



IAP

International Association of Prosecutors

The International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) Demands Justice for the General Prosecutor of Venezuela

The International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) is the only world organization of prosecutors, and is committed to upholding their rights and interests and maintaining the rule of law.

Ms. Luisa Ortega Diaz has been the General Prosecutor of the Republic of Venezuela since 2007, and is highly regarded by world prosecutors for her commitment and integrity.

Since March 2017, Ms. Ortega Diaz has championed prosecutorial rights and independence in the face of huge pressure from the government and its organs, and has valiantly attempted to protect the legal system and constitutional norms of Venezuela..

Ms. Ortega Diaz has, in consequence, been subjected to vilification, intimidation and coercion, designed to subvert her position and undermine the independence of her office.

Ms. Ortega Diaz has confronted all these challenges with professionalism, courage and fearlessness, in the highest traditions of her vocation.

The IAP unreservedly condemns the attempts by government controlled or influenced organs in Venezuela to remove Ms. Ortega Diaz from her office, to threaten her with illegitimate criminal proceedings, and to endanger her personal safety.

The actions of the government of Venezuela and its proxies constitute a flagrant breach of internationally recognized prosecutorial rights, and represent an unacceptable assault on the rule of law itself.

The removal of the General Prosecutor of Venezuela represents a violation of rule 4 of the Guiding Principles on the Role of the Magistrates of the Public Prosecutor's Office, according to which "States shall ensure that Magistrates of the Public Prosecutor's Office can carry out their professional

functions without any intimidation, obstacle, coercion, undue interference or unjustified exposure to civil, criminal liability or other nature " (United Nations Rules adopted in Havana, 1990).

The IAP demands that President Nicolas Maduro, together with his government and its proxies, respect the prosecutorial rights of Ms. Ortega Diaz, desist from (and, where necessary, reverse) arbitrary actions designed to undermine her position, and take all necessary measures to ensure her personal safety.

The IAP stands together with Ms. Ortega Diaz at this difficult time, and is appalled at the treatment she has received, and holds President Maduro personally responsible for any ills that may befall her.

The IAP is urgently liaising with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, the International Commission of Judges and Lawyers, the International Bar Association and the Inter American Commission on Human Rights, in order to ensure that Ms. Ortega Diaz receives the justice she deserves and that the rule of law is upheld in Venezuela.

The International Association of Prosecutors

7th August 2017