



Eco. Rafael Correa
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Dear Mr President,

I would like to express my concern at the prison sentences given to Dr Carlos Figueroa, ex-leader of the Ecuadorian Medical Federation (a PSI affiliate), Cléver Jiménez Cabrera, the Pachakutik Movement parliamentarian, his advisor, Fernando Villavicencio Valencia, ex-leader of the oil workers' trade union, further to having criticised government actions in Ecuador.

These sentences were pronounced by a Criminal Court judge and an appeal was rejected by the Criminal Division of the National Court of Justice in the libel action brought by you in response to the request they made to the Public Prosecutor, in August 2011, asking him to investigate the events at the National Police Hospital in Quito on 30 September 2010. These events regrettably resulted in injuries and a loss of life, in particular during the intervention by the Armed Forces, which had been ordered to remove you from that hospital.

Mr President, the international community condemned the violence that took place during the political crisis on 30 September 2010 following approval of the Public Service Law and that affected you personally, as well as the general public and patients in the hospital.

The trade unions representing public service workers have a fundamental duty to defend public services and the communities that need them. It is in this context that we understand the action taken by Carlos Figueroa, who was leader of the health union, in a constitutional state governed by rights and justice.

However, Figueroa was sentenced to 6-months imprisonment and Jiménez and Villavicencio to 18 months. The office of Cléver Jiménez Cabrera and the Quito homes of himself and his advisor, Fernando Villavicencio Valencia were raided and documents, computers and mobile phones seized as part of a preliminary investigation into charges of "hacking". After the appeal by the defendants was not accepted, the sentence was confirmed and, on March 21st 2014, their arrest was ordered.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has granted precautionary measures in favour of these people but the Ecuadorian government refuses to comply with them. This is not the way to build democracy! Therefore, we ask the government to abide by the precautionary measures in

favour of Carlos Figueroa and to immediately stop the persecution of labour and social activists, among whom is also Mary Zamora, ex-president of the National Union of Teachers (an Education International affiliate).

We also ask you to begin a dialogue with those involved to seek a mutually acceptable solution that strengthens political, economic and social democracy in Ecuador.

Hoping that you will consider this request and respond favourably,

Yours,



Rosa PAVANELLI
PSI General Secretary

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