



Bogotá, Lima, and Washington D.C., September 15, 2014

Andrés Reliche
Editorial Director
Agencia Andes
Ecuador

Dear Sir,

We are writing to you from the Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad/Center for the Study of Law, Justice, and Society (DeJusticia) an organization based in Bogotá, Colombia, the Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF) located in Washington, D.C., United States, and the Instituto de Defensa Legal/Legal Defense Institute (IDL) based in Lima, Peru, all organizations whose mandate is to promote the rule of law and human rights in Latin America.

We are writing to you at this time to express our objections to the inaccuracies contained in the article published on the www.andes.info.ec website on September 7 of this year, under the headline **Critic of Ecuadoran justice system receives indirect salary from Chevron**, in clear reference to the recent report entitled **Judicial independence in Ecuador's judicial reform process** published by our organizations and authored by Luis Pásara.

The article presents unfounded information that tarnishes the good name of Mr. Pásara and the organizations that sponsored the report. The purpose of this letter is to offer the correct information, and to request that you rectify the article.

First, Mr. Pásara wrote the report for Dejusticia, DPLF, and IDL with the sole objective of fostering a thoughtful discussion about one of the central issues for the operation of the rule of law, which is judicial independence. The report thus reflected the institutional mission of our organizations which, as part of their work, monitor the performance of the judicial branches of the region and the status of

human rights, inclusive democracy, and the rule of law. The report in no way set out to discredit the Ecuadoran government, nor was it part of any campaign against it.

The report follows the same lines as other similar publications we have put out on different countries of the region, and like all of the research conducted by our organizations, it has a proper academic foundation and is based on solid empirical evidence that has not been refuted to date.

Second, Mr. Pásara is a well-known expert in the field of justice and judicial reform. His extensive background includes holding consultancies with the United Nations in which the government of President Rafael Correa was a counterpart, as Gustavo Jalkh, President of the Council of the Judiciary, has publicly acknowledged. When Mr. Jalkh was the Minister of Justice, his Ministry published two books and two other works by Professor Pásara. While working as a professor at the University of Salamanca in Spain, where he currently resides, Luis Pásara was a fellow at the Wilson Center for eight months (from September 2011 to May 2012, as shown on the institution's website: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/staff/luis-p%C3%A1sara>).

Finally, as with all of our research, the information on the donors who supported this research is public. As the report itself states, it was funded by the Open Society Foundations (OSF) and the Tinker Foundation, private foundations that support initiatives relating to the promotion of the rule of law around the world.

Sincerely,

César Rodríguez Garavito
International Director
DEJUSTICIA

Ernesto de la Jara
Founding Director
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Katya Salazar
Executive Director
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