



INTER - AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMISION INTERAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS  
COMISSÃO INTERAMERICANA DE DIREITOS HUMANOS  
COMMISSION INTERAMÉRICAINÉ DES DROITS DE L'HOMME



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**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006, U.S.A.

March 26, 2010

Excellency:

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has the honor to address Your Excellency with regard to the report *Democracy and Human Rights in Venezuela*, adopted by the IACHR on December 30, 2009, and published on February 24, 2010.

The Commission as now composed endorses that report and expresses its unalterable commitment to the defense of human rights in each and every country of the region. The Commission reiterates its confidence in the work of the Rapporteur for Venezuela, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro; the Executive Secretary, Santiago Canton; and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Catalina Botero.

The Commission notes that the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) have entrusted the IACHR with the principal function of promoting the observance and defense of human rights in the Hemisphere, as established in Articles 106 of the OAS Charter and 41 of the American Convention. Additionally, Articles 18 of the Statute of the IACHR and 41 of the American Convention provide that the Commission shall "prepare such studies or reports as it considers advisable for the performance of its duties". The Commission is also a principal autonomous organ of the OAS, whose members are elected by the states through the General Assembly of the Organization, and are experts in the field of human rights and persons of high moral character, who perform their duties with independence.

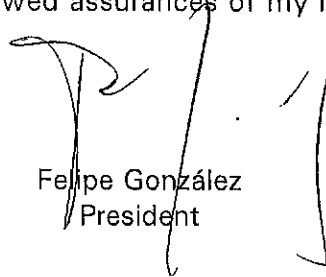
His Excellency  
José Enrique Castillo Barrantes  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Costa Rica  
Chair of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States  
Washington, D.C.

The Commission deplores the degrading and baseless personal attacks, as well as those intended to discredit and undermine the IACHR, made by Venezuelan authorities. The Commission wishes to reaffirm its willingness to engage in dialogue with the aim of jointly furthering the implementation of the recommendations of the report *Democracy and Human Rights in Venezuela* and the defense of the human rights of the inhabitants of Venezuela. The Commission also confirms its willingness to make an on-site visit to Venezuela once the consent of the State has been received.

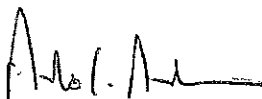
Moreover, in view of the statements made against human rights defenders, the Commission calls on the Venezuelan authorities to respect the work of the human rights defense organizations.

The Commission wishes to inform you that it will publish the content of this note. Additionally, for your information, the Commission would be grateful if you would kindly arrange for these considerations to be forwarded to the member states and observers of this Organization.


Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.



Felipe González  
President



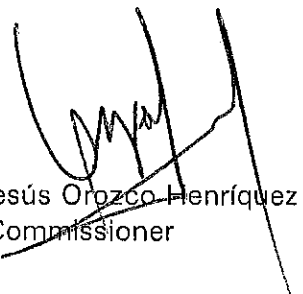
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Commissioner



José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez  
Commissioner



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