Court "A" declared that Callejas y Callejas was incompetent to face a criminal trial due to health problems. The trial against Manuel Benedicto Lucas García began on April 5. On August 10, Lucas García's legal defense filed a written recusal requesting to remove the judge, which led the case to be suspended for several weeks. On November 28, the First High-Risk Court of Appeals granted the recusal motion in the case accusing him of the massacre of dozens of persons from the Ixil region during the government of Romeo Lucas (1978-82). This nullified the trial, requiring it to restart under a different High-Risk Tribunal. Lawyers for the victims filed an appeal on December 10.	The 2023 report does not mention War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity, and Evidence of Acts that May Constitute Genocide, or Conflict-Related Abuses.
b. Disappearances	c. Disappearance and Abduction	
	Disappearance	
There were no reports of disappearances during the year by or on behalf of government authorities.	There were no reports of enforced disappearances during the year by or on behalf of government authorities.	The 2023 and 2024 reports document the same content.
The Public Ministry continued to investigate and prosecute cases of enforced disappearances from the internal armed conflict period, although at times Attorney General María Consuelo Porras stalled progress in cases of genocide and disappearances from that period.	The Public Ministry continued to investigate and prosecute cases of enforced disappearances from the internal armed conflict period.	The 2024 report removes, "...although at times Attorney General María Consuelo Porras stalled progress in cases of genocide and disappearances from that period".
	Section 3. Security of a Person	
c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and Other Related Abuses	a. Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2024 report removes "Other Related Abuses" from this section.
The law prohibited torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, but cases of prison officials' negligence that exposed prisoners to violence and degrading conditions were reported. For example, prior to his June conviction, José Rubén Zamora, president of daily newspaper El Periódico, was held in isolation for more than 10 months in "appalling conditions," according to Reporters Without Borders. According to media reports, Zamora lost 35 pounds during his pretrial detention and said he was subjected to psychological torture on several occasions.	The law prohibited torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, but cases of prison officials' negligence that exposed prisoners to violence and degrading conditions were reported. In August, special rapporteurs of the UN human rights system reported journalist, newspaper founder, and publisher José Rubén Zamora was subjected to 20 months of solitary confinement, potentially amounting to torture, and different forms of inhuman or degrading treatment, including being deprived of sleep, forced nudity, arbitrary cell searches, and a failure of authorities to respond to a mite infestation in his cell. The period of review of the UN report ended in January. His conditions improved after the new administration took office on January 15. In October, Zamora was released under house arrest, but on November 15, a court ordered his return to pretrial detention. Zamora remained under house arrest during the appeal of the November 15 ruling.	The 2023 report and the 2024 reports contain the same content, just providing different examples and documentation of the reports of violence.
The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) noted that documentation and reporting mechanisms for torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment remained weak, hindering a full understanding of the prevalence of the problem. International human rights organizations also noted many official complaints cited unsafe and cramped conditions at Federico Mora National Hospital for Mental Health, including cases of sexual and physical abuse of patients and the reported use of solitary confinement and coercive sterilization of women with disabilities. Most of these complaints remained unresolved.	The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights noted documentation and reporting mechanisms for torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment remained weak, hindering a full understanding of the prevalence of the problem. In past years, international human rights organizations also noted many official complaints cited unsafe and cramped conditions at Federico Mora National Hospital for Mental Health, including cases of sexual and physical abuse of patients and the reported use of solitary confinement.	The 2023 report and 2024 reports the same content, 2024 excludes, "and coercive sterilization of women with disabilities. Most of these complaints remained unresolved".
There were no confirmed reports of impunity in the military; however, public perception was that impunity within the National Civil Police (PNC) was widespread. The PNC removed dozens of officers for various disciplinary reasons, including bribery allegations.	Public perception was that impunity within the PNC for abuse of detainees was widespread. The PNC removed dozens of officers for various disciplinary reasons, including bribery allegations.	The 2023 and 2024 report documents the same content, the 2024 report removes "There were no confirmed reports of impunity in the military".
Prison and Detention Center Conditions	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removes the section on Prison and Detention Center Conditions and any related material.
Prison conditions were harsh and could be life threatening. Gross overcrowding, inadequate sanitation, poor medical care, failure of authorities to maintain control, and prisoner-on-prisoner violence and gang activity placed prisoners at significant risk.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removes the section on Prison and Detention Center Conditions and any related material.

<u>Abusive Physical Conditions:</u> Prison overcrowding was a problem. As of September, according to prison authorities, there were approximately 21,000 male inmates held in facilities designed to hold 7,045 persons, and almost 2,900 female inmates in facilities designed to hold 937 persons.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removes the section on Prison and Detention Center Conditions and any related material.
Sanitation facilities, medical care, ventilation, temperature control, and lighting were often inadequate. Prisoners had difficulty obtaining potable water, complained of inadequate food, and often had to pay for additional food. Illegal drug sales and use were widespread.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removes the section on Prison and Detention Center Conditions and any related material.
During the year, five inmates were killed in adult detention centers and six prison officials were killed. Four individuals were killed in a juvenile detention facility. Prison officials acknowledged safety and control problems, including escape attempts, gang fights, inability to control the flow of contraband goods into prisons, inmate possession of firearms and grenades, and the fabrication of weapons. Prisoners conducted criminal activity both inside and outside of prisons.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removes the section on Prison and Detention Center Conditions and any related material.
Media reported transnational criminal gangs and drug trafficking groups controlled major prisons. Despite efforts to separate gang leaders, the continuation of gang-related and coordinated killings in Fraijanes II prison suggested gang members were able to communicate across prisons and organize killings.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removes the section on Prison and Detention Center Conditions and any related material.
Media and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) reported women inmates faced physical and sexual abuse. Women inmates reported unnecessary body searches and verbal abuse by prison guards. Children younger than age four could live in prison with their mothers, but the penitentiary system provided inadequate food for young children, and many suffered from illness. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or intersex (LGBTQI+) rights groups stated other prisoners often sexually assaulted LGBTQI+ individuals and noted there were insufficient facilities to protect LGBTQI+ individuals in custody. NGOs claimed admittance procedures for LGBTQI+ prisoners were not implemented, citing particular concern regarding procedures for transgender individuals.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removes the section on Prison and Detention Center Conditions and any related material.
