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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

File Number(s): Communication No. 1783

Session: Thirty-Sixth Session (6 - 24 October 1975)

Title/Style of Cause: Hugo Leonardo de los Santos Mendoza v. Uruguay

Doc. Type: Report

Decided by: President: Dr. Andrés Aguilar (Venezuela)

Vice-President: Dr. Carlos A. Dunshee de Abranches (Brazil)

Members: Professor Manuel Bianchi (Chile); Dr. Gabino Fraga (Mexico); Dr. Justino Jimenez de Aréchaga (Uruguay); Mr. Robert F. Woodward

(United States); Dr. Genaro R. Carrio (Argentina)

Dated: 6 - 24 October 1975

Citation: Santos Mendoza v. Uru., Comm. 1783, Inter-Am. C.H.R.,

OEA/Ser.L/V/II.37, doc. 20, corr. 1 (1975)

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- [1] Communication 1783, presented through a communication dated October 2, 1973, denounces the violent death of Mr. Hugo Leonardo de los Santos Mendoza, ex-student, at an Uruguayan Army base after, according to the denunciation, he had been tortured.
- [2] In a note dated December 12, 1973, the Commission requested the Government of Uruguay to provide the appropriate information, in accordance with Articles 42 and 44 of the Regulations. That request was repeated on June 3, 1974, pursuant to a decision reached at the thirty-second session.
- [3] The Uruguayan Government, in a note dated September 9, 1974 (N1 339/74), replied to the Commission's request by providing information on the circumstances of the arrest of the student in question and of his death as a result of a pulmonary infection, and information on the inquiries made by the military investigation judge assigned to the case.
- [4] The CIDH took cognizance of this information during its thirty-fourth session (October 1974) and decided to transmit the information to the claimants in accordance with its Regulations, so that they might formulate their observations.
- [5] This decision was brought to the attention of the Government of Uruguay and the claimants in notes of December 17, 1974, and January 10, 1975 respectively.
- During its thirty-fifth session (May 1975) the Commission continued its examination of the case and decided the following: a) to again address the Government of Uruguay requesting information on the results of the investigation into the death of Mr. Hugo de los Santos Mendoza, ex-student, and a copy of any ruling handed down, and b) to postpone its examination of the case until it has new information and such observations as the claimant may be able to provide.
- [7] During its thirty-sixth session (October 1975) the Commission considered case 1783 and in view

of the fact that the Government of Uruguay had not provided the information requested, it decided to postpone examination of the case until its next session.

[8] Pursuant to the foregoing, a note was sent to the Government of Uruguay on August 7, 1975, and a copy of this note was sent to the Uruguayan Mission to the OAS on August 18, 1975.