



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

STATEMENT IN DEFENSE OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE IN
COSTA RICA

The **IBERO-AMERICAN GROUP - IBA Group** is one of the four Regional Groups of the **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES - IAJ**, which is a professional and apolitical international organization, founded in 1953, that 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, guaranteeing human rights and freedom.

THE IBA GROUP IS CONCERNED by the recent attacks of the President of the Republic and the Minister of Justice of Costa Rica against the Sentence Enforcement Judge of Limón, by virtue of resolutions adopted by him in the exercise of his jurisdictional function. Such attacks attempt against judicial independence and the tripartition of powers, thus weakening the Rule of Law.

RECALLS that the Statute of the Ibero-American Judge, in its Art.1, "General Principle of Independence", establishes that *"as a guarantee for the parties, Judges are independent in the exercise of their jurisdictional functions and are subject only to the Constitution and the law, with strict respect for the principle of hierarchy of norms"*.

And its Art. 2 "Obligation to respect judicial independence" adds that *"the other branches of government and, in general, all authorities, institutions and national or international bodies, as well as the different social, economic and political groups and organizations, must respect and give effect to the independence of the judiciary"*.

EMPHASIZES, furthermore, that personal attacks on judges as a result of their jurisdictional function put their personal safety and that of their families at risk, considering that the safety of persons who impart justice is a sensitive issue in Latin America. They are therefore irresponsible and unacceptable behaviors.



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THE IBERO-AMERICAN GROUP OF THE UIM URGES all Costa Rican authorities to respect judicial independence and the separation of powers in their respective actions.

São Paulo, Brazil, on December 3rd, 2024.

Judge WALTER BARONE
President of the IBA Group
of the IAJ

Judge FRANCISCO SILLA
Vice President of the IBA Group
of the IAJ