<u>Administration:</u> Authorities failed to investigate most credible allegations of mistreatment. Reports from inmates indicated complaints were rarely submitted due to threats by corrections officials.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removes the section on Prison and Detention Center Conditions and any related material.
<u>Independent Monitoring:</u> The government permitted visits by independent nongovernment observers.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removes the section on Prison and Detention Center Conditions and any related material.
d. Arbitrary Arrest or Detention	Prolonged Detention without Charges	
The law prohibited arbitrary arrest and detention, but there were credible reports of politically motivated arrests and deliberate denial of timely access to a magistrate and hearing. The law provided for the right of any person to challenge the lawfulness of their detention in court.	The law prohibited arbitrary arrest and detention, but there were credible reports of politically motivated arrests and deliberate denial of timely access to a magistrate and hearing. The law provided for the right of any person to challenge the lawfulness of their detention in court.	The 2023 and 2024 reports document the same content.
Arrest Procedures and Treatment of Detainees		
The law required presentation of a court-issued warrant to a suspect prior to arrest unless police apprehended a suspect in the act of committing a crime. By law, police could not detain a suspect for more than six hours without bringing the case before a judge. Authorities did not regularly respect this right. After arraigning suspects, the prosecutor generally had three months to complete the investigation if the defendant was in pretrial detention and six months to complete the investigation if the defendant was granted house arrest. The law prohibited the execution of warrants between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless the government had declared a state of siege. The law provided for access to lawyers and for accused individuals and their attorneys to be granted access to evidence and to review the accusation before the first hearing; however, in certain cases, prosecutors denied access to the accused's file. The government provided legal representation for indigent detainees. A judge had the discretion to determine whether bail or other mechanisms, such as monitoring via ankle bracelets, were permissible for pretrial detainees.	The law required police to present a court-issued warrant to a suspect prior to arrest unless apprehending a suspect in the act of committing a crime. By law, police could not detain a suspect for more than six hours without bringing the case before a judge. Authorities did not regularly respect this right. Lengthy pretrial detention was a problem, and pretrial detainees represented nearly half of the prison population. The law established a one-year maximum for pretrial detention, regardless of the stage of the criminal proceeding, but the court had the legal authority to extend pretrial detention without limits as necessary. Authorities regularly held detainees past their legal trial-or-release date. Lengthy investigations and frequent procedural motions by both defense and prosecution often delayed trials for months or years.	2024 report under the section of Prolonged Detention without Charges.

<p>Arbitrary Arrest: The number of illegal, or even legal, detentions was difficult to determine, as many lesser arrests ended with detainees bribing police to release them, even after being detained. Reports indicated police sometimes ignored writs of habeas corpus in cases of illegal detention, particularly during neighborhood antigang operations.</p>	No similar language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Arbitrary Arrest.
<p>Pretrial Detention: Lengthy pretrial detention was a problem. The law established a one-year maximum for pretrial detention, regardless of the stage of the criminal proceeding, but the court had the legal authority to extend pretrial detention without limits as necessary. Authorities regularly held detainees past their legal trial-or-release date. Lengthy investigations and frequent procedural motions by both defense and prosecution often delayed trials for months or years. Former President Otto Pérez Molina was in pretrial detention from 2015 due to indictments in two corruption cases until his December 2022 conviction. On August 22, a judge authorized house arrest for Pérez in exchange for paying a fine of approximately 10.2 million quetzales (\$1.3 million). On September 6, Pérez accepted the charges, including accusations of corruption in one case. On October 30, he was sentenced to pay 4.1 million quetzales (\$523,000) in reparations in one of the cases. As of November, Pérez had not paid the original fine or reparations and remained in detention.</p>	No similar language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Pretrial Detention.
<p>Observers noted the slow pace of investigations and lack of judicial resources hampered efforts to reduce pretrial detention and illegal incarceration. Authorities did not release some prisoners even after the prisoners completed their full sentences, due to the failure of judges to issue the necessary court order or other bureaucratic delays.</p>	Observers noted the slow pace of investigations and lack of judicial resources hampered efforts to reduce pretrial detention and illegal incarceration. Authorities did not release some prisoners even after the prisoners completed their full sentences, due to the failure of judges to issue the necessary court order or other bureaucratic delays.	The 2023 and 2024 reports document the same content.
<p>e. Denial of Fair Public Trial</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removed the section on Denial of Fair Public Trial.
<p>The law provided for an independent judiciary, but the government generally did not respect judicial independence and impartiality. The judicial system generally failed to provide fair or timely trials due to inefficiency, corruption, and intimidation of judges. The Public Ministry, however, rapidly obtained warrants for the arrest of former and sitting anti-corruption prosecutors, just days after receiving legal complaints against them. Some of these complaints were filed by individuals and organizations with a history of threatening justice officials. Judges delayed proceedings so that the same anti-corruption prosecutors were held in pretrial detention beyond what the law allowed. Civil society representatives cited these actions as evidence of inconsistent application of legal proceedings and political manipulation of the justice system.</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removed the section on Denial of Fair Public Trial.
<p>Plaintiffs, witnesses, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, civil society representatives, and politicians continued to report threats, intimidation, and surveillance.</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removed the section on Denial of Fair Public Trial.
<p>Trial Procedures</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the section on Trial Procedures.
<p>International and domestic observers considered the number of judges insufficient. Lack of personnel, training, and evidence hampered Public Ministry prosecutors' ability to bring cases to trial</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the section on Trial Procedures.
<p>Political Prisoners and Detainees</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the section on Political Prisoners and Detainees.
<p>Amnesty International declared Laparra a 'prisoner of conscience'</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the section on Political Prisoners and Detainees.
<p>f. Transnational Repression</p>	e. Instances of Transnational Repression	
<p>The Public Ministry reportedly continued legal proceedings against former high-level officials who were located outside of the country, including former FECCI Head Prosecutor Juan Francisco Sandoval, fellow prosecutors and attorneys, former judges, human rights defenders, and other officials, and continued to harass and repress the former officials and their families.</p>	The Public Ministry continued legal proceedings against former high-level officials who were located outside the country, including Juan Francisco Sandoval, former head prosecutor of the Special Anti-Impunity Prosecutor's Office, fellow prosecutors and attorneys, former judges, human rights defenders, and other officials, and continued to harass and repress the former officials and their families.	The 2023 and 2024 reports document the same content.

