

The Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of the American Continent (RINDHCA)¹, meeting in an Extraordinary General Assembly on 5-21-2021, agreed that on the events that are occurring in the Republic of Ecuador, through the Secretary General, EXPRESS:

- RINDHCA learned with concern that of Ecuador, Dr. Freddy Carrión has been detained and is facing a criminal investigation. Dr. Carrion must be afforded all safeguards of a due process and a fair trial, including an investigation without undue delays.
- The RINDHCA acknowledges that the heads of NHRIs as human rights defenders and representatives of public institutions, our behavior must be above any subjective evaluation. As such we wish to express our support for the victims. For this reason, we hope that all judicial actions and processes will identify the veracity of the facts attributed to the Ombudsman of Ecuador without biases or political party criteria.
- From the RINDHCA, we have witnessed the work for the defense of human rights that the Ecuadorian National Human Rights Institution - led by Dr. Carrión - has carried out before and during the COVID19 pandemic, in which it denounced a series of violations against human rights ranging from irregularities with the vaccination process against COVID 19. Furthermore, The NHRI of Ecuador denounced the alleged commission of crimes against humanity against civilians by government officials that occurred at the end of 2019; both the Institution and the Defender himself having been the victim of political attacks.

Therefore, RINDHCA as an organization concerned with the protection of Human Rights, we urge:

1. To the judicial authorities of Ecuador that Dr. Carrion, as every citizen, is afforded all measures and safeguards including ensuring his personal integrity - physical integrity and health – mandated by the Constitution and the international treaties ratified by Ecuador, in full respect for due process.
2. To the different authorities of the government of Ecuador, to respect the work that the National Human Rights Institution has carried out and continues to carry out, thereby promoting the independence and autonomy according with the Paris Principles²

We reiterate the importance of States to guarantee respect for the human rights of the entire population, thus we ask International Organizations and the diplomatic corps accredited in Ecuador, to be attentive and monitor that the judicial guarantees are respected in the process against Dr. Carrion.

San Salvador, June 2, 2021

José Apolonio Tobar Serrano
Secretario General de RINDHCA.

¹ Formed by the National Human Rights Institutions of the following countries: 1) Argentina, 2) Bolivia, 3) Canada, 4) Chile, 5) Colombia, 6) Costa Rica, 7) El Salvador, 8) Ecuador, 9) Guatemala, 10) Haiti, 11) Honduras, 12) Mexico, 13) Nicaragua, 14) Panama, 15) Peru, 16) Uruguay, 17) Paraguay; and 18) Venezuela.

² In them, one of its fundamental pillars is established, the need to enjoy independence, in the exercise of its mandate and in the development of its investigations so that they can fulfill their objective of protecting and promoting the human rights of the entire population. population