



DPLF condemns Trump-incited insurrection at US Capitol, calls for accountability

Washington, D.C., January 12, 2021 – The Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF) denounces in the strongest possible terms the insurrection at the US Capitol last week by extremist supporters of President Donald J. Trump. Since the November 2020 election, Trump has repeatedly advanced false claims and baseless conspiracy theories that his loss to President-elect Joe Biden was the result of widespread fraud and that the election had been “stolen” from him. In the context of this massive disinformation campaign, Trump supporters gathered on January 6th to protest the Congressional certification of Biden’s win, and many became violent and stormed the Capitol building after Trump addressed the crowd.

Trump has been embraced by militia and far-right groups, and over the years, he has explicitly or implicitly supported their violence. It was therefore no surprise when he and his political supporters made inflammatory remarks before the attempted takeover of the Capitol, which resulted in the deaths of five people, put the lives of all inside in imminent danger, and disrupted a basic government exercise necessary for the peaceful transition of power. **As noted in the article of impeachment presented in the House of Representatives this week, by inciting this insurrection, President Trump threatened the integrity of the democratic system and imperiled a coequal branch of Government, in violation of his Constitutional duties.**

DPLF has over a quarter century of experience in justice and rule of law issues in the Americas. That experience tells us that accountability is necessary for the country to move forward. International standards indicate that accountability can take a number of forms: a thorough public investigation into how this could have happened and why; criminal accountability for those directly responsible and those who organized, planned or incited their actions; civil accountability for damages of the white supremacist and domestic terrorist organizations involved; a thorough vetting of police and other relevant law enforcement; and political accountability for those who made baseless claims of electoral fraud. **Our experience also tells us that the wounds created by violence do not go away on their own, and that the failure to bring to justice those responsible will do further damage to the cause of democracy in the US and abroad.**

We therefore welcome the announcement that the FBI is working with prosecutors to bring charges against those that committed violence and other crimes on January 6th. DPLF urges the authorities to investigate, prosecute, and punish all those directly and indirectly responsible for the acts in question, and to consider the applicability of charges of seditious conspiracy and domestic terrorism. We lament that many of these individuals were allowed by US Capitol Police to walk away free from the building. DPLF calls for a full and transparent investigation into how such a grave security breach could occur, and whether, as some video images suggest, there was collusion or complicity on the part of members of the relevant police forces. **DPLF also joins the chorus of voices questioning the radically different response**

of law enforcement to the riot at the Capitol last week, in comparison to the protests for racial justice held during the summer of 2020.

As an organization made up of a multinational team dedicated to promoting human rights and the rule of law in Latin America, DPLF has witnessed and spoken out against threats to democracy and the rise of authoritarian tendencies in the region countless times. It is with heavy hearts that we have observed similar patterns over the past four years in the United States, where DPLF is based. **We have supported efforts in the region to come to terms with the legacies of authoritarianism, and believe that the principles developed in Latin America with respect to the need for truth-telling, accountability and institutional reform are also applicable to the United States.** We call for a reaffirmation of democratic norms, the rule of law, and human rights principles in the US and throughout the Americas.

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