<p><u>Threats, Harassment, Surveillance, and Coercion</u>: Former Attorney General Thelma Aldana and her husband, an appellate court magistrate, were under investigation for money laundering in a case that anti-corruption organizations characterized as politically motivated. Thelma Aldana left the country in 2019 after authorities issued an arrest warrant for her. Aldana cooperated and worked closely with the UN-backed CICIG during her term as attorney general in 2014-18.</p>	<p>No similar language in this report.</p>	<p>The 2024 report does not mention Threats, Harassment, Surveillance, and Coercion.</p>
<p><u>Misuse of International Law Enforcement Tools</u>: The Public Ministry announced in 2022 that it had initiated extradition requests for Sandoval and for Aldana; observers considered these requests to be politically motivated. Sandoval received asylum in the United States in September</p>	<p>Misuse of International Law Enforcement Tools</p> <p>In June, the Public Ministry announced it requested INTERPOL issue arrest warrants for former human rights ombudsman Jordan Rodas and other individuals implicated in a case involving the occupation of the University of San Carlos of Guatemala in 2022. In August, Rodas, in self-exile outside the country, requested the annulment of migration alerts against him due to errors in his citizen identification data and the false allegations against him. Anti-corruption organizations characterized his case as politically motivated.</p>	<p>While the 2023 report highlights politically motivated extradition requests against anti-corruption prosecutors like Sandoval and Aldana, the 2024 report shows this pattern expanding through INTERPOL alerts and migration warnings targeting additional critics such as former ombudsman Jordan Rodas</p>
<p>No Similar Language in this Report</p>	<p>Efforts to Control Mobility</p>	<p>The 2023 report does not mention Efforts to Control Mobility.</p>
<p>No Similar Language in this Report</p>	<p>Self-exiled Guatemalans reported experiencing problems obtaining or renewing national identity documents overseas.</p>	<p>The 2023 report does not mention Efforts to Control Mobility.</p>
<p>g. Property Seizure and Restitution</p>	<p>No similar language in this report.</p>	<p>The 2024 report does not mention Property Seizure and Restitution</p>
<p>Negotiations between the government and families affected by the construction of the Chixoy hydroelectric dam continued but were characterized by NGOs as being conducted in bad faith. No progress was made in the collective reparations.</p>	<p>No similar language in this report.</p>	<p>The 2024 report does not mention Property Seizure and Restitution</p>
<p>h.Arbitrary or Unlawful Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, or Correspondence</p>	<p>No similar language in this report.</p>	<p>The 2024 report does not mention Arbitrary or Unlawful Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, or Correspondence.</p>
<p>As of September 15, the Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders – Guatemala (UDEFEQUA) registered at least 25 reports of digital harassment against families, including children, of sitting and former high-level officials. These officials were also the subjects of surveillance and threats of violence.</p>	<p>No similar language in this report.</p>	<p>The 2024 report does not mention Arbitrary or Unlawful Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, or Correspondence.</p>
<p>Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties</p>	<p>Section 2. Liberty</p>	
<p>a. Freedom of Expression, Including for Members of the Press and Other Media</p>	<p>a. Freedom of the Press</p>	<p>The 2024 report changes the subtitle name.</p>
<p>The law provided for freedom of expression, including for members of the press and other media, but the government did not always respect this right. Intimidation of journalists increased during the year and resulted in significant self-censorship.</p>	<p>The law provided for freedom of expression, including for members of the press and other media, and the government generally respected this right, although intimidation of journalists by the Public Ministry, police, the judiciary, and internet trolls continued during the year and resulted in significant self-censorship.</p>	<p>The 2024 changes the wording from "...but the government did not always respect this right" from the 2023 report to "...the government generally respected this right...". The 2023 report states that intimidation has increased in the year, while the 2024 report states that intimidation continues.</p>
<p><u>Violence and Harassment</u>: Pressure on leading independent outlets, journalists, and justice defenders increased sharply, especially on those who were outspoken on high-level corruption, as well as actions by malign actors, the military, criminal organizations, and regional and national authorities who regained power during the Giammattei administration. Many journalists reported being harassed, prosecuted, or having to flee the country after publishing work that was critical of influential citizens. Members of the press reported receiving pressure, threats, and retribution from public officials and criminal organizations regarding the content of their reporting. Online attacks against independent journalists and media outlets continued throughout the year. These included hacking journalists' private social media accounts, publishing stolen or falsified personal information, and conducting apparently coordinated attempts to undermine specific journalists and media.</p>	<p>Pressure on leading independent outlets, journalists, and justice defenders decreased sharply with the Arévalo administration. The executive branch (except for the independent Public Ministry) was open toward journalists, with officials more receptive to interviews and requests for information. Restrictions on recording inside the National Palace ceased; however, other institutions, such as the Public Ministry and the judiciary, as well as some members of congress, continued to exercise limitations on journalistic work and continued to threaten and criminalize journalists.</p>	<p>The 2024 report under "Physical Attacks, Imprisonment, and Pressure". The 2024 documents show improvement in relations between the executive branch and journalists, the opposite of 2023, when it was reported that journalists were being harassed and persecuted unfairly.</p>
<p>During the first seven months of the year, the Journalists Observatory of the Association of Journalists of Guatemala registered 120 abuses of freedom of expression, including violence and restrictions against journalists. UDEFEGUA registered 393 attacks against journalists and communicators during the same period, compared with 51 attacks during the first six months of 2022.</p>	<p>During the first quarter of the year, the Journalists Observatory of the Association of Journalists of Guatemala registered 22 abuses of freedom of expression, including judicial harassment, threats, defamation, attempted homicide, intimidation, and blocking access to a source of information by law enforcement agents, the Public Ministry, and the judiciary.</p>	<p>From the Journalists' Observatory of the Association of Journalists of Guatemala, the number of abuses of freedom of expression went from 120 (2023 report) to 22. Shows a significant decrease in reported abuse.</p>

According to media rights advocates, attempts to limit freedom of expression undertaken by the Public Ministry and the FECl included spurious lawsuits, subpoenas, telephone confiscations, and the execution of search warrants and home searches of media members and justice defenders. These actions prompted at least 30 journalists to flee the country as of September 10, half of them in the last week of March.	According to media rights advocates, attempts to limit freedom of expression undertaken by the Public Ministry included spurious lawsuits, subpoenas, telephone confiscations, and the execution of search warrants and home searches of media members and justice defenders. On April 27, the Association of Journalists of Guatemala reported congressman Oswaldo Rosales from Vamos Party forced two journalists to stop recording him as he entered a meeting with President Arévalo in Quetzaltenango.	The 2024 report under "Physical Attacks, Imprisonment, and Pressure". The 2023 report documents 30 journalists having to flee the country due to harassment and violence, while the 2024 report only shows that two journalists had to stop recording Congressman Oswaldo Rosales (none having to flee the country).
