54. The accumulation of judicial complaints against some members of the political opposition and other high-level public figures was observed. Most are related to alleged breaches of the anticorruption law, while others involve public statements found offensive by constituted authorities and prosecuted under defamation against public servants (desacato), libel, denigration, slander or sedition charges. While desacato was declared unconstitutional, which would permit the cases related to this offence to be terminated, most other cases remain in the preparatory phase, even though the investigations were initiated years ago in some cases. OHCHR-Bolivia believes that, in the absence of judicial decisions, this accumulation of cases and delays in handling them could affect the rights to the presumption of innocence and due process of law for the concerned individuals.
61. Following the historic Supreme Court judgement of August 2011, condemning two former ministers of the former President Sánchez de Lozada Government to three years in prison and five former high-level military officials to sentences of between 10 and 15 years in prison for their responsibility in the deaths of over 60 persons and more than 400 injured during social protests in 2003 – the greatest number of victims registered during a democratic regime in Bolivia – not all necessary measures have yet been implemented to guarantee adequate reparation for victims and their relatives. Furthermore, the Government’s démarches before the authorities of the United States of America to extradite former President Sánchez de Lozada and two former ministers, who fled the country following the events, were unsuccessful given that the petition was denied by the executive branch of the United States.