



INTERNATIONAL OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTE CONDEMNS ATTACKS AGAINST THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION AND OMBUDSMAN OF URUGUAY

The International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) expresses its great concern regarding the damaging remarks and attacks made by certain government officials against the National Human Rights Institution and Ombudsman (INDDHH) of Uruguay. The IOI hereby speaks out in support of its colleagues in Uruguay and expresses its full solidarity and commitment to upholding the important role Ombudsman institutions and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) play in the protection and promotion of human rights and the fight against maladministration.

As the only global organization for the cooperation of 205 Ombudsman institutions from Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Pacific, the Caribbean and Latin America, Europe, and North America, the IOI is committed to promoting the Ombudsman concept and strengthening Ombudsman institutions around the world.

In times of crisis, such as the one we are facing now due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ombudsman institutions and NHRIs are more important than ever. Attempts to silence and restrict these institutions are therefore deeply worrying and perceived internationally as evidence of a lack of respect for the Ombudsman institution itself, but also for the rights of the citizens using its services.

Strong and independent Ombudsman institutions are a core element of every democracy and form an integral part of any state to ensure good governance and justice, as well as to protect and promote human rights. Weakening the Ombudsman and NHRI not only limits citizen's rights, but also affects the state's compliance with international human rights obligations.

The INDDHH is a well-established institution, which – in line with best practice worldwide – monitors public administration and upholds human rights by issuing recommendations when and wherever its investigation finds cases of maladministration or human rights violations. It is inevitable that in the course of its work, the INDDHH will produce recommendations that are critical of the actions of executive bodies. In a democracy, there is an expectation that such recommendations will be properly considered and acted upon.



Considering the recent developments in Uruguay, the IOI expresses its full solidarity with the INDDHH and condemns any attacks or threats against the INDDHH, its managing Board and staff. In fulfilling its mandate, the INDDHH serves the citizens of Uruguay well and contributes to the maintenance of a transparent and accountable public administration.

The IOI strongly encourages the acknowledgement of the mandate of the National Human Rights Institution and Ombudsman of Uruguay and hopes for a reasoned and professional response to the INDDHH's work and recommendations in the future.

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