<u>Censorship or Content Restrictions for Members of the Press and Other Media, Including Online Media:</u> According to media advocates, tactics used by the government to pressure media included denying registration or licensing of service providers to independent media, cutting off public advertising revenue, deterring private-sector advertising contracts, and carrying out coordinated character attacks on and intimidation of journalists via "name and threaten" messaging by antidemocratic online trolls. In addition, the government banned the sale of two books written by journalists that advocates said exposed government corruption. The Association of Journalists of Guatemala stated the intention of the government was to suppress social auditing, public criticism, and journalistic investigations that exposed acts of corruption, nepotism, and payment of favors. Some companies decreased their media advertising to exert pressure on media against reporting corruption, resulting in media outlets becoming less independent.	Following the transition to the Arévalo administration, the executive branch made a concerted effort to expand freedom of expression and improve the media environment, including by reopening the press pen at the Presidential Palace and issuing regular, open invitations for the press to witness events and ask questions in press conferences. The president requested an official visit to the country by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) rapporteur on freedom of expression. The IACHR carried out an on-site visit in July to verify the impacts of the weakening of democratic institutions and judicial independence in the country, the first such visit in seven years. Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Pedro Vaca Villarreal noted a generalized fear in society to deliberate on issues of public interest and added that on many occasions, this fear was transferred to media.	The 2024 report under "Effort to Preserve the Independence of the Media".
<u>Non Governmental Impact:</u> Criminal groups exert influence over media outlets and reporters by frequently threatening individuals for reporting on criminal activities. Reporters covering criminal groups, including their links to corrupt public officials, acknowledged practicing self-censorship due to the danger that investigative journalism created for them and their families.	Criminal groups exerted influence on media outlets and reporters by frequently threatening individuals for reporting on criminal activities. Reporters covering criminal groups, including their links to corrupt public officials, acknowledged practicing self-censorship due to the danger investigative journalism created for them and their families.	The 2024 report under "Censorship by Governments, Military, Intelligence, or Police Forces, Criminal Groups, or Armed Extremist or Rebel Groups". The 2023 and 2024 reports document the same content.
No Similar Language in this Report	The non governmental organization (NGO) UDEFEGUA registered 12 attacks against journalists and communicators during the first six months of the year, compared with 393 attacks during the first seven months of 2023.	The 2024 report under "Physical Attacks, Imprisonment, and Pressure". The 2024 report documents a significant decrease in registered attacks against journalists, going from 393 (2023 report) to only 12.
Internet Freedom	No similar language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Internet Freedom or any related content.
UDEFEGUA stated online trolls were the most common perpetrators of online abuses against human rights defenders, journalists, judges, and prosecutors.	No similar language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Internet Freedom or any related content.
Journalists and digital media experts reported government institutions, private-sector representatives, and other far-right political groups were responsible for funding or managing internet troll handles. These reportedly antidemocratic online actors published personal information, such as identification documents, travel tickets, and photographs of relatives. They also published judicial rulings, complaints, and legal filings from the Public Ministry before the ministry officially filed such actions. The online actions created disinformation and intimidated the targeted individuals, according to experts	According to media advocates, restrictions on contractual bidding for radio frequencies and broadcast time allowed for the monopolization of media communications, particularly radio and television, limiting the space for diverse reporting. Dependence on private-sector funding with strong business or political interests also influenced reporting. Some companies decreased their media advertising to exert pressure on media against reporting corruption, resulting in media outlets becoming less independent.	The 2024 report under, "Censorship by Governments, Military, Intelligence, or Police Forces, Criminal Groups, or Armed Extremist or Rebel Groups". In 2023, experts emphasized how coordinated online intimidation and disinformation campaigns undermined independent journalism, while in 2024, media advocates highlighted how structural pressures, like monopolized broadcast access and advertising-based coercion, further weakened media independence.
b. Freedoms of Peaceful Assembly and Association	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated the section on Freedoms of Peaceful Assembly and Association.
Freedom of Peaceful Assembly	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated the Peaceful Assembly section.
Freedom of Association	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the section on Freedom of Association.
Some NGOs claimed the government used the law to create large, sudden costs for NGOs, such as by requesting surprise audits. These organizations reported such government actions increased their operation costs, especially regarding administrative fees for financial reports.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the section on Freedom of Association.
c. Freedom of Religion	d. Violations in Religious Freedom	
d. Freedom of Movement and the Right to Leave the Country	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report moves the Freedom of Movement and the Right to Leave the Country section.
e. Protection of Refugees	c. Protection to Refugees	

The government cooperated with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other international organizations in providing protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees, returning refugees, and asylum seekers, as well as other persons of concern.	The government cooperated with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other international organizations in providing protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees, returning refugees, and asylum seekers, as well as other persons of concern.	The 2023 and 2024 reports document the same content.
	Provision of First Asylum	
<u>Access to Asylum:</u> The law provided for the granting of asylum or refugee status, and the government had established a system for receiving and adjudicating asylum claims to grant refugee status to qualifying individuals. There were gaps and shortcomings in the procedures for implementing the legal framework. Recommendations on recognition were formulated by an inter ministerial process, whose complexity contributed to major delays on final case decisions and an increased backlog. Identification and referral mechanisms for potential asylum seekers were inadequate, and requirements to travel to Guatemala City for the initial asylum interview limited access.	The law provided for the granting of asylum or refugee status, and the government had a system for receiving and adjudicating asylum claims to grant refugee status to qualifying individuals.	The 2024 report removes content on shortcomings in the procedures for implementing the legal framework and the recommendations that flow from that.
