



Ibero-American Group - IBA
International Association of Judges - IAJ
promoting an independent judiciary worldwide

**STATEMENT AGAINST THE ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE JUDGE OF
SANTA ELENA, PROVINCE OF GUAYAS, ECUADOR**

THE IBERO-AMERICAN GROUP – IBA GROUP is one of the four Regional Groups of the **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES - IAJ**, which is a professional, non-political, international organization, founded in 1953, which brings together national associations of judges from 92 countries and whose main objective is to safeguard the independence of the judiciary, which is an essential requirement of the judicial function and a guarantee of respect for human rights and freedom.

THE IBA GROUP EXPRESSES ITS STRONGEST CONDEMNATION to the attempt on the life of the Judge of the Criminal Unit of Liberta, in Santa Elena, Province of Guayas, Ecuador, Ms. María Belén Chérrez, who was shot several times by two sicarios who approached her car on a motorcycle.

THE IBA GROUP EXPRESSES ITS DEEPEST CONCERN at the possibility that this cowardly act may have occurred by virtue of the actions undertaken by Judge María Belén in the regular exercise of her criminal jurisdiction, which is unacceptable since it represents an undeniable serious attack against the Rule of Law and Democracy.

THE IBERO-AMERICAN GROUP OF THE IAJ URGES the Ecuadorian investigative authorities to make every effort to ensure that the authors of this attack are known very soon, allowing those responsible to be prosecuted and punished.

Finally, **THE IBA GROUP REQUESTS** the High Judicial Authorities of Ecuador to follow the investigations, so that what happened to this Judge does not go unpunished.

Given in São Paulo, Brazil, on January 17th, 2024.

Justice WALTER BARONE
President of the IBA Group
1st Vice President of IAJ

Justice FRANCISCO SILLA
Vice-president of the IBA-Group