

International Civil Society Organizations Denounce Dismissal of Salvadoran Justices, Attorney General

May 6, 2021

As humanitarian, human rights, immigrant-led, and faith-based organizations working on issues related to human rights in Latin America, we denounce the May 1st, 2021 decision by El Salvador's legislature, promoted by President Nayib Bukele, to dismiss the nation's Attorney General as well as all five Supreme Court justices belonging to the constitutional chamber.

These actions, which are contrary to Salvadoran law and the Constitution, end independence of the judiciary, undermine democracy and the rule of law, and further concentrate power in the hands of the presidency. This marks a dangerous step backward after Salvadorans have strived for decades to build peace and democracy, following a painful history of military dictatorship and internal armed conflict.

We stand in solidarity with civil society organizations and human rights activists in El Salvador who are working to defend the human rights of all Salvadorans as well as with the independent journalists working to uncover and report the news. We urge the Salvadoran legislature and President Bukele to restore judicial independence, a cornerstone of the rule of law, and human rights protections—and not to further curb judicial authorities and oversight agencies, including the Human Rights Ombudsman's office. We urge the Salvadoran government to respect the freedom of the press and the rights of human rights groups and other civil society organizations to carry out their vital work. We ask the international community to act decisively to press the Salvadoran government to return to the democratic path.

Signatories:

Access Living-Cambiando Vidas
Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ACIJ)
Alianza Americas
Americas Program
Arkansas United
ASOSAL: Asociación de Salvadoreños de Los Ángeles
CASA
Casa de la Cultura El Salvador
Casa Yurumein
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Center for Immigrant Progress | Centro para el Progreso Inmigrante
Central American Resource Center of Washington, DC
Central American Resource Center of Los Angeles
Central American Resource Center of San Francisco
Central American Resource Center of Houston
Centro Comunitario CEUS
Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional - CEJIL México y Centroamérica
Centro Presente
Centro Romero
Centro San Bonifacio

Chelsea Human Services Collaborative, Inc.
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN)
Cielo--Comunidades Indígenas en Liderazgo
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)
CISPES SF Bay Area
Ciudadanía en Oregon
Club Francisco Villa
Club Nueva Visión de Cheranastico
Club San Juanico
Club Taji CD Hidalgo
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Colectivo de Mujeres Transnacionales
Comunidad Colectiva
Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL)
COSECHA
CRECEN
Diáspora Hondureña Internacional
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries
Dominican Development Center
Durango Unido
ELCA AMMPARO
Familias Inmigrantes y Estudiantes en la Lucha (FIEL)
Familias Unidas en Acción
Federación de Clubes Michoacanos (FEDECMI)
Florida Immigrant Coalition - FLIC
Global Exchange
Global Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ
Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA
Haitian Bridge Alliance
Hondurans Against AIDS
Human Rights First
Institute for Policy Studies - Global Economy Project
Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración (IMUMI)
International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights
Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology
Kids in Need of Defense
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
Latino Advocacy
Latino Commission on AIDS
Latino Policy Forum
Latinos Progresando
Lila Latinx LGBTQI Initiative Inc.
Living Hope Wheelchair Association
Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
Mission Guatemala USA
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala
Office of Latino/Latin America Studies (OLLAS)
ONECA (Organización Negra Centroamericana)

Presente.org
RAICES
Red de Pueblos Transnacionales
Red Mexicana de Líderes y Organizaciones de Migrantes
Rural Women's Health Project
Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD
Salvadoreños Aportando a la Democracia
SHARE Foundation
Sister Parish
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas – Justice Team
St Brigid's Casa Mary Johanna
Strangers No Longer
Telpochcalli Community Education Project (TCEP)
The Welcome Immigrant Network
TIRRC (Tennessee Immigrant Refugee Rights)
Transformations CDC
U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities Network
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Unite Oregon
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United for a Fair Economy
US El Salvador Sister City Network
Viento del Espíritu (Wind of the Spirit)
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
WeCount!
Witness at the Border
Women Working Together USA