<u>Access to Basic Services:</u> The validity of documentation for asylum seekers and refugees, issued by the Civil Registry, was not fully recognized, hampering their access to public and private services. Access to health care was limited due to capacity or availability of health-service providers, and barriers persisted in the education system as school administrators continued to request academic documentation from the country of origin, despite legal provisions stating this was not required.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removed the Access to Basic Services section.
f. Status and Treatment of Internally Displaced Person (IDPs)	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the Status and Treatment of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) section.
Women, youth, and LGBTQI+ individuals, as well as Indigenous populations, were at heightened risk of displacement.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the Status and Treatment of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) section.
Section 3. Freedom to Participate in the Political Process	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the entire Section 3 on Freedom to Participate in the Political Process, along with all related content.
Elections and Political Participation	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the entire Section 3 on Freedom to Participate in the Political Process, along with all related content.
The constitution provided citizens the ability to choose their government in free and fair periodic elections held by secret ballot and based on nearly universal and equal suffrage for those age 18 and older. Members of the armed forces, police, and incarcerated individuals were not eligible to vote.		The 2024 report removes the entire Section 3 on Freedom to Participate in the Political Process, along with all related content.
<u>Participation of Women and Members of Marginalized or Vulnerable Groups:</u> Discrimination, institutional bias, and difficulty traveling to polling places in rural areas limited participation of women and members of Indigenous groups. Cultural practices and beliefs, such as Indigenous perspectives regarding state institutions, decision-making processes at the community versus national level, and language barriers and lack of translation services from Spanish to Indigenous languages also limited participation of Indigenous groups.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the entire Section 3 on Freedom to Participate in the Political Process, along with all related content.
<u>Participation of Women and Members of Marginalized or Vulnerable Groups:</u> Discrimination, institutional bias, and difficulty traveling to polling places in rural areas limited participation of women and members of Indigenous groups. Cultural practices and beliefs, such as Indigenous perspectives regarding state institutions, decision-making processes at the community versus national level, and language barriers and lack of translation services from Spanish to Indigenous languages also limited participation of Indigenous groups.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the entire Section 3 on Freedom to Participate in the Political Process, along with all related content.
Section 4. Corruption in Government	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the entire Section 4 on Corruption in Government.

<p>The law provided criminal penalties for corruption by officials, but the government did not implement the law effectively. Despite numerous allegations of corruption in all branches of the government, few high-level cases were investigated, and anti-corruption efforts within the judiciary stalled. Prominent anti-corruption prosecutors were arrested, fired, or removed from significant cases, and corrupt actors threatened independent judges by filing complaints based on spurious charges to strip the judges of immunity to prosecution.</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the entire Section 4 on Corruption in Government.
<p>Corruption: CICIG brought many corruption cases to the Public Ministry for prosecution that had been dismantled in recent years, including through various actions. For example, an appellate court authorized house arrest for former Minister of Communications Alejandro Sinibaldi in the “Transurbano” corruption case, and the FECl declined to appeal the decision. In the other two cases against him, “Odebrecht” and “Cooptation of the State,” a judge dismissed the previous convictions in the cases for lack of evidence in one case and granted house arrest in the other.</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the entire Section 4 on Corruption in Government.
<p>Section 5. Governmental Posture Towards International and Nongovernmental Monitoring and Investigation of Alleged Abuses of Human Rights</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removed the entire section 5 on Governmental Posture Towards International and Non-governmental Monitoring and Investigation of Alleged Abuses of Human Rights.
<p>A variety of domestic and international human rights groups generally operated without government restriction to monitor or investigate human rights conditions or cases and publish their findings. Many of these groups, however, were the subject of harassment and threats, and they faced pressure and attacks from political actors.</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removed the entire section 5 on Governmental Posture Towards International and Non-governmental Monitoring and Investigation of Alleged Abuses of Human Rights.
<p>Retribution against Human Rights Defenders: Several NGOs, human rights workers, and trade unionists reported being targets of intimidation, threats, and violence. An international human rights organization reported two killings of human rights defenders, while UDEFEGUA reported 2,595 threatening messages and other harassment, including instances of violence and threats of violence, against human rights defenders from January to June, compared with 589 attacks in the same period in 2022. More than half of the attacks were against prosecutors and defense lawyers. NGOs asserted the government did little to investigate the reports or prevent further incidents.</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removed the entire section 5 on Governmental Posture Towards International and Non-governmental Monitoring and Investigation of Alleged Abuses of Human Rights.
<p>"NGOs reported the government, political groups, and private entities used threats of legal action as a form of intimidation. Members of the Foundation against Terrorism, an NGO known to target anti-corruption and human rights defenders, filed civil and criminal complaints against human rights NGOs that sought to create government accountability for human rights abuses during the internal armed conflict" (32)</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	- 2023 report: under subsection "retribution against human rights defenders". The 2024 report removed the entire section 5 on Governmental Posture Towards International and Non-governmental Monitoring and Investigation of Alleged Abuses of Human Rights.
<p>Government Human Rights Bodies: The congressionally appointed director of the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH) monitored human rights and reported to congress. In August 2022, a new director, Jose Alejandro Córdova Herrera, took office. NGOs generally considered the PDH was no longer independent and stated it was more effective under former director Jordan Rodas.</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removed the entire section 5 on Governmental Posture Towards International and Non-governmental Monitoring and Investigation of Alleged Abuses of Human Rights.
<p>Women</p>	No similar language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Women.
<p>Rape and Domestic Violence: The law criminalized rape of women and men, including spousal rape and domestic or intimate partner rape. The law did not specifically criminalize so-called corrective rape of LGBTQI+ persons. The law set penalties between eight and 12 years, and up to 50 years in prison if the victim died because of rape. The law established penalties for femicide at 25 to 50 years in prison without the possibility of reducing the sentence. Observers noted femicide remained a significant problem. The law established penalties of five to 12 years in prison for gender-based violence, including physical, economic, and psychological violence.</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated the section on Rape and Domestic Violence.
<p>Police had minimal training and capacity to investigate sexual crimes or assist survivors of such crimes, and the government did not enforce the law effectively. Rape, other sexual offenses, and other forms of gender-based violence were widespread and serious problems.</p>	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated the section on Rape and Domestic Violence.

Women with disabilities and members of the LGBTQI+ community with disabilities remained at greater risk of being victims of continued sexual violence. Most persons with disabilities, especially women, did not report violence and abuse because the reporting processes were complex and discriminated against them. State and local agencies did not receive specialized training for law enforcement personnel working with vulnerable groups.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report eliminated the section on Rape and Domestic Violence.
<u>Other Forms of Gender-based Violence or Harassment:</u> Although several laws referred to sexual harassment, no single law, including laws against sexual violence, addressed sexual harassment directly. Human rights organizations reported sexual harassment was widespread.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removed the section on Other Forms of Gender-based Violence or Harassment.
<u>Discrimination:</u> The constitution established the principle of gender equality, stating that all individuals were equal and had the same rights and that men and women enjoyed the same opportunities and responsibilities. The law established equal pay for women and men in government offices by prohibiting differences in pay based on “personal identity,” but the law did not prohibit discrimination based on gender in the private sector. There were laws that restricted women from working in certain sectors, including in jobs deemed morally inappropriate. Women were less likely to hold management positions. The labor code stipulated that women or children who performed agricultural work should be guaranteed the same rights as men; however, it remained a common practice for men to bring their spouse and children to participate in agricultural work, with the employer paying a single salary to the male head-of-household for the family’s work. Employment discrimination was common both in hiring and employment practices. The law did not prohibit gender discrimination in access to credit. The government did little to enforce gender equality laws effectively.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removed the section on Discrimination (gender-related).
<u>Reproductive Rights:</u> There were no official reports during the year of coerced abortion or involuntary sterilization on the part of government authorities. Forced sterilization, such as those performed by government personnel at the Federico Mora psychiatric hospital, was purportedly common for persons with disabilities, but reporting on this was rare, according to the OHCHR.	No similar language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Reproductive Rights or any related content.
The Reproductive and Sexual Health Observatory reported that as of September, there were 48,242 births to adolescent mothers, including 1,779 to mothers ages 10-14, and 46,463 to mothers ages 15-19. One half of the births occurred in five departments (Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, Huehuetenango, Quiche, and San Marcos), most of them with high rates of malnutrition, poverty, and concentrated populations of Indigenous persons. In departments with large Indigenous populations, poverty and chronic malnutrition rose to nearly 80 percent, where public spending and access to social services was half that of non-Indigenous areas. According to the observatory, many pregnancies were a result of rape by a relative, which survivors were reluctant to report.	No similar language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Reproductive Rights or any related content.
Systemic Racial or Ethnic Violence and Discrimination	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removed the section on Systemic Racial or Ethnic Violence and Discrimination.
The constitution provided for protections against discrimination based on race or ethnic group, and the law provided for a penalty of one to three years’ imprisonment and a fine for acts of discrimination. Other efforts to combat discrimination included litigation instructions from the Public Ministry for discrimination crimes. The government generally did not effectively enforce laws against discrimination.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removed the section on Systemic Racial or Ethnic Violence and Discrimination.
There were no laws, policies, or state programs that specifically contributed to the reduction of racism, according to international human rights organizations. The executive branch lacked a coordinated approach to address poverty and unemployment concentrated mainly in Afro-descendant and Indigenous communities, although there were some government programs directed at the needs of these populations.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removed the section on Systemic Racial or Ethnic Violence and Discrimination.
Indigenous Peoples	No similar language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Indigenous Peoples.
According to the OHCHR, there was a significant increase in attacks and incidents of defamation and intimidation against Indigenous defenders of Indigenous land, territory rights, and natural resources.	No similar language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Indigenous Peoples.

<p>Indigenous lands were not effectively demarcated, making the legal recognition of titles to the land problematic. Indigenous representatives claimed business and other actors in several regional development projects failed to consult meaningfully with local communities. In some cases, Indigenous communities were not able to participate in decisions affecting the exploitation of resources in their communities or areas considered sacred according to Indigenous ancestral beliefs. They also lacked effective mechanisms for dialogue with the state to resolve conflicts.</p>	No similar language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Indigenous Peoples.
<p>Indigenous communities were underrepresented in national politics and remained largely outside the political, economic, social, and cultural mainstream. This was mainly due to limited educational opportunities (contrary to law), limited communication regarding Indigenous rights, and pervasive discrimination. Government agencies dedicated to supporting Indigenous rights lacked political support. These factors contributed to disproportionate poverty and malnutrition among most Indigenous populations.</p>	No similar language in this report.	The 2024 report does not mention Indigenous Peoples.
<p>According to a 2020 report by the Ministry of Health, the maternal mortality rate in Indigenous communities was 156 per 100,000 live births, compared with the national average of 108 per 100,000 live births. As of May, one-half of maternal deaths occurred in four departments (Huehuetenango, Guatemala, Quiché, and Alta Verapaz), most of them in rural and dispersed areas with high rates of malnutrition, poverty, and concentrated populations of Indigenous persons. From January to May, the Ministry of Health reported 109 maternal deaths and noted areas with high concentrations of Indigenous persons had the highest proportion, nearly half, of maternal deaths nationwide. Factors such as the lack of medical services available in their native language for speakers of Indigenous languages and the lack of providers and equipment in remote areas played a role in these deaths.</p>	No similar language in this report.	- 2023 report: under subsection "reproductive rights". The 2024 report does not mention Indigenous Peoples.
Children	b. Protection of Children	
<p><u>Birth Registration</u>: Birth registration discriminated against rural populations, where there were few government registry offices or modern health-care facilities. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees reported problems in registering births were especially acute in Indigenous communities due to inadequate government registration and documentation systems. Midwives reported registry offices refused to register some births when it was attended by a midwife. Lack of registration restricted children's access to some public services and created conditions that could lead to statelessness.</p>	No Similar Language in this Report.	The 2024 report does not mention Birth Registration.
<p><u>Education</u>: International observers noted that in rural communities, boys were prioritized for high school education due to the problems of traveling long distances to school and the perceived value of girls in the home.</p>	No Similar Language in this Report.	The 2024 report does not mention Education.
<p><u>Child Abuse</u>: The law prohibited child abuse. The government enforced the law effectively. Child abuse remained a serious problem. A unit under the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Crimes against Children and Adolescents handled child abuse cases. The Public Ministry had an integrated 24-hour care model providing medical, psychosocial, and legal support to children and adolescent victims of violence. According to NGOs, a consequence of high rates of abuse was an increasing number of adolescent pregnancies.</p>	No Similar Language in this Report.	The 2024 report does not mention Child Abuse.
<p><u>Child, Early, and Forced Marriage</u>: The legal age for marriage was 18. The government did not enforce the law effectively.</p>	Child Marriage: The legal age for marriage was 18. The government did not enforce the law effectively.	The 2023 and 2024 reports document the same content.
<p><u>Sexual Exploitation of Children</u>: The law prohibited the sale, grooming, or use of children for commercial sexual exploitation, including sex trafficking, and stipulated sentences ranging from 13 to 24 years in prison, depending on the victim's age, for engaging in sex with a child. The government did not always enforce the law. The minimum age of consensual sex was 18. The law defined sexual relations with a person younger than 14 as rape.</p>	No Similar Language in this Report.	The 2024 report does not mention Sexual Exploitation of Children.
<p>The law prohibited child pornography and established penalties of six to 10 years in prison for producing, promoting, and selling child pornography, and two to four years' imprisonment for possessing it. The commercial sexual exploitation of children, including child sex tourism, remained a problem, including in privately operated orphanages.</p>	No Similar Language in this Report.	The 2024 report does not mention Sexual Exploitation of Children.

Antisemitism	d. Acts of Antisemitism and Antisemitic Incitement	
The Jewish population was approximately 1,500 persons. Jewish community representatives reported no antisemitic incidents as of November.	The Jewish population was approximately 1,500 persons. Jewish community representatives reported no antisemitic incidents as of September. In July, the government endorsed the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism.	The 2023 and 2024 reports document the same content. 2024 report adds the government endorsed the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism.
Trafficking in Persons	e. Trafficking in Persons	
Acts of Violence, Criminalization, and Other Abuses Based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or Expression, or Sex Characteristics	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the section on Acts of Violence, Criminalization, and Other Abuses Based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or Expression, or Sex Characteristics.
<u>Violence and Harassment:</u> Violence against LGBTQI+ persons remained a persistent issue. According to the 2022 annual report from the human rights NGO Lambda Association, there were 147 cases of violence against LGBTQI+ persons in which the violence could plausibly be linked to the victims' sexual orientation or gender identity. According to the report, LGBTQI+ activists and gay and transgender individuals often experienced police abuse. For example, LGBTQI+ human rights groups stated police regularly extorted and harassed male and transgender individuals who they alleged were sex workers. Lambda and other LGBTQI+ rights organizations reported police did not fully investigate hate crimes and violence against LGBTQI+ persons.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the section on Violence and Harassment (against LGBTQI+ persons).
The law did not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender expression, or sex characteristics and did not recognize LGBTQI+ individuals, couples, or their families.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	- 2023 report: under subsection "discrimination". The 2024 report removes the section on Violence and Harassment (against LGBTQI+ persons).
According to the PDH, the most frequently reported violations were employment discrimination and harassment. The PHD also reported LGBTQI+ prisoners faced discrimination accessing justice or receiving visits based on their sexual identity.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	- 2023 report: under subsection "discrimination". The 2024 report removes the section on Violence and Harassment (against LGBTQI+ persons).
LGBTQI+ individuals faced substantial obstacles in fully exercising their political and civic rights. In the rural Western Highlands, discrimination intersected with high levels of poverty and lack of opportunities. In the context of the elections, these problems increased due to increased anti-LGBTQI+ commentary by some political leaders and electoral candidates. Local NGOs reported that during the first and second round of elections, voting station officials sometimes requested electoral observers representing LGBTQI+ civil society organizations to provide additional credentials beyond the ones granted by the TSE. PDH officials successfully intervened in favor of the observers.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	- 2023 report: under subsection "discrimination". The 2024 report removes the section on Violence and Harassment (against LGBTQI+ persons).
LGBTQI+ advocates pointed to structural problems, such as gender-identity document requirements and general societal discrimination, that created internal displacement, discrimination, sexual exploitation, and child abuse among members of the LGBTQI+ community.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	- 2023 report: under subsection "discrimination". The 2024 report removes the section on Violence and Harassment (against LGBTQI+ persons).
There was general societal discrimination against LGBTQI+ persons in access to education, health care, employment, and housing. The government made minimal efforts to address this discrimination. Local experts on sexual diversity issues said the government did not publish official medical guidance or standards on hormone therapy for gender transition therapies. Hence, these therapies were unregulated in the private sector and posed risks for transgender persons considering physiological transition therapies. There were also no publicly provided gender transition therapies in government medical facilities.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	- 2023 report: under subsection "discrimination". The 2024 report removes the section on Violence and Harassment (against LGBTQI+ persons).
<u>Availability of Legal Gender Recognition:</u> Individuals could not self-identify gender for official documents. Their gender assigned at birth and showing on their birth certificate was their gender on their official documents. Government-issued national identification cards used to access basic services and education resources did not allow transgender persons to receive identification cards with their chosen names or gender identification. Without identification that reflected the name and gender under which they lived, transgender persons were denied many government services.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the section on Availability of Legal Gender Recognition.

<u>Involuntary or Coercive Medical or Psychological Practices</u> : LGBTQI+ activists and investigative journalists reported there was an active network of “conversion therapy” centers, mostly located in the interior of the country in rural areas but organized and funded in conjunction with evangelical churches in the capital. Reports mentioned electroshock therapy for gay men, “corrective” rape for lesbian women, and coerced sex acts for transgender women. LGBTQI+ groups also claimed lesbian, bisexual, and queer women experienced forced marriages and “corrective” rape intended to cause pregnancy, although these incidents were rarely, if ever, reported to authorities.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removes the section on Involuntary or Coercive Medical or Psychological Practices.
Gente Positiva, a HIV-positive advocacy and awareness group, reported that when lesbians who were victims of “corrective” rape tried to file a legal complaint, the Public Ministry officials receiving the complaint often refused to record the incident if the woman reporting the rape knew the attackers or had consumed alcohol the same day as the rape. Gente Positiva also reported the government did not recognize “corrective” rape of lesbians as an aggravated version of sexual assault or a hate crime, but rather considered it the same as rape.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	- Under subsection “involuntary or coercive medical or psychological practices”. The 2024 report removes the section on Involuntary or Coercive Medical or Psychological Practices.
Persons with Disabilities	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removed the section on Persons with Disabilities and any related content.
Persons with disabilities, especially women, also experienced heavy levels of violence and abuse, including sexual assault.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removed the section on Persons with Disabilities and any related content.
NGOs that advocated for persons with disabilities reported the government violated the right to education for students with disabilities, especially those with intellectual disabilities. Reports indicated that online learning resources made available to students with disabilities were focused on students with low vision or who were hard of hearing and that few solutions were provided for students with other disabilities.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removed the section on Persons with Disabilities and any related content.
A report by the NGO Women Enabled International described multiple discriminations faced by Indigenous persons with disabilities. Discriminatory cultural norms against persons with disabilities were intensified against Indigenous women with disabilities, increasing the possibility they would be separated from their children or be forcibly sterilized.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removed the section on Persons with Disabilities and any related content.
<u>Institutionalized Children</u> : International human rights organizations pointed to the institutionalization of persons with disabilities as a source of harassment and abuse. They stated that because there was no national strategy for deinstitutionalizing children with disabilities from publicly supported residences and facilities, these children would most likely remain institutionalized. Children with disabilities with high support requirements were essentially forced to live in institutions due to the lack of policies or funding that would enable them to live in a family household.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 removed the content on Institutionalized Children section.
Other Societal Violence or Discrimination	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removed the section on Other Societal Violence or Discrimination.
The NGO Mutual Support Group reported four persons were killed and 52 injured by vigilante groups from January through August. The NGO stated these attacks took place mostly in departments in the interior of the country with weak law enforcement.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removed the section on Other Societal Violence or Discrimination.
Discrimination against LGBTQI+ persons with HIV or AIDS was particularly common and affected access to HIV-prevention programs, especially for transgender individuals.	Section eliminated in 2024 report.	The 2024 report removed the section on Other Societal Violence or Discrimination.
Section 7. Worker Rights	b. Worker Rights	2024 report under Section 2. Liberty. 2024 report goes on extensive detail about this section, roughly about 12 paragraphs of content.
a. Freedom of Association and the Right to Collective Bargaining	Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining	

<p>Workers rights organizations reported a lack of strong enforcement mechanisms was evident in the 2022-23 case of the Winners S.A. apparel production company's abrupt closure and failure to comply with court orders. In 2022, Winners S.A. closed with no prior notice to the two unions representing factory workers. At the time of the closure, the company was under a court-ordered injunction that prohibited it from terminating workers. To circumvent the injunction, the company reportedly coerced nearly 600 workers to sign resignation letters and relinquish all rights to future claims. The workers signed the documents believing it necessary to avoid forfeiting their severance payments. Following the closure, the Ministry of Labor convened a multi agency response and filed a case for reinstatement and backpay for all 600 workers. The court ordered reinstatement and back pay. Workers who attempted to return to the factory to obtain reinstatement were consistently turned away. After several failed attempts to notify the company, the court notifier refused to make further attempts. The 600 reinstatements were never executed, and the company was never sanctioned for the illegal closure. By leveraging the external pressure from international organizations and buyers, the unions reached a private agreement with a multinational company that sourced from the factory to secure payments to the dismissed workers</p>	<p>The law provided for the right of workers, except for security force members, to form and join trade unions, conduct legal strikes, and bargain collectively. The law prohibited anti union discrimination and employer interference in union activities and required employers to reinstate workers dismissed for organizing union activities. The law, however, placed some restrictions on these rights. For example, legal recognition of an industrywide union required that the membership constitute a majority of workers in an industry. The law restricted union leadership to citizens. Ministries and businesses were required to negotiate only with the largest union, as determined by annual membership.</p>	<p>In 2023, weak enforcement left hundreds of workers without real protection despite court orders, while in 2024, the law on paper continued to guarantee broad labor rights but still imposed structural restrictions, showing a gap between formal protections and actual implementation.</p>
<p>There were numerous complaints regarding firings or suspensions alleging employer retaliation for union activity, according to an NGO. Authorities failed to enforce labor laws and let complaints of retaliation against union members languish.</p>	<p>A strike had to have the support of the majority of a company's workforce. Once a strike occurred, companies were required to close during negotiations. Strikes were extremely rare, but work stoppages were more common.</p>	<p>In 2023, weak enforcement left hundreds of workers without real protection despite court orders, while in 2024, the law on paper continued to guarantee broad labor rights but still imposed structural restrictions, showing a gap between formal protections and actual implementation.</p>
<p>b. Prohibition of Forced or Compulsory Labor</p>	<p>Forced or Compulsory Labor</p>	
<p>c. Prohibition of Child Labor and Minimum Age for Employment</p>	<p>Child Labor</p>	
<p>e. Acceptable Conditions of Work</p>	<p>Acceptable Work Conditions</p>	
	<p>Wage and Hour Laws</p>	
<p>According to National Statistics Institute data, approximately 71 percent of the workforce was employed in the informal sector. The government did not enforce wage, hour, or OSHA laws in this sector.</p>	<p>The law set differentiated minimum wages for agricultural and nonagricultural work and for work in garment factories for two economic regions of the country. The minimum wages did not meet the minimum food budget for a family of five.</p>	<p>In 2023, weak enforcement left hundreds of workers without real protection despite court orders, while in 2024, the law on paper continued to guarantee broad labor rights but still imposed structural restrictions, showing a gap between formal protections and actual implementation